

RACHEL B. TOMPKINS

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Rachel Tompkins spent her professional career working on issues of education, youth development, and community economic development. She began her career as a 4-H Agent and served in several other positions at West Virginia University (WVU): Area Extension Program Leader, Vice Provost for Extension and Economic Development, and Professor of Community Economic Development. For many years she served on the Board of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) and for three years was Executive Director of CDF. She was the founding President of the Rural School and Community Trust and retired from that position in 2009

During her years at WVU, she began the Energy Express Program, and expanded the sustainable agriculture, direct marketing and local foods programs. On loan to WV Governor Gaston Caperton, she began the national service program, now called Volunteer WV.

She has served on many boards, including the Annenberg Rural Challenge, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, the Edward W. Hazen Foundation, Rural Technology Systems, Board of Advisors of Concord College, and the WV Rivers Coalition. Most recently, she chaired the Board of Allegheny Mountain Radio on which she served for six years.

Major awards include the Star Award from Allegheny Mountain Radio and Lifetime Achievement from the Rural Sociology Society.

She is Phi Beta Kappa graduate of WVU, has an MPA from Syracuse University, and a DEd from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

She lives on her ancestral farm in Pocahontas County, WV.

EDUCATION

A.B. West Virginia University, 1965
Major fields of study were biology, chemistry, English literature.
Graduated with highest honors. Member of Phi Beta Kappa.

M.P.A. Syracuse University, 1968
Major field of study: Public Administration. Degree awarded with distinction.

Ed.D. Harvard University, 1975
Major area of study: administration, planning and policy analysis.

EMPLOYMENT

1999-2009 President, Rural School and Community Trust

Chief Executive Officer of the premier national non-profit organization working to help rural schools and communities get better together

1996-1999 Extension Professor, Community, Economic, and Workforce Development; Faculty Associate, Regional Research Institute; West Virginia University

Provide training and technical assistance for community capacity building. Conduct research on social capital. Nurture new community based networks and organizations.

1994-1996 Advisor to Governor Gaston Caperton, Extension Professor

Loaned by WVU to Governor's Office to implement community development program. Led Community First, a program focused on 15 communities, supported Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. Managed \$10 million grant program targeted to those communities. Founding chair of the WV Commission for National and Community Service.

1989-1994 Associate Provost for Extension and Economic Development and Director of Cooperative Extension Service, West Virginia University; Extension Professor

Responsible for leadership for all university extension and economic development activities. Chair Council for Economic Development which recommends university policy and programs to President. Supervise staff of 200 professionals, 60 paraprofessionals, 200 classified and secretarial staff, and 50 operations personnel at State 4-H Conference Center. Oversee a budget of \$18,000,000. Member of President's Cabinet.

1984-1989 Associate Vice-President for University Extension and Public Service and Director of Cooperative Extension Service; Director of the Institute for Public Affairs (1986-89); Associate

Professor, Education Administration; West Virginia University

Responsible for leadership for all university extension and economic development activities. Supervise staff of 225 professionals, 85 paraprofessionals, 200 classified and secretarial staff, and 50 camp operations personnel at the State 4-H Conference Center. Oversee a budget of \$13,000,000. Member of President's Cabinet.

1982-1984 Executive Director, Children's Defense Fund

Chief Operating Officer reporting to the President. CDF is a 60 person, \$3,000,000 a year, privately funded organization working to improve laws and policies affecting America's children. Responsible for all phases of management, including personnel, budget, development, program and strategy planning.

1976-1982 Director, Citizen's Council for Ohio Schools

Responsible for management of state-wide citizen organization representing business, labor, farm, civic leadership, with staff of eight and an annual budget of \$300,000. Responsible for raising annual budget from private and public sources. Supervise research, writing, technical assistance, and lobbying on desegregation, finance, exclusion, citizen participation, and vocational education.

1975-1976 Associate Director, Citizen's Council for Ohio Schools

Responsible for Council research, writing and publication in areas of school desegregation, school attendance and school finance. Also engaged in building networks of citizens concerned about these particular education issues. Additional tasks include proposal writing and fundraising.

1975-1976 Consultant, National Institute of Education, Research Project in Rural Education

Prepared two papers on rural school organization and finance.

1972-1974 Staff Associate, University of Massachusetts, President's Office

Policy analysis on issues of student financial aid, admission of adult students, continuing education and community services.

Organized an educational release program for prisoners in state institutions. Represented the University on various state and regional groups concerned with continuing education and adult programs and regional planning.

1972 **Teaching Assistant, Harvard**

Developed and taught with two other faculty a course in university planning using the case study method.

1971 **Research Assistant, Center for Educational Policy Research, Harvard**

Assisted in preparation of evaluation of Title I ESEA programs. Developed and taught a course on "The Effects of Schooling" with four others.

1970 **Assistant to Vice-President, Off-Campus Education, and Assistant Professor of Political Science, West Virginia University**

Policy analysis and program development for university off-campus programs.

1968-1970 **Area Program Chair, West Virginia University Appalachian Center**

Program assistance to county extension agents on educational programs for young people and adults. Implemented a federally funded nutrition education program, which included managing the hiring and training of paraprofessionals. Implemented a computer-based management and reporting system. Organized and conducted staff training programs.

1965-1967 **4H-Agent, Harrison County**

Organized 4-H youth development program in a county of 50,000.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND BOARDS

Trustee, Edward W Hazen Foundation, 2008-2014

Steering Committee, Coalition for Community Schools 2002-2009

Vice President, Organizations Concerned with Rural Education, 2007

Member, Regional Technology Strategies Board, 2006-2014

Member, Board of Directors, What Kids Can Do 2001-2009
Editorial Board, Journal of Rural Educational Research 2003-2009
Member, Rural Sociological Society
Member, Board of Directors, Management Assistance Group, 2002-2007
Blue Ribbon Committee, Save the Children Study of Children in Poverty in
Rural America, 2002
Advisory Committee, Evaluation Study, Rural Systemic Initiative, 2001
Advisory Committee, High Schools That Work, Southern Regional Education
Board, 2001
President, Community Collaborative, Inc., 1996-1999
Vice-Chair, Board of Directors, Annenberg Rural Challenge, 1995-1999
Chair, Board of Trustees, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation Board, 1998-1999
Treasurer, Board of Directors, Lightstone Foundation, 1995-1999
Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Greater Morgantown Charitable Trust, 1997-
1999
Center for Community, Economic, and Workforce Development Promotion and
Tenure Committee 1997-1999
Editorial Board, Journal of Appalachian Studies, 1998-1999
Member, West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service,
1994-1999
Member, Board of Directors, High Rocks Educational Foundation, Inc, 1996-
2003
Member, Board of Directors, River Coalition, 1996-1998
Founding Chair, WV Commission for National and Community Service, 1994-
1996
Member, Board of Advisors, Concord College, 1989-1995
Member, Education Advisory Group, Foundation for the Mid-South, 1992-
1996
Board Member, West Virginia Kids Count Fund (West Virginia Task Force on
Children, Youth and Families), 1990-1996
Advisory Director, State Fair of West Virginia, 1989-1994
West Virginia Rural Development Council, 1992-1994 (appointed by the
Governor)
Member, U.S. Department of Agriculture Joint Council on Food and
Agricultural Sciences, 1992-1994
Member, Commission on the Future of the South, 1992 (appointed by the
Governor)
Member, Southern Technology Council, 1989-1992 (appointed by the
Governor)
Member, West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry Council, 1991-1994
Advisory Board Member, MountainFire, West Virginia FoxFire Teacher
Outreach Network, 1990-1993
Board Member, Woodlands Mountain Institute, 1990-1992
Member, Board of Directors of the West Virginia Environmental Institute,
1991-1993

Member, Advisory Board of the Brushy Fork Institute, 1991-1993
Member, State Soil Conversation Committee, 1984-1994
Board Member, Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame, 1984-1994
Member, Food and Agriculture Committee, 1984-1994
Board Member, Harvard Associated Alumni, 1989-1991
Alumni Council Member, Harvard Graduate School of Education, 1986-1989
Board Member, National Child Labor Committee, 1981-1986
Board Member, Children's Defense Fund, 1976-1982
Member, National Advisory Council on the Education of Disadvantaged Children (appointed by President Carter for term ending in 1981)
Member, American Education Research Association; Acting Vice-President, Division G, 1980
Ohio Associate, Director of the Ohio Education Seminar for state policymakers as part of the Associate Program of the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, until 1980
Sponsor, Education Policy Fellow, Cleveland site

CONSULTING

Fort Hays State University, Rural Conference, 2005
University of Louisiana—Monroe, NSF Conference, 2005
Kettering Foundation, Advisory Panel, 2004
Northwest Areas Foundation, Program Review, 2003
Babcock Foundation, Grass Roots Leadership Development, 1997
Kellogg Foundation, on Future of Human Food Systems Professions, 1992
Children's Initiatives, Detroit, 1987
Advisory Committee to Program for Children, Carnegie Corporation of New York, 1985
Advisory Panel to High Scope Foundation on State Policy for Early Education, 1983-84
Cleveland, Ohio, Board of Education, Superintendent Search, 1982
Jefferson County, Kentucky, Board of Education (Louisville), Superintendent Search, 1981
Dayton, Ohio, Board of Education, Superintendent Search, 1981
Study of School District Budgeting During Desegregation, Principal Investigator David Colton, Director of the Center for Law in Education, Washington University, July, 1979-December, 1980. Funded by NIE
Study of Effects of School Desegregation, Principal Investigator Willis Hawley, Dean, School of Education, Vanderbilt University, December, 1979-June, 1981. Funded by NIE-OCR
Ford Foundation, Feasibility of Joint School-Housing Integration Program, November, 1979-June, 1981
International Paper Foundation, Evaluation of School Improvement Program, 1980-1981

Preston County Board of Education, West Virginia, The Effects of School Consolidation, 1979.