



Biography of Lucille Hilliard, P.D., D.Min., M.Div., M.A., B.A.

Lucille Hilliard was born in Henderson, North Carolina. After graduating from Vance County High School, she moved to New Jersey where she started a career in the insurance industry. Lucille enjoyed working in the insurance industry, but knew she could do more than just talk to people by telephone, process premiums for car insurance, push paper and stuff envelopes all day.



Realizing her passion for school (learning) since childhood, and her love for people, Lucille knew one day she would return to school to pursue a higher education. Additionally, she also knew it was time for her to search for a position where she could devote her time and energy working directly with people, which was what she enjoyed most. So, after making a conscientious effort to change her situation, Lucille relocated to Washington, D.C.

After moving to Washington, D.C., Lucille was hired to work as a Contact Representative where she provided services to individuals in the Department of Employment Services (DOES). Lucille thoroughly enjoyed working in that profession, but she always kept an open mind for other challenging positions that might arise. Hence, Lucille worked for several organizations, and in many other positions which included: Employee Benefits Examiner, Educational-Aide, Job Development Specialist, Employment Specialist, Case Manager, and Bank Teller.

Lucille was not satisfied with just possessing a High School diploma. Subsequently, she decided to enroll in the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), where she worked full time during the day, and attended school part-time during the evenings. She was inducted into the Honors Programs at UDC, and continued to excel in school. However, work was a different subject.

At work, Lucille learned that certain positions of her colleagues were in danger of being rified, but her position was safe. Lucille took it upon herself to make a request that her position be rified, and given to her colleague who had an infant to rear. Lucille was rified! At the joy of becoming unemployed, she decided to fulfill her dream, and become a full-time student.

Lucille was accepted at the Catholic University of America (CUA), where she transferred to school full-time, received a B.A. degree, and was recognized for other achievements. She graduated cum laude, graduated at the top ten percent of her class, recognized as an Outstanding Scholar, and was inducted in the Alpha Sigma Lambda, Iota Kappa Chapter (Honor Society). Continuing her educational experience, Lucille received the M.A. (Public Communications) degree from American University (AU); the M. Div. degree from Howard University (HU); the D. Min. from Howard University; the Post Doctorate studies

Executive Certificate in Non-Profit Management from Georgetown University (GU); and numerous training certificates that focus on youth and families.

Lucille is a Poet, Songwriter, Playwright, and Actress. She has a large number of "Published Works" including songs, poems, and dissertation, entitled, "Outreach Ministries to Widows and Widowers."

In February 2016, Lucille joined a team of actresses and actors in the play, "Voices in the Dark," a play, written in the form of slave narratives. Lucille accepted the role of Sarah Francis Graves Shaw. The first performance was held in 2017, at the Silver AFI Theater in Silver Spring, Maryland, and two other performances were held at the Clarice Theater, University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland, February 2018. The Play was written, directed and produced by Darrell Godfrey, a local Playwright.

In 2018, Mr. Godfrey released his first book, entitled, "Delta Son." This book is a remarkable piece of work that shows how a black man overcomes struggles and obstacles in rural Mississippi, against all odds placed before him. In February 2019, a snippet of the Play was performed at the Silver AFI Theater. Lucille portrayed the role of the mother. The entire Play is expected to be seen in 2020. Be on the look-out for great performances by the entire cast.

As co-founder and Executive Director of Growing On (GO), Lucille finds it extremely rewarding to utilize her passion, education, skills & training, and experience to lead others. Her love and passion, seasoned with humility and compassion demonstrate a level of confidence that offers support to others without feeling inferior, or superior: as she encourages them to "know," "grow" and "Go."