



# Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke Chapter NCBAA

St. Petersburg College

20 years of service at SPC and in the Community



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The National Council on Black American Affairs (NCBAA) is a council of the American Association of Community Colleges.



## Message from JRC Executive Board

Colleagues and friends:

It is with great pleasure that we share with you this newsletter highlighting the Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke Chapter's history and work at St. Petersburg College and in the community over the last 20 years. The Chapter is dedicated to student success and community service while bring forth issues of concern to African American staff at the college. As you peruse these pages, we hope that you are invigorated as we continue to celebrate the success of students, rise to meet challenges at the college, and engage in the community.

## JRC Chapter Founding

On October 1, 1999, several SPJC staff gathered to officially organize the St. Petersburg College NCBAA Chapter. At that meeting, it was recommended to name the Chapter in honor of Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke. On October 22, 1999, individuals present at meeting adopted Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke Chapter NCBAA, St. Petersburg Junior College as Chapter name. The JRC Chapter received NCBAA Charter in November 2000.

At September 22, 2000, JRC NCBAA meeting, the body adopted recruiting, retention, and promoting African American staff and faculty as a primary focus the Chapter would work on at the college.

At October 20, 2000, JRC NCBAA meeting, discussion began on the college's process for awarding the Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke Scholarship. The discussion continued over subsequent meetings.

At May 18, 2001, JRC NCBAA Chapter meeting, the body voted to arrange and sponsor Dr. JRC Scholarship activities. The first JRC Scholarship Awards Program (hosted by the Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke Chapter NCBAA) was on July 2, 2001 in Teaching Auditorium on Clearwater Campus.

Over 20 years, JRC Chapter members participated in activities at the college and in the community.

- The Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke Scholarship Awards Program and mentor program for Dr. JRC scholars
- Members help plan and participate in the annual Dr. Mac J. Williams Academic Excellence Awards Program
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in St. Petersburg
- African-American Heritage Celebration in Largo
- African-American History Month activities at the college
- Habitat for Humanity
- Contribution to community centers and organizations
- Hosting regional academic conferences
- Health fair at Johnnie Ruth Clarke Health Center

- Hosting dialogues on diversity at SPC
- SPC equity working group







## Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke

Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke grew up in the segregated South. Early on, she vowed she would be somebody, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Social Science from Florida A&M University and a master's degree from Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn. In 1966, she became the first African-American to receive a doctorate from the University of Florida's College of Education.

Dr. Clarke taught in the Pinellas County Public School System, and at Bethune-Cookman College and Florida A&M University. She served as dean of Gibbs Junior College in the 1950s, and as assistant dean of academic affairs at St. Petersburg Junior College in the 1960s.

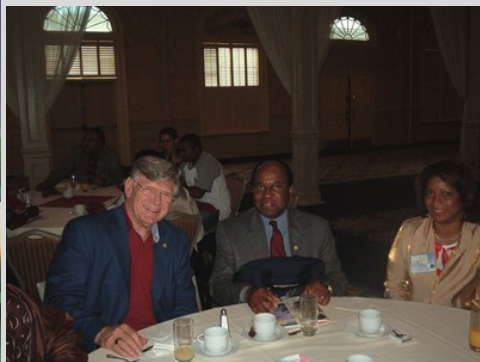
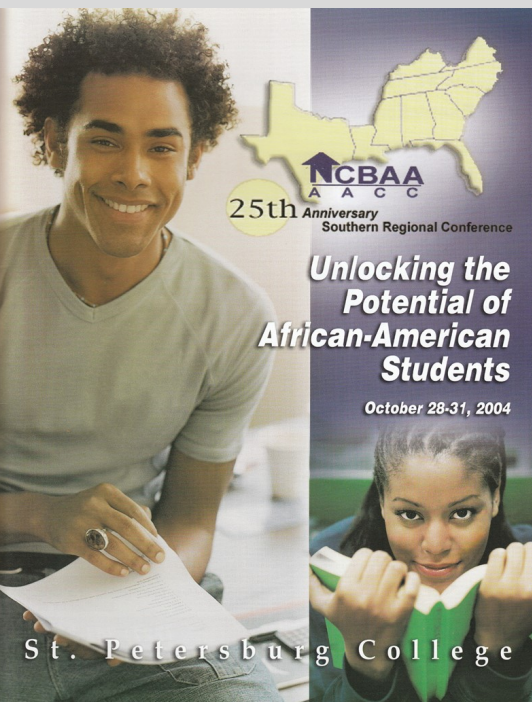
Dr. Clarke served on several boards and commissions, including:

- Institute for Higher Education
- Florida Advisory Group of the Regional Medical Program
- Florida Commission on Human Relations
- Board of Pinellas County Drug Rehabilitation.

In 1972, Dr. Clarke founded the Florida State Sickle Cell Foundation. Clarke died in 1978 at age 58. She is remembered as a humanitarian, educator, mentor, wife and mother.

## 2004 NCBA Southern Region Conference

In 2004, the JRC Chapter hosted the 25th Anniversary NCBA Southern Region Conference at the historic Belleview Biltmore hotel near Clearwater. Education professionals from across southern states attended the conference.



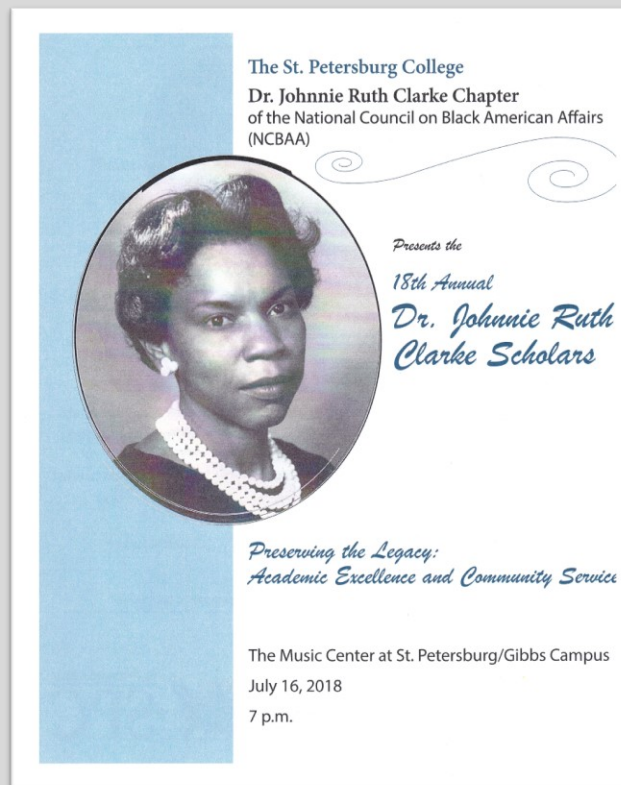


## Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke Scholarship

The Chapter host the annual Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke Scholarship Awards Ceremony in July. The JRC Scholarship is offered to Pinellas County high school seniors. It covers two years of tuition at SPC.

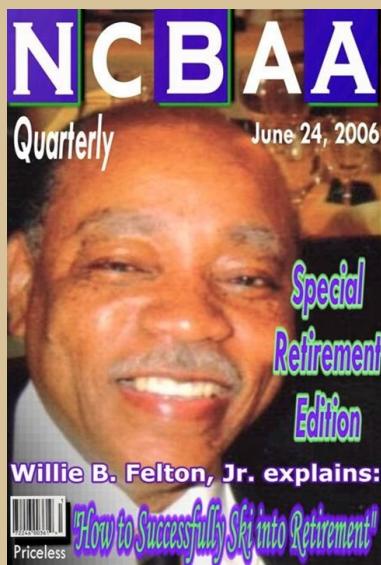


Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke Scholarship Awards Ceremony, 2010



## Retirement Celebrations

In 2006, the Chapter hosted the college-wide retirement celebration for SPC Vice President Willie Felton, Jr. In 2008, the Chapter hosted the college-wide retirement celebration for Gibbs Campus Associate Provost Myrtle Williams.



Myrtle Williams, third from left, with Chapter members.





## JRC Mentor Program Meetings

In Fall and Spring terms, the Chapter host mentor meetings for Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke scholars. These meetings are required for students to retain the Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke Scholarship. Chapter members serve as mentors for JRC Scholarship recipients.



JRC Scholarship renewal is determined at the end of each term.

Renewal requirements:

- Be continuously enrolled in at least six credit hours per term, excluding summer term
- Maintain a Program GPA of 3.0 (this includes all dual-enrolled classes taken during high school)
- Successfully complete a minimum of 67 percent of all college-level credit hours attempted
- Attend a mandatory fall term orientation meeting for scholars and parents
- Attend meetings for scholars hosted by the Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke Chapter NCBA/AACC
- Meet with an assigned Academic Advisor before enrolling in classes
- Participate in at least one community service project (minimum 20 hours)





## Community and College Activities



### **Dialogue on Diversity**

On April 8, 2016, the Chapter hosted *Facing It: Dialogue on Diversity*. The activity offered a unique opportunity to share approaches, concerns, challenges, and pedagogy for safe, inclusive curriculum, discussions, and course materials that reflect the often uncomfortable but necessary conversations about race as it relates to students, the college, and the world.

### **Contributions to the community and SPC students**

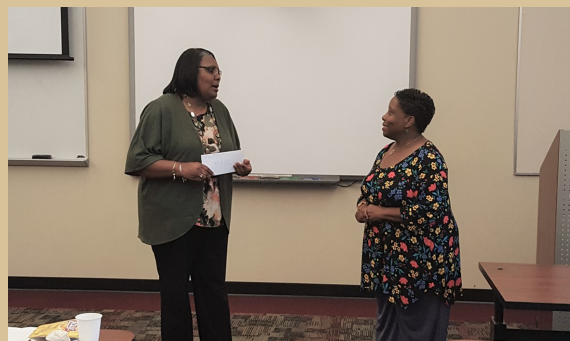
Over years, the Chapter contributed to community centers, including the Dr. M. L. King Center in Clearwater, and the Willa Carson Health and Wellness Center in Clearwater. Members contribute to SPC students and volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.



Holiday contribution to SPC students, 2011



Holiday turkey giving at M.L. King Center in Clearwater, 2011



On February 15, 2019, the Chapter presented \$500 contribution to SPC's Women on the Way.

### **Habitat for Humanity**



2008



2011



2012



## Community Activities

### Florida African-American Heritage Celebration in Largo



2007



2006



2007

### Dr. M.L. King parade in St. Petersburg



2007



2013



2006



2007



## 2018 NCBAA Southern Region Conference

In October 2018, SPC and the Chapter hosted the NCBAA Southern Region Conference. Workshop presentation topics included *Political Engagement in Shifting Context*, *Using an Educational Ecosystem to Connect Community with Workforce Opportunity*, *Engaging Community College Students in Civic Engagement and Social Justice in the Twenty-first Century*, and *Unpacking Privilege*. There was a special panel discussion *From Freedom Riders to Black Lives Matter*.



Keynote speaker: Dr. Hasan Jefferies, Associate Professor of History, The Ohio State University



Dr. Meg Delgado presenting workshop

A graphic poster for the NCBAA Southern Region 2018 Fall Conference. The poster features a circular image of a palm tree and a body of water. Text on the poster includes: "National Council on Black American Affairs", "Civic Engagement and Social Justice: A Call to Action for Students and Educational Leaders", "Southern Region 2018 Fall Conference", "October 25-27 2018", "Location: St. Petersburg College St. Petersburg, FL", "Hotel: Hilton Carillon", and the NCBAA logo with the tagline "A Legacy of Advocacy and Service Since 1972". The St. Petersburg College (SPC) logo is in the bottom right corner.



Keynote speaker: Senator Darryl Rouson, Florida State Senate





Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke Scholars, 2011

## Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke Chapter NCBAA

### 20 Great Years

For more information on the JRC Chapter, visit:

<https://www.spcollege.edu/friends-partners/about/civic-partners/ncbaa>

