



Cleveland "Gip" Gipson, Jr.

Class of 1992

Cleveland Gipson was born in Port Arthur, Texas, the third of four children to Fannie and Cleveland Gipson, Sr. Upon graduating from Abraham Lincoln High School, he began academic and athletic pursuits at Tuskegee University in the fall of 1987 after earning a four year athletic scholarship. Gipson was a defensive lineman who later switched to inside linebacker early during his freshman year. As an inside linebacker, he earned SIAC All Conference First team honors three years (1989-1991). In addition, he was selected as his team's defensive captain for three consecutive years (1989-1991). Gipson was selected SIAC Preseason Defensive Player of the Year and Preseason Division II All American in 1991. He was twice voted by his team's coaching staff as Defensive MVP, earned the Coca-Cola Award in 1991 (highest GPS on the team), and in 1990 was selected by Black Entertainment Television (BET) as Defensive MVP of the 1991 Turkey Bowl.

Gipson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology with a minor in Education in 1992. He later earned a Master of Education degree from Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts. He is currently pursuing a second Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Cambridge College.

Over the Past fifteen years, he has excelled as a professional educator. After graduating from Tuskegee University in 1992, he began working as an elementary school teacher in Washington DC public schools. He first taught third grade at Stanton Elementary where he twice earned "Teacher of the Year" honors and served as coach of the school's chess team. Eventually, he led the chess team to its first ever city chess title, subsequently winning a total of three. After working in the DC Public School system for six years, Gipson decided to take on the challenge of teaching abroad. His international teaching experience began at Westhill Elementary in Mexico City, Mexico. At Westhill, he taught sixth grade for five years. He later was named the principal of the school and served in that post for three years. Mr. Gipson has worked as an Educational Consultant for McGraw Hill and teacher trainer for Glencoe. Currently, he works at the American School Foundation in Mexico City, Mexico where he is a U.S. Government and World History teacher.

Gipson enjoys being an active member of his community as can be seen through his work with the Special Olympics in Mexico, his volunteer efforts at Casa Hogar, and through his relentless efforts as a volunteer translator (English/Spanish) for the Mexican Legal Society. Gipson is also a member of the National Teachers Association; The Washington DC Teachers Union; and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. (Gamma Epsilon Chapter).