



## Reflections from Rose Duhon-Sells, NAME's Founding Mother

Welcome to the 30th Anniversary!

Wow! As humanity grapples with the twin pandemics of the coronavirus and racism, I wonder how may I ever express my gratitude, adequately for 30 years of service, hard work, struggle and courage that you have all expressed to maintain the strength to continue the work of teaching people who pretend not to know the obstacles in our path as a culturally diverse population? And there have been other people who had a hidden agenda because in their minds they knew of a better way to do what we have been doing successful for three decades!

Thirty years ago, I said to anyone who would listen with an open mind that the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) has one mission, a mission that would evolve over the years. NAME knows and has always known that Black Lives Matter! We have always known the horrific oppression of Black, Indigenous and People of color (BIPOC) has always been a fact in this country. But because the cameras are now on, it is hard for people to turn their backs. Addressing these concerns, however, must change and evolve.

With your help and hard work we have created an organization with an awesome impact on teaching and learning and relationships across this culturally diverse society. We joined forces and helped individuals learn about more their culture, and they are strengthened by the knowledge they acquire about other cultures. Because of multiple global pandemics now, this is a critical time for NAME's ongoing work.

Please join me in using NAME's 30th anniversary as an incentive for our young members to aspire to assume leadership roles in the organization. Then we can all participate in moving the association to its highest heights. The magnitude of this organization was not created by one or two people. It was created by the participation and contribution of the entire NAME family.

I have a request for each person reading this letter—Please make a commitment to invite, encourage and even insist that at least five of your friends and colleagues, participate in NAME's activities so they may benefit from and enjoy all that NAME has to offer.

Thirty years ago I had an idea for NAME, but no money. What I did have then was an unstoppable drive, determination and commitment to create an organization in which people would have a forum to exchange ideas and learn about Multicultural Education. As a single parent, I used my credit card with a \$5,000 limit and charged \$20,000. Through the grace of God and with the help of G. Pritchey Smith, we had our first conference, which was very successful. That's when everything started coming together. The founding members joined forces. We built strong relationships, contributing, supporting and building the organization. NAME continues to function on the contributions of many outstanding hard-working volunteers.

Founding NAME has been one of the highlights of my life. I often think God selected me to give life to this incredible idea and used me to embrace the goodness, generosity, love and support of many to make it a reality.

Despite the pandemics, my vision for the future of this great organization is to see our members' research and activism improve the quality of education for all school-age children across the globe, by helping all educators to teach from a Multicultural prospective. I pray that we continue our strong commitment to research, networking and providing needed assistance to new/young upcoming educators, ensuring they are strong Multicultural Education leaders of tomorrow. I envision NAME and its leaders being recognized internationally as THE clearinghouse for knowledge and wisdom on Multicultural Education. Together we will improve education for all!

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