

BEYOND

THEBOOK

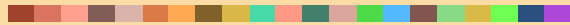
ALABAMA  
AFRICAN  
AMERICAN  
HISTORY

Three years after publishing *The Future Emerges from the Past: Celebrating 200 Years of Alabama African American History and Culture*, [alafricanamerican.com](http://alafricanamerican.com) continues to honor and highlight past, present, and future Alabama African American history makers.

# BEYOND THEBOOK

Because Alabama African American history can't be taught in a single month, we will continue to share short articles along with links to videos, photos, reference material, and additional information for all to enjoy on a monthly basis. The website's goal is the same as the book's: To inspire the young and young at heart to dream big and celebrate Alabama's rich African American history and culture.

[alafricanamerican.com](http://alafricanamerican.com)



# PATRICIA D. FORD

When preparation meets opportunity, dreams come true and great things happen. In 2017, Mrs. Patricia D. Ford accepted one of her greatest and most important challenges, chairing the Alabama Bicentennial Commission's Alabama African American Heritage Committee. Under her leadership the committee successfully authored and published *The Future Emerges from The Past: Celebrating 200 Years of Alabama African American History & Culture*. The book highlights Alabama African American history, people, and culture from the 1800's to present day.



Patricia D.

Ford



Patricia Ford (center), flanked by Glyn Agnew and AT&T Alabama president Wayne Hutchins, holds a copy of *The Future Emerges From The Past: Celebrating 200 Years of Alabama African American History and Culture*.

Destined to be a lifelong learner, historian, and educator, Mrs. Ford's love of education was evident from the start. She graduated salutatorian of her high school class and matriculated at Alabama A&M University where she received her undergraduate degree in Business Education with a minor in English. She continued her education at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College of Education and Human Development where she obtained her master's degree in library science. Mrs. Ford also completed post masters work in library science at Peabody College, and courses in business education/administration and personnel administration at Alabama A&M University. Additionally, she completed the course work for the ABD in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Mrs. Ford began her extensive education career in 1965 at Council Training High School in Huntsville, Alabama as a business teacher, where she taught typing, shorthand, and general business. In 1969, she began working at her alma mater, Alabama A&M University as an administrative assistant to





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Ford speaks with Robert Birmingham, Executive Vice President from Regions Bank in Montgomery, about the new book.

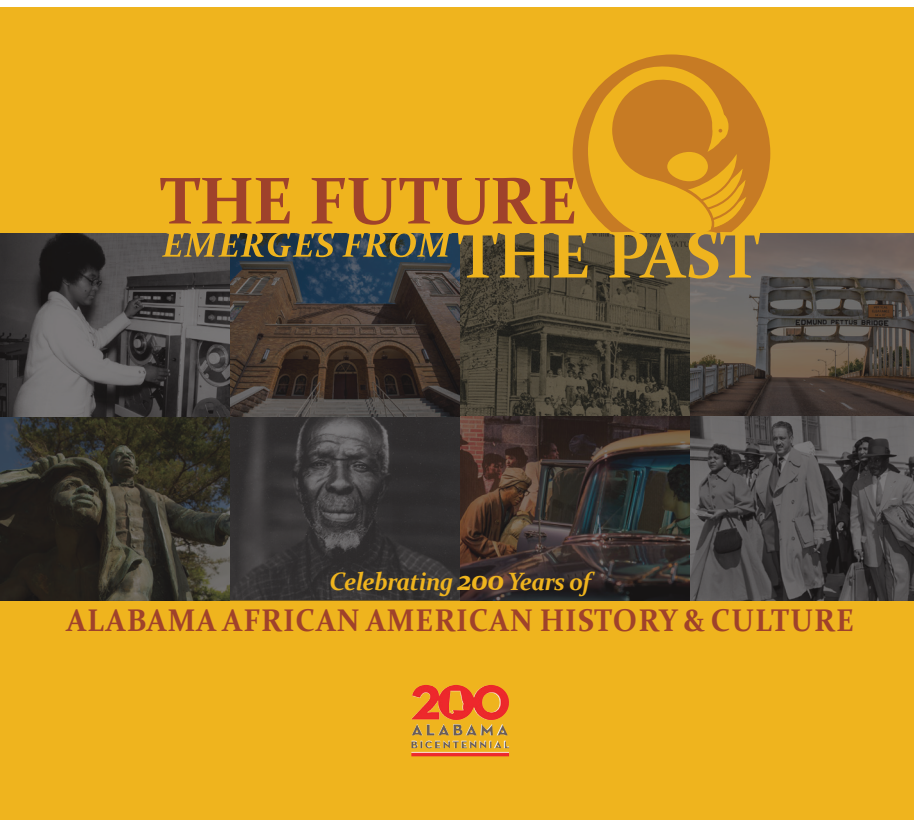
Dr. Carl H. Marbury in the Department of Library Media in the Joseph F. Drake Learning Resources Center (LRC). Dr. Marbury would later become the seventh president of Alabama A&M University. Mrs. Ford rose through the ranks at A&M becoming the assistant to the director and eventually the Interim Director of the Learning Resources Center. Under her leadership, the LRC underwent extensive renovations and expansions. Today, the Joseph F. Drake Memorial Learning Resources Center consists of 73,485 square feet of space, can house up to 400,000 volumes, and seat well over 1,000 patrons.

After her successful tenure at the LRC, Mrs. Ford accepted the position of Director of the State Black Archives & Research Center Museum housed on the campus of Alabama A&M University. In 2017, the Alabama Bicentennial Commission was searching for the right person to lead the Commission's Alabama African American Heritage Committee. As an experienced archivist and with an in-depth knowledge of Alabama African American history, Mrs. Ford was the obvious choice to lead the committee. After three long years of tireless research and work, *The Future Emerges from The*



***Past: Celebrating 200 Years of Alabama African American History & Culture*** was published and distributed to every K-12 public school and Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in Alabama. The book is currently a reference document used by teachers across the state.

Mrs. Ford is a member of the historic **St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church**, the oldest black church in the state of Alabama. She is also a member of Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and is a charter member of Greater Huntsville Chapter of the Links, Incorporated.



*I am proud of this book because it highlights the important dates in the history of African Americans in Alabama. It is especially important in terms of honoring the people who helped build this state, first as slaves and later as citizens.*

—Patricia D. Ford

Mrs. Ford has always been an avid reader and has great interest in genealogy. Mrs. Ford is the widow of the late Charles F. Ford, who was also an educator, and they have one daughter, Kimberly A. Ford, an attorney in Huntsville, Alabama.



# PATRICIA D. FORD



## R E S O U R C E S

<https://doingmoretoday.com/regions-celebrates-black-history-month-with-new-book-history-in-motion-honoree/>

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<https://gulfcoastregion.att.com/the-alabama-bicentennial-commission-announces-the-development-of-a-powerful-new-book/>

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<https://speakinoutweeklynews.net/2018/08/22/alabama-200-celebrating-the-states-birthday-and-african-american-contributions/>