Conrad Walter Worrill Biography

Dr. Conrad Walter Worrill, internationally acclaimed scholar, educator, and activist has announced his retirement from Northeastern Illinois University/NEIU effective December 31, 2016. He is retiring after forty-years of employment at NEIU where he has worked as a Professor in Inner City Studies, Department Chair of Inner City Studies, and Academic Program Coordinator for Inner City Studies and over the last twelve years as the Director of the historic Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies/CCICS.

Since 1966, CCICS has been a leading center of scholarship and activism in this country. Located on Chicago’s South Side in the historic Bronzeville neighborhood, CCICS has worked toward the forward progression of African American culture and life. CCICS prepares both graduate and undergraduate students to be equipped to work in human and social service agencies, both public and private, as well as educational initiatives.

Inspired by the scholarship and teaching of the late Dr. Jacob H. Carruthers and Dr. Anderson Thompson, both professors in the academic program of Inner City Studies at NEIU, Dr. Worrill’s leadership has played an integral role in helping to continue the tradition and legacy that they established in forming this academic discipline at the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies.

For over fifty-years Dr. Worrill has been an active participant in the Black Power, Civil Rights, and Human Rights Movements. He acquired a Bachelor’s degree from George Williams College, a Master’s degree from the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Worrill’s major field of study has been Black political and movement history, social theory, and curriculum and instruction. Additionally, he is an expert in the field of the delivery of social and educational services in the African American community.

Conrad Worrill’s activism has been defined by his leadership in organizations and activities that have been at the forefront of social and racial justice, African-centered education, African liberation, and self-determination for people of African descent. Dr. Worrill served as the chairman of the National Black United Front/NBUF for twenty-six years and is now chairman emeritus. He was also the special consultant for field operations for the historic Million Man March, a lifetime member for the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America/N’COBRA, and a street organizer for Harold Washington’s mayoral campaign, he has advanced causes such as educational restructuring, human rights, reparations, and political and economic empowerment for the Black community.

One of Dr. Worrill’s signature organizing projects was his leadership in NBUF, along with the December 12th Movement International Secretariat, organized the Durban 400 delegation that participated in the historic United Nations World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) that was held in Durban, South Africa from August 31 through September 7, 2001. The Durban 400 succeeded in impacting the WCAR to declare,
“...slavery and the slave trade are a crime against humanity.” This was a major international organizing victory for African people.

Dr. Worrill is a member of the Kemetic Institute, the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations/ASCAC, the Communiversity, the Universal Negro Improvement Association-African Communities League/UNIA-ACL, and the Association of African Historians/AAH. Dr. Worrill has also served as a board member of the Black United Fund of Illinois for thirty-years. Through all of this, as a high school and college athlete, Conrad Worrill remains a sports enthusiast. He is a chronicler of the history and origin of the game of basketball and the historical and evolutionary role Black people have contributed to the development of the game. His is also currently working with the Friends of Track and Field to help revitalize Track and Field in the Chicago Public Schools as an alternative athletic activity in which young people can be encouraged to participate. One of Dr. Worrill’s greatest passions has always been the relationship of athletics to academic achievement character building, and preparation for life’s long journey for young people becoming parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, and mentors to play a positive role for the next generation.

Since 1983, Dr. Worrill writes a weekly syndicated column that appears in major African American newspapers around the country and his writings have appeared in numerous publications in the US. He has often been a guest on many radio and television talk shows throughout the country. For over ten years Dr. Worrill was a radio talk show host on Chicago’s WVON Radio. He is a knowledgeable and dynamic speaker and is constantly requested to lecture all over the world. Dr. Worrill has served as a consultant for numerous schools, universities, organizations, and institutions nationwide.

Dr. Worrill’s retirement from NEIU will not retire him from the numerous projects that he will continue to work on. Dr. Worrill will spend a great deal of time writing, lecturing, and consulting on issues that continue to challenge the African world.

His life’s work demonstrates his commitment to doing what proverbial African wisdom characterizes as “good speech” – “speaking truly and doing right.”