Biography

Dean Derrick Griffith

Derrick E. Griffith (July 14, 1971 - May 12, 2015)

Derrick E. Griffith served as the Acting Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Medgar Evers College. Prior to that, he served as the Assistant Provost for Student Success in the Office of Academic Affairs. In these positions, Dean Griffith had broad, cross-campus responsibilities for the assessment and promotion of student success. In addition, he oversaw and managed the Smart Scholars Early College – a collaboration between Medgar Evers College and Medgar Evers College Preparatory High School which allows high school students to enroll in Medgar Evers College courses, giving them a head start in their college careers. This year, the College will graduate 47 of those students.

Griffith joined Medgar Evers College after serving as the Executive Director of Groundwork, Inc., a Brooklyn-based community organization working to increase college access among residents of public housing developments. Prior to that position he served as the founding Director and Principal of CUNY Prep Transitional High School administered by CUNY’s Office of Academic Affairs. In that capacity, he oversaw the administration of CUNY Prep, a model school that continues to offer out-of-school youth between the ages of 16 and 18 an opportunity for full-time study in order to qualify for admission to college. In 2006, he began a collaboration with Hostos Community College to launch a College Now program for students awaiting their GED results. Griffith was named to the inaugural committee for CUNY’s New Community College where he worked closely with the chair of the student services committee to create a template for student and academic affairs that would be user friendly and promote student success. While on the committee, he worked with the chair of the majors committee to explore health science majors for the New Community College.

Over the course of his professional career, Griffith was a social studies teacher, curriculum and professional development manager, and adjunct instructor. He graduated from Clara Barton High School for Health Professions in Brooklyn, New York, where he earned a Regents Diploma and
a Certificate in Practical Nursing. While working as a licensed practical nurse, he earned a B.A. in History from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He was active in student government serving as the first African American Student Body President to serve two terms in that role and there he became a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated. In 1994, he received the Max and Dora Cohen Scholarship to attend the Margaret Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development at the University of Rochester. In 1995, he received an M.S. in Counseling and Human Development and was named the Commencement Marshall. He completed a Ph.D. in Urban Education at the CUNY Graduate Center and was planning for his graduation on May 27, 2015.

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**About Medgar Evers College**

Located in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, Medgar Evers College is a growing institution offering both Associate and Baccalaureate degrees. The nearly 7,000-member student body is primarily comprised of those who are the first in their families to attend college. A senior college within The City University of New York (CUNY) system, Medgar Evers College was established in 1970 with a mandate to meet the educational and social needs of the Central Brooklyn community. With a commitment to students who desire a sound academic foundation as well as an opportunity for personal development, Medgar Evers College seeks to provide high-quality, professional, career-oriented undergraduate degree programs in the context of a liberal arts education. [For more information, visit](http://www.mec.cuny.edu) **www.mec.cuny.edu**.