



LEO S. BRINKLEY
Class of 1943

Leo S. Brinkley, outstanding athlete, distinguished educator, and humanitarian. His athletic prowess on the playing fields at Tuskegee earned him recognition in each of the sports he played. He was a four year letterman in basketball as a point guard, in football, and track as a member of the 880 relay team. His exceptional talents in athletics and his leadership skills landed him positions on the first All-Black Great Lakes Basketball Team, the St. Louis Stars Negro Baseball Team and tours with the Globetrotters.

Brinkley's professional career as teacher, coach, and administrator spanned more than fifty years. He has taught English, literature, poetry, history, and physical education as well as coached basketball and football in Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois and California. This visionary leader with his creative ability designed and implemented many new program ideas in the schools and communities where he served. A few of his most notable accomplishments are the "Miss Recreation" program for the Chicago public schools, the Mandford Byrd Summer Relay Games which he hosted with Jesse Owens, and the citywide after school square dance program. The success of the dance program brought invitations for twenty four participants to tour five Historically Black Colleges, and the organizer to served as a square dance caller for an AAHPER convention and a dancer at President Jimmy Carter's Inauguration. He also designed and received documented recognition as the first coach to use the "I" formation in a football game.

Brinkley's understanding of the impact of overcrowded classrooms, behavioral problems of students, large teaching loads and the importance of individual attention to student success lead to the founding of **The Franklin D. Roosevelt Private School**. This facility is a fully-accredited sixth through twelfth grade college preparatory school.

"As a professional educator who has dedicated fifty years of my life to teaching, I continue to try to make positive differences because it is not enough until I say it's enough, and like Duke Ellington and Billy Strayborn, "I never will".

