



**Sonya D. "Cookie" Kennedy
Class of 1983**

Sonya D. Kennedy, a two-time All-American, is a native of Winnsboro, South Carolina. Kennedy holds the distinction of being the only Tigerette to serve Alma Mater as Head Coach of Women's Basketball. During her tenure the Tigerettes had two years with twenty or more wins.

Kennedy accepted a four-year athletic scholarship to attend Tuskegee and play basketball for Coach Tiny Laster. *Cookie* earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education in 1983. This Tigerette made her mark of the hardwood with outstanding performances at the free throw line and average points scored each game. The 1981-82 season saw *Cookie* reach new heights in her college career. Kennedy was the team's leading scorer with an average of 18 points per game, highest points scored in a single game— 33, and being named Most Valuable Player. **Between 1978-1982, Kennedy ranked fourth on the All-Time Scoring List,** had a career mark for most free throws attempted and scored after four seasons, and was ranked third in career-wise assists. The American Women's Sports Federation voted *Cookie* to their 1st Team All-American for the 1980-1981 and 1981-1982 seasons.

Sonya Kennedy has continued to distinguish herself in the field of education and community service. This outstanding young lady was recognized in 1981 by her hometown of Winnsboro, SC and the National Council of Negro Women. *"To teach is to touch a life forever."* Kennedy has touched the lives of students in Fairfield District Schools, Winnsboro, SC., LaGrange, GA, and Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools –Flint, MI. She was honored in a ceremony by the Fairfield district with her portrait being hung in the high school gymnasium and a scholarship named in her honor by the LaGrange (GA)-Tuskegee Alumni Club. Kennedy was named Outstanding Young Woman of America in 1985, awarded Coach of the Year by Georgia's Athletic Coaches Association in 1987, and SIAC Women's Basketball Coach of the Year in 1988-1989. What time *Cookie* has remaining, she spends as a basic competitor-distance runner in 5k- marathon races, being a part of Paw'sitive pet therapy with Makz and Winz, and continuing her education.

Kennedy states, "There were a tremendous amount of life lessons learned on that basketball court, thanks to Coach Laster. I came a long way as a scared child my freshman year to a young adult graduate of Tuskegee University."