**Sandy Purkett Biography**

Sandy Purkett is a retired Federal Investigator for the Federal Department Of Education – Office For Civil Rights and has dedicated her life to helping students achieve academic excellence. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education from Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina, with Master's Credits in Instigative Procedures.

During her many years of volunteering with the DeKalb County Schools, particularly with "The GREAT Redan High School," Sandy has contributed countless hours with the Government's Volunteer Initiative Plan and the Federal Department of Education Initiative. The State of Georgia also invited Sandy to participate in a roundtable discussion with Foreign Ambassadors from the Russian Republic of Georgia as a representative of the Federal Department of Education regarding Technical Assistance reviews. Sandy was selected by the Past President of the State of Georgia PTA to be the State Georgia Delegate for the Emerging Minority Leaders Conference and chosen by the President of the National High Schools That Works to conduct a Presentation at the National Convention in New Orleans regarding the P.I.L.O.T. Preparing Innovative Leaders Of Tomorrow) Program.

Sandy is the recipient of numerous honors, including the 2012 Black Women Rock Award, Proclamation by Legislators Billy Mitchell and Coach Williams, Outstanding Georgia Citizen, and the Investing In Dreams Awards from Piedmont College.

Sandy is the Founder of the P.I.L.O.T. Program. This program was designed to empower youth to become marketable citizens, and promote leaders while developing skills to ensure students are marketable and adequately prepare themselves for post-secondary education study or vocational fields of study. Although P.I.L.O.T. has only been operative since 1997-98, students throughout Dekalb County and Metro Atlanta communities have benefited from this program and the skills Sandy and her team offer. Eleven students since 2005 have received the Bill gates Millennium Scholarship totaling $26,000.00 a year beyond a doctoral program for each student. In addition, in 2012, one student received the POSSE Scholarship and was studying at Stanford University.

In addition, Sandy has established the William E. Purkett II Memorial Scholarship in memory of her son Billy, a 1999 graduate and drum major for The GREAT Redan High School, who was killed in an automobile accident in August 2000. Students are honored with academic, book, music, and athletic scholarships and cash awards from the scholarship fund. The scholarship fund was developed to ensure her son's legacy 'Marches On".