

REMEMBERING JUDY BURTON

I write with sad news. Our beautiful and fearless founding leader, Judy Ivie Burton, passed away this weekend with her brother Rickey and her sister Tamanika at her side.

For those of us who knew Judy, the loss is profound. Judy spent her life dedicated to ensuring ALL students, but in particular students of color from our most economically disadvantaged communities, had access to a high quality education. She was a fierce and courageous educational leader her entire life, and her moral compass pointed all of us at Alliance in the right direction. You never doubted any decision she made was in the best interest of students.

Judy lived and worked with a singular focus on kids. A native of Los Angeles, she graduated from UCLA with a degree in Spanish and became an elementary school teacher. Her innate leadership and talent led her to become a principal and later, a central office executive within the Los Angeles Unified School District where she invariably was at the center of every new initiative to make schools work better for students. She finished her career at the district as an area superintendent responsible for more than 80,000 students in Northeast Los Angeles.

In 2003, she became the founding CEO at Alliance College-Ready Public Schools. From the beginning, Alliance schools reflected Judy's belief that all students could learn at high levels if the adults in the school created an environment for students to succeed. Under Judy's leadership, Alliance schools quickly became some of the best in the state – graduating nearly all students in communities where graduation rates were often below 50%. Thirteen years later, Judy's legacy and commitment to high expectations for every student continue to propel Alliance schools and students to new heights.

When Judy was not working for kids – which was not very often – she loved to spend time with her horses and her dogs, and when she could, she enjoyed hitting the slopes of Mammoth Mountain and the golf courses in Hawaii. We have lost a dear friend who inspired all those who knew her, but we are grateful that her spirit lives on through the many students and educators whose lives she touched.

Judy is survived by her brother Rickey Ivie, her sister Tamanika Ivie and a number of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. Her family has asked that in lieu of flowers, please send contributions to [UCLA's Black Alumni Association](#) or to [Alliance College-Ready Public Schools](#). Donations to Alliance will help us establish a Judy Ivie Burton College Scholarship Fund for college-bound seniors at Alliance Judy Ivie Burton Technology High School.

We invite you to join Judy's family and members of the Alliance community to pay tribute to our dear friend at a memorial service to be held on **June 3, 2017 at 11am** at Alliance Judy Ivie Burton Technology Academy High School at 10101 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90003. To RSVP, please [click here](#).

Sincerely,

Dan Katzir
President and CEO