

Dr. Betty Pingley Crickard McCartney



Dr. Betty Pingley Crickard McCartney was born at Elkins April 20, 1929. As a girl, she was active in 4-H and attended the National 4-H Club Congress as a state gardening winner. She received a Bachelor's Degree from Berea College, and later earned a Master's Degree in Human Development from the University of Maryland. She was awarded a Doctorate Degree in Educational Administration from Walden University.

She began her professional career as the 4-H Youth Agent in Upshur County, where she worked in project areas such as food, clothing, room improvement, gardening, woodworking and livestock. She got a flat tire once while transporting a pig in a burlap bag in the trunk of her car. The gas station attendant who helped her got quite a surprise when he discovered the pig, and the story became a news item that provided attention to the student pig projects and the Rotary Club that supplied the animals.

During that time, she was selected for a national 4-H Fellowship in Washington, D.C. She spent a year in the Capital learning about the workings of government and the role of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The experience also generated contacts that would serve the Extension Service for many years. She then became a Home Demonstration Agent and served Upshur, Randolph and Cabell counties in that capacity for the next 14 years. In Cabell County, she began a newspaper column and a weekly television program, "Women's Point of View."

McCartney was then appointed Area Program Director, giving her responsibility for all agents in all disciplines in a 10-county region surrounding Charleston. She was also the liaison between state government and the colleges of West Virginia University.

She was promoted to Director of the Home Economics Program at WVU Extension and become the program leader for the Expanded Foods and Nutrition Education Program. After seven years, she become the Director of the Families and Youth Programs, continuing her role as Director of the Home Economics program, as well as the 4-H program. She also served as administrative liaison of the School Dropout Prevention Task Force, the Nutrition and Health Task Force, and managed the efforts with the Dorsey Resource Center at Jackson's Mill.

McCartney was a board member for the Mountain State Art and Craft Fair

from 1975-78 and 1983-90. She served as a consultant on heritage educational opportunities for the Huntington Museum of Art. She was President of the West Virginia Home Economics Association and Chair of State Presidents of the American Home Economics Association. She held multiple offices in the West Virginia Extension Home Economists Association and organized the national meeting of that group at The Greenbrier in 1980.

She served on numerous committees and task forces at WVU, including the Faculty Development Committee, Jackson's Mill Advisory Committee and the Council on Women's Concerns.

She was named a national 4-H Fellow and was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by both the state and national Association of Extension Home Economists, which also awarded her with a Fellowship. She received the Creative Programming Award in Cultural Education from the National University Extension Association in 1974. She was recognized as Outstanding Home Economist in Extension by the West Virginia Home Economist Association in 1981. She was inducted into Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society in 1989, became a Certified Home Economist in 1987. She received Professor Emeritus status from WVU upon her retirement in 1990.

She created a 4-H Health Initiative Fund, which encouraged 20,000 4-H'ers annually to choose healthy lifestyles. She served as President of both the Morgantown Area Meals on Wheels and the Morgantown Garden Club, and was an Elder in the First Presbyterian Church in Morgantown.