

Ruby James

SC Alumni – High School & College Athlete, Educational Administrator Inducted into the SC Hall of Fame September 9, 2011

Ruby was born in Casa Grande on March 27, 1962 to Robert and Celestine James. She is the youngest of three siblings. Ruby is a true reflection of her parents when it comes to her work ethic. Education and hard work were valued in her family.

During her years at Santa Cruz, Ruby had many athletic accomplishments:

- 1979 Member of the SC Softball State Championship Team
 - Named to Arizona Softball All-State Team
 - Named to Arizona Volleyball All-State Team
 - Named to Arizona Track & Field All-State Team
- 1980 Member of SC Softball State Championship Team
 - Member of SC Track & Field State Championship Team
 - Named to Arizona Softball All-State Team
 - Named to Arizona Volleyball All-State Team
 - Named to Arizona Track & Field All-State Team
 - Named SC Most Valuable Player in Volleyball, Softball, and Track
 - 2A State Female Shot Put Champion
 - Named to Who's Who Among High School Athletics

Ruby continued her athletic excellence at Phoenix Community College where she was named Most Valuable Player for the Softball team of 1983.

She received her Associate of Arts Degree from Phoenix College in 1983 and her Bachelor of Arts in Educational Sciences in 1985 from Arizona State University. Ruby earned a Masters in Educational Leadership Summa Cum Laude in 1994 from Northern Arizona University. Her eventual goal is to complete her Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership.

Ruby was the On Campus Suspension teacher for the Eloy Elementary School District from 1985-1988. In 1988, she became the Physical Education teacher, a job she held until 1996 when she was named Eloy Primary School Assistant Principal. In 1998, Ruby became Intermediate School principal, a position she held until 2005 when she became the first female and first African-American Superintendent for the Eloy Elementary School District.

Among her many activities are:

- NAACP Community Leadership Award
- Implementing and directing a District-Wide Anti-Bullying Program
- President of Eloy Division for Self and Community Improvement
- Serving on the Pinal-Gila Head Start Board
- Director of Pinal County Martin Luther King Day Celebration
- Serving on Eloy Police Department Hiring/Screening Committee
- Founder of the Southwest Desert Referee Association
- One of the first African American Small Business owners in Arizona City
- Served as Grand Marshall for Santa Cruz Homecoming 2010
- Honored as one of Arizona's Most Influential African Americans
- Martin Luther King Leadership Award
- Motivational speaker on Student Bus Riders "Zero Tolerance Policy"