



**Jim Boozer**, based on genealogical tracing, my ancestry is 84% Nigerian. Family lore is that I descended from people taken in bondage to the shore of South Carolina, a background not dissimilar to a vast majority of American Blacks. My great, great-grandfather's parents were enslaved.

Fast forward to the 1920s when my parents were born in Arkansas. I am the product of Southern parents who were raised in an atmosphere of subjugation, oppression, cruelty and extreme hostility. My parents came to Arizona in 1945. Before moving to Okemah, we lived in North Scottsdale when it was an area of farmland and open desert. My dad was a ranch hand on the McCormack Ranch.

Upon reaching school age, I and the other Black kids were carpoled to a Mesa school as the nearby school was segregated and thus did not accept kids of color. When my family moved to Okemah, I attended 40<sup>th</sup> St. School from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and Percy J. Julian School from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

I graduated from South Mountain High School in 1960 and while there, I participated in student government, sports programs, and was a member of the 1959 State championship football team.

Graduated from Phoenix College where I participated in the sports program and was photographer for the yearbook and sports writer for the school newspaper.

I attended Arizona State University majoring in Secondary Education. During the time at Phoenix College and Arizona State University, I freelanced as the photographer for a Black weekly newspaper.

I began my 32 years career in Public Service as a community organizer for President Johnson's War on Poverty in the 1970s. I retired from the City of Phoenix as the Acting Housing Directors. My job included managing department operation and providing and promoting diversified living environments for moderate to low-income elders and families. I received numerous awards during my tenure.

From 1996 to 2011, I was an Associate Faculty professor in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design and in the School of Urban Planning.

My travels during my career and since retirement has allowed me the opportunity to experience travel to half of the United States, Canada, and Mexico and three Continents.

I am a husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Currently I serve on the Phoenix Diocese Society of St. Vincent de Paul.