



# Clayton County Public Schools

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## ADVISORY

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

September 29, 2023

### **Portion of Highway 138 named in honor of Dr. Barbara Pulliam**

*Former CCPS Superintendent led the district 2004-2007*

**JONESBORO** - A dedication ceremony honoring former Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) Superintendent Dr. Barbara Pulliam with a highway sign took place Friday, September 29, at the district's Administration Complex located in Jonesboro. The sign, which Portion of Highway 138 named in honor of Dr. Barbara Pulliam was formally unveiled on Friday, is located on a portion of Georgia Route 138 from Tara Boulevard to Scarlett Drive.

Dr. Pulliam was the first female African-American superintendent to lead the district. During the ceremony, she was praised for her innovative and courageous leadership skills that were needed for the rapidly growing Metro school district. Joining Rep. Rhonda Burnough in offering words of praise were Dr. Anthony W. Smith, CCPS Superintendent/CEO of Schools; Clayton County Board of Education Chair, Ms. Jessie Goree, representing District 3; State Representative Sandra Scott (House District 76); Clayton County Commissioner DeMont Davis (District 4) as well as family and friends.

The effort to have this section of road named for Dr. Pulliam was spearheaded by State Representative Rhonda Burnough (representing District 77) and the Clayton County Legislative Delegation.

"Countless students, employees, staff, and the community view Dr. Pulliam as a role model to this day," said Rep. Burnough. "This highway sign is just one way to say thank you while ensuring Clayton County doesn't ever forget her contributions."

Superintendent Smith was quoted in the event's program booklet, saying, "Dr. Barbara Pulliam is a dear friend, a valued colleague, and what I refer to as a 'legacy leader' – someone whose beneficial impact extends far beyond their tenure. She has been deeply dedicated to improving conditions in the Clayton County school district, the community at large, and in every environment she has encountered. As Clayton County Public Schools' first female Superintendent, Dr. Pulliam has been instrumental in paving the way for others to ensure more certain and brighter outcomes in the lives of children and their families. She is a visionary and a positive change agent. Dr. Pulliam's life and legacy continue to have an immeasurable impact on the lives and circumstances of many in Clayton County and beyond its borders."

"This action, in honor of Dr. Pulliam, is an appropriate recognition for her tireless work to provide an educational system that would prepare Clayton County's students for their respective futures in a changing society," Dr. Smith said. "Dr. Pulliam is recognized as an Influencer with senior leadership across our nation."

“We commend Representative Burnough and our Legislative Delegation for championing this action to secure the legacy of a great educational leader,” Dr. Smith added.

Dr. Pulliam had a lasting impact on the school district during her tenure, beginning in 2004 and continuing into 2007. Her leadership resulted in the establishment of the International Baccalaureate Program at two high schools, the creation of the district’s Magnet School Program, and the opening of the Unidos Dual Language School, the first dual language immersion program in the state of Georgia. She used Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funding to open four elementary, three middle, and two high schools that were needed to address the needs of an expanding student population.

Dr. Pulliam used her response to offer special thanks to those who worked with her while she served as superintendent and expressed heartfelt thanks to Rep. Burnough for making the highway naming happen. She closed her comments by reciting Psalm 23, “The Lord is my shepherd.”

To view photos from the Friday, September 29, ceremony, please use the link below:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JAFsBVMSS720z7a3LmJlbDhxGJDzWk99?usp=sharing>

**-An official document from the Clayton County Public School System-**

**About Clayton County Public Schools:** Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by Cognia. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 50,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the sixth-largest school system in Georgia.

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