



Dr. Josephine Pete, I'm a lifelong resident of the South Phoenix Community, who retired as Deputy Superintendent of the Phoenix Union High School District. I founded *The Dr. Josephine Pete Urban Youth Scholarship Fund, Inc.*, under the motto of "The cost of educating is great; the cost of not educating is greater." This statement gives you a good idea of where I focused my efforts. It's been said in many ways, I say, "Our legacy is determined by what we do for others."

Through the years, I held firmly to the belief that, "All students can learn." I believe in "Parent Power," and often called for parental involvement in the development and governance of school programs and policies. One of my favorite quotes is "Parents don't care how much you know; until they know how much you care." I have demonstrated my care and concern by devoting my skills and finances to motivating and encouraging students to stay in school and succeed academically. The mother of two daughters reinforced my strong commitment to enhancing, empowering, and enforcing equal access for females and minorities.

I am a graduate of South Mountain High, and earned my Bachelors, Masters, and Education Specialist Degrees at Arizona State University. I received my Doctorate Degree in Education Administration from Nova Southwestern University.

My career includes teaching at the Elementary, Secondary, College and University levels. I was a member of the team of volunteers who taught classes on the C.O. Greenfield Elementary School Campus until funding was available to finance the establishment of the now South Mountain Community College. I began my career in the Roosevelt school district. I served in the Phoenix Union High School District as a Counselor, High School Principal, Executive Director of Human Relations which I organized and supervised, Assistant Superintendent, and Deputy Superintendent.

I was the first female to serve as principal of South Mountain High School, my Alma Mater, where I spent countless hours working in the community to improve the school's image by creating new innovative programs. Once asked, "Do you have to attend every meeting?" I responded, "I can't ask others to follow, if I don't lead." It was under my leadership the school Magnet Programs began.

In 1996, I was appointed the first female Deputy Superintendent of the Phoenix Union High School District. My major responsibilities were to oversee the Phoenix Union High School District Desegregation Court Order, approve student transfers in and out of the district, I supervised the district school resource officers, presided over discipline appeals, and represented the superintendent in his absence.

I served the community as an Educator, Volunteer, and Professional Role Model. After more than 40 years of experience, I discuss educational issues in urban areas. I have spoken frequently on issues impacting at-risk youth, i.e., gang activity and drug awareness, equal access for women, stress management, self-esteem building, parental involvement, magnet schools, multi-cultural awareness and diversity, and Black History.

During the Katrina Flood, my husband Louis and I organized and managed the Katrina Bed and Bath Program to assist victims relocated to the phoenix area. The warehouse was located at the South Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Church, and supported by many churches within the Arizona Conference. Through this program, we were instrumental in supplying bed and bath items, bed frames, mattresses, linen, pillows, towels, and other small household items to families who were impacted by the flood. During this time, I also assisted in the placement of students in various schools in the Phoenix areas. I am a licensed real estate sales person and used my skills and expertise to help many families find housing.

Through the years, I have served in numerous positions in my church and spent countless hours of volunteer community service. I remain active in retirement through continued community service. I still serve on several boards and committees. I work as a volunteer with the Okemah Community Reunion Committee, my late husband Louis and I, have also enjoyed volunteering for the Diana Gregory Outreach Service Foundation. Currently, I'm improving my computer skills in that during the corona virus, all meetings are conducted by electronically.

I have received numerous awards including Chase Bank Outstanding Principals Award, The Arizona Alliance of Black Educators Leadership Award, The H. B. Daniels Bar Association - Martin Luther King Jr. Justice Award, NAACP Outstanding Educator's Award, the Phoenix Fire Department J. W. Robinson Society United Black Firefighters - Citizens Award, and the National Association of Black Criminal Justice Arizona Chapter - Professional Role Model Award, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women 2018 Education Legend Award. I also received the Phoenix Chapter of Links Art of Academia award for Excellence and Extraordinary Service.

I was referenced in the Arizona history textbook entitled, "Arizona, It's Place in the United States" by Jay Wagoner. I was also recognized in the first edition of "Celebration of Women by Linda Groomes Walton."

I am a Life Member of Arizona School Administrators, the NAACP, and A Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

My husband Louis and have two daughters Cheryl and Traci, we are the proud grandparents of three grandsons, Bradford Louis, Quentin Douglas, and Kevin Joseph. I'm also the proud great-grand mother of one great grandson, Louis Francis Pete. I am affectionately called, "Mommee," by my daughters friends, my many nieces, nephews and their friends.