

FAY TAYLOR SMITH

Distinguished Graduate

W. A. Pattillo High School Class of 1971



Fay Taylor Smith, the daughter of the late Helen Catherine Taylor and Turner Henry Taylor, Jr., was born and raised in Tarboro, North Carolina. She attended W. A. Pattillo High School and graduated from Tarboro Senior High in 1971. After completing her high school education, she attended Elizabeth City State University, where she earned a B.S. in Comprehensive Business Education.

Fay was employed at Peoples Bank in Pinetops for several years. With an eye for fashion, she later became an entrepreneur, opening her boutique, Gen's Fashion Boutique. During this time, she was the only woman of color to own a boutique in downtown Tarboro, North Carolina.

Later, Fay embarked on a career with the Edgecombe County Clerk of Superior Court, retiring in 2014. After her retirement, she became a part-time employee with ECU Health at Edgecombe, where she remains employed.

Fay's accomplishments include:

- Board member and advocate with the Rocky Mount Association on Domestic Violence
- Past member of the North Carolina Assistant & Deputy Clerk Association
- Past committee member of the Down East Partnership for Children
- Member of the Nonprofit Capacity Building Committee – United Way Tar River Region
- Nominated in 2007 as a distinguished member of the Town of Tarboro, NC
- Organizer of a community-wide Thanksgiving celebration for the lonely, elderly, homeless, and others in need
- Precinct Judge for Precinct District 1-2 for the 2024 election
- Program Director, The Black Heritage Museum & Cultural Center, Inc.
- Juneteenth Celebration Committee Member, 2025
- Active member of the W. A. Pattillo National Alumni Association

As a pillar of the Tarboro community, Fay's compassion, wisdom, kindness, and unwavering spirit have touched countless lives. She has an intuitive ability to recognize others' needs and respond with genuine love, motivated by both past and present experiences. A visionary with realistic goals, Fay's personality enables her to connect with people on various levels.

Her home has been opened to flood victims, domestic violence survivors, foster children, and anyone seeking shelter, comfort, and food. It has been lovingly dubbed "The Happy House" due to the immeasurable comfort, love, respect, and assurance it offers to others during times of need.

Fay wears many hats: daughter, wife, mother, niece, cousin, and friend. She has helped over 2,000 students enroll in post-secondary schools through The College Round-Up, an organization she co-founded with her cousin Bob Whitehead. The program is designed to help underserved and underprivileged students pursue higher education by assisting with the selection, admissions, and financial aid process.

Fay also serves as Program Director of The Black Heritage Museum & Cultural Center, Inc., a mobile Black history exhibit. Its mission is to document and preserve Black heritage, culture, literature, artifacts, and history—and to use this legacy to encourage, empower, and uplift current and future generations through scholarly engagement, art, and artistic expression, while cultivating critical thought.

Hebrews 13:16

"Do not forget to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."