



Dr. Elizabeth “Diane Smart” Thomas

Class of 1982

Dr. Elizabeth “Diane Smart” Thomas, a native of Quitman, Georgia, enrolled at Tuskegee Institute on a four year athletic scholarship in 1977, lettering four years in Track and Field. As a freshman (1978), during the Tuskegee Relays, she jumped 18 feet 8 inches and broke a 40 year old long jump record, one she continues to hold. A week later, she jumped 19 feet 2 inches during the SIAC Championship meet. In 1979, Dr. Thomas received an “All American” award in the long jump, and was team MVP her freshman and sophomore years. Her ability to jump over 18 feet and run under 11.5 seconds in the 100 meter dash qualified her for the Nationals every year. She ran the 200, 400 and 800 meter relays with outstanding SIAC Championship success.

Dr. Thomas earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration and a Minor in Political Science from Tuskegee Institute (1982), a Master of Education degree from Valdosta State University (1991), and a Doctor of Education degree in Education Leadership from Argosy University (2015). She is a member of the prestigious Sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Incorporated. Dr. Thomas currently teaches in Valdosta, Georgia where she strives to ensure a quality education for our most precious jewels, our children. She received “Teacher of the Year” several times during her career, was named Who’s Who among Educators, and is a co-author of a curriculum for middle school students (Math in the Real World). She was chosen to be one of the first 200 members for the State of Georgia’s “Master Teachers Academic Coach” Program (highlighting teachers making an impact on student achievement).

Dr. Thomas received the “Pioneer of the Year” award from her community for inspiring 80% of the citizens to know the importance of exercising their right to register and participate in the voting process. Her community service also includes coaching, math tutoring, and helping families in need of food, clothing, and financial support. She also is an avid supporter of the Skegee Golden Tigers Memorial Football Scholarship Fund.

Dr. Thomas resides in Quitman, Georgia with her spouse of 35 years, Clarence Thomas, Sr. They have three children: Jamilia, Clarence II, and Craig and one granddaughter, Camille.