

Phyllis Cunningham



Phyllis Cunningham is an activist scholar, retired in 2002 from Northern Illinois University where she practiced for over 25 years. She received her doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1973 but more importantly the conscientization of her spirit on the streets of the south side during that same period. She counts as memorable contributions: Contributing to organizing the Urban Life Center still in existence 40 years later; Changing the composition of the NIU doctoral student body from almost totally Caucasian/domestic to predominantly persons of color/with many of international origin ; Helping develop the NIU popular education curriculum and internationalizing the curriculum towards the “south”; Working with students on concepts of learning at the edge of social movements , co-learning and participatory research. She attended her first AERC in 1968 as a graduate student.

Over twenty of the students who chose to do their dissertations with her as Chair also chose to become professors (see below).

Ian Baptiste, Wanda Bracy, Scipio A. J. Colin III, Phyllis Ham Garth, Hugo Guera, Lawrence Howlett, John Holt, Shu-chuan Liao, Randee Lawrence, Antonio Lopez, Lee Martin, Samuel Mills, Derek Mulenga, Mark Murphy, Elice Rogers, Manigeh Roosta, Margaret Shaw, Vanessa Sheared, Andrew Smallwood, Fred Schied, Gabriele Stroschen, Itxaso Ruiz De Tellado, Jeff Zacharakis