

BAN - GRANT, D.B.R.

1988

Dudley R.B. Grant of Early Childhood Education fame, dies

MR. Dudley R.B. Grant, Director of the Bernard Van Leer Foundation for Early Childhood Education, University of the West Indies died yesterday at his home after a brief illness. He was 72.

A news release from the University said Mr. Grant was a graduate of Mico Teachers' College, and held a M.Sc. degree from Cornell University, Ithaca, USA and also completed postgraduate courses in Education at Oxford University School

of Education: New York University and Columbia University.

He joined the staff of the University in 1963 as a foundation member and Lecturer in Teacher Education and Early Childhood Education in the then Institute of Education. He was later promoted to Senior Lecturer. In 1968 he was assigned as Director of the Project for Early Childhood Education funded by the Bernard Van Leer Foundation (BVLF) within the Institute. He was

elevated to the status of Director with Professorial Rank of the Centre for Early Childhood Education in 1975.

Classroom teacher

Beginning as a classroom teacher, he brought "industry imagination and skill" to his profession. There was much evidence of this as the first Principal of the Caledonia Junior College established in 1958 as an institution for emergency teacher training. At the Institute of



Education, he was called on to give consultant services throughout the region and he contributed greatly to the initial development of new teachers' colleges in The Bahamas, St. Lucia, Grenada and St. Vincent.

Mr. Grant retired officially in December 1978, but continued to give sterling service both at the Centre and at outgrowth projects in Nain, St. Elizabeth to train resource centre officers; the Teenage Mothers Project in May Pen, Clarendon; the Bachelor of Education summer degree programme and the North Coast Project to train basic school teachers.

Internationally, he was called on regularly as consultant in Early Childhood Education and was Chairman/Member of BVLF Missions to early childhood education projects in countries including Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Spain, Colombia and Venezuela.

Earlier this year, in February, he was invited to give the "Distinctive Speech" at the official inauguration of new offices for the Bernard Van Leer Foundation in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Widely honoured

At the time of his death, he was actively involved in preparations for the Tenth International Conference on Early Childhood Education which the Foundation had planned to take place in Jamaica in November, in honour of Mr. Grant's 21 years of association with Foundation and his outstanding work in the field.

Mr. Grant was widely honoured for his work and received awards including Roman Catholic Certificate of Distinction for work in Education in Jamaica; Mico Old Students Gold Medal for contribution to education; the Institute of Jamaica Centenary Medal and The Gleaner Certificate of Merit for work in Early Childhood Education.

The UWI said it appreciated the great contribution Mr. Grant has made to Education and more specifically, the development of Early Childhood Education, for which he became internationally recognised. He was fully committed to his work applying himself with cheerfulness and verve in all that he did.

Mr. Grant was a true leader, the UWI release said. His ability to motivate others to excellence, his trademark.

His loss will be felt not only in Jamaica.

The University regretted his passing and extended condolences to his wife Gene and family.

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