

## **Dr. Shirley W. Thomas to be commencement speaker at Third College**

**June 17, 1978**

Dr. Shirley W. Thomas, Professor in the Department of Afro-American Studies, San Diego State University, will be the Commencement Speaker at the Third College, University of California, San Diego, Sunday, June 18, 1978 at 10:00 A.M.

She will discuss the ways that education can be a tool for social change. Thomas states, "The masses need to recognize that how they think is influenced by the education they receive. Thinking is not a luxury, but a tool that determines survival. How people regard themselves and what they do in society are determined by the quality of education they receive. Thomas also notes that historically education was intended to fulfill the needs of a select few and in many ways it still does. "Money, race, and gender as social norms," she observes, "supply the context by which society remains as it is or become the forces to sustain change."

Nationally known and widely recognized, Professor Thomas has received numerous honors for her work in education, Black Child Development, and community service. She has been cited as 'Woman of Distinction in Education'. She also received a legislative citation for her work from the State of Ohio.

Dr. Thomas has consulted throughout the United States and is presently involved as a resource person to numerous school districts. She is currently serving as the chair of the Cajon Valley School District Affirmative Action Advisory Committee. Her professional affiliations are numerous including The National Black Child Development Institute, the Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists, and the Association of Black Psychologists.

Dr. Thomas is married to Dr. Charles W. Thomas and is the mother of two children, Charles W. III and Shawn.

### BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

Dr. Shirley W. Thomas

1978

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### CONSULTATION AREAS

The Black Woman, Black Child Development, The Black Family, Ethnicity as a Black Mental Health Strategy, Assertiveness Training From the Black Perspective, Community Dynamics and Institutional Change, Attitude Modification Through Information Processing

Dr. Shirley W. Thomas is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Afro-American Studies, San Diego State University.

Professor Thomas received her undergraduate degree in Education with honors from West Virginia State College, Institute, West Virginia; the Masters in Education degree from the University of California, Los Angeles; the Ph.D. degree from the Union Graduate School-West, San Francisco, California.

Professor Thomas specializes in the assessment of the Black experience and its utilization as a strategy for socialization, problem solving.. stress management, community dynamics and social change.

Dr. Thomas has received numerous awards for her work in the Black community including the N. A. A. C. P. Harriet Tubman Award for exemplifying the goals of Harriet Tubman; Woman of Distinction in Education Award by the San Diego Chapter Women, Inc. ; and a commendation from the Ohio State Legislature for her work in Black Child Development.

She is a founding member of the Association of Black Psychologists; a member of the National Black Child Development Institute, Inc. ; the Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists; the Committee to Establish Black Independent Systems (CEBIS); the California Consortium of Community Education; the California Black Faculty and Staff Association; the Black Political Caucus Health Brain Trust; the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Dr. Thomas is presently chairing the Cajon Valley School District Affirmative Action Advisory Committee.