

David L. Acey, Sr., Bio

David L. Acey, Sr. is a retired Assistant Professor of African American Rhetoric and Interracial Communication at the University of Memphis in the Department of Communication, Memphis, Tennessee. From 1979 to 1985 Acey was Director of African American Studies at the University where he developed several Afrocentric courses currently taught in the department. His academic and professional life have been devoted to improving the quality of life for African Americans and others in their quest for achieving success in a global society.

Acey's focus has been devoted to developing strategies, encouraging participation in civic,/ public life, and improving communication skills and race relations from a multi-cultural perspective. An understanding and also an appreciation of traditions/heritage will increase respect and understanding of ethnicity. As a result of his continued commitment to improve communication between different ethnic groups, he has embraced a mission of fostering respect, promoting academic excellence and developing positive international relationships. Approximately 33 years ago, he organized and currently serves as Executive Director of the Africa In April Cultural Awareness Festival, Inc., a non-profit organization. This organization sponsors year round activities and the Africa In April Cultural Awareness Festival during the month of April designed to celebrate the arts, history, culture, tourism, economic development and diversity of the African Diaspora.

Professionally, David Acey's membership includes The Nation African American Studies Association, The Tennessee Education Association, The National Coalition of 100 Black Men, Inc., Memphis Tourism, City of Memphis Civilian Law Enforcement Board, NAACP (Life Member), National & Memphis Branch of The Association of the Study of African American Life and History, City of Memphis Housing and Community Trailblazers Committee. Acey has received numerous awards, honors and recognitions for his civic, political, educational, humanitarian and community service, such as The Tennessee Education Association Harold Love Outstanding Service, The International World Community Achievement Award, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Community Service Award, The University of Memphis Life Time Achievement Award, The University of Memphis, Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Human Rights Award, City of Memphis Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. " Be The Dream Award", The Tri -State Defender "Best In Black Award", Mt. Vernon Baptist Church Legacy Honoree and The City of Memphis Heritage Trailblazer Award.

Acey is a member of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church- Westwood, Inc. He is married to Yvonne B. Acey and they have one son, David L. Acey, II.