



MARIE FIELDER CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY, LEADERSHIP, AND EDUCATION

Fielding Graduate University

PROMOTING SOCIETAL LEADERSHIP THROUGH EDUCATION



Social and ecological justice has resided at the cornerstone of the mission of Fielding Graduate University since its founding in 1974. Among its earliest leaders was Dr. Marie Fielder, a brilliant, extraordinary African American woman who lived her life in pursuit of justice and inclusion of all people in all aspects of civic life. Through her vision and especially her commitment to justice throughout her lifetime, Dr. Fielder inspired many and left an indelible mark on California and indeed the entire nation.

Fielding is exceedingly proud to launch the Marie Fielder Center for Democracy, Leadership, and Education in honor of this trailblazer for justice. We have lofty goals for the Marie Fielder Center. That, too, is a part of the Marie Fielder legacy. As one of the most influential women in the history of California education, Dr. Fielder was known for achieving several firsts over the course of her 60-year career—and for being a “troublemaker” in her dogged pursuit of justice.

Education is the hallmark of any free and democratic society, and the preparation of committed leaders is essential for democracy to flourish. Marie Fielder lived at a time when inclusion in the United States was more of a dream than a reality. While we have made significant gains in coming closer to the American ideal of a free and open society, much work remains to be done. Through the Marie Fielder Center, Fielding Graduate University reaffirms its commitment to conducting the research, providing the public and academic education, and engaging in the advocacy in diverse communities that is required to ensure the notion that while “the arc of the moral universe is long, it bends toward justice.”

Katrina Rogers
President

Orlando Taylor
Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Research



Marie Fielder, 1970 PHOTO CREDIT: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

MARIE FIELDER CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY, LEADERSHIP, AND EDUCATION

The Marie Fielder Center for Democracy, Leadership, and Education explores Dr. Fielder’s work and related topics, supports new research, and advances new theories and policies to enhance our understanding of social change and leaders who facilitate change. This, in turn, will help us to strengthen democratic institutions through education, effective leadership, and public discourse.

ABOUT MARIE FIELDER

Dr. Marie Fielder was one of the most influential women in the history of California education. She achieved national prominence for her theories that focused on how diverse cultures and groups relate to one another. In her 60-year career, Dr. Fielder was a teacher, a social researcher, and a consultant specializing in organizational development and school culture.

She was the first African American woman with a doctorate to teach in the San Francisco Bay Area and one of the first researchers who documented cultural bias in IQ tests. She helped the Berkeley public schools become the first in the nation to desegregate through two-way busing—one of her proudest accomplishments.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Dr. Fielder contributed to the work of such civil rights leaders as Martin Luther King Jr. and Whitney Young. She also advised numerous government and civil-rights organizations, including the US Department of Education, the Black Panther Party for Defense and Justice, and the National Organization for Women.

Dr. Fielder worked with many kinds of people to help empower and enable them to solve their own problems. She

inspired several generations of students at three universities where she held faculty appointments in California; many of those students went on to pursue highly successful careers.

She was an authority on the emerging field of action research, educational leadership, and gender and equity issues. School systems, state agencies, corporations, and nonprofits across the nation sought her advice on organizational development, community development, and gender and diversity issues.



Visiting faculty at the National Training Lab, 1967 (Marie Fielder, fourth from right). PHOTO COURTESY OF NICOLA SMITH

MISSION

The mission of the Fielder Center is to encourage new research that addresses today's educational and social problems.

The Center provides a multidisciplinary and inter-school space for Fielding's faculty, students, and alumni across all disciplines to engage in research, public discourse, and advocacy on the advancement of social democracy, leadership, and education.

The Center seeks strategic partnerships to support its work. The Center also houses publications on Dr. Marie Fielder.

VALUES

All work within the Fielder Center promotes Dr. Fielder's principles of transformational change for social justice as exemplified through her life's work, her philosophy, and her contributions to equity, education, and justice. All work is grounded in social science theory and research that reflects attention to principles embedded in concepts as cultural competence and the intersection of variables such as race, ethnicity, and gender. Focus is on developing leaders in education, from K-12 to postgraduate, who are multidisciplinary, complex thinkers—diverse and inclusive in their orientation. These leaders will become fluent theorists and knowledge translators between scholarship and practice.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Annual Marie Fielder Medal for Outstanding Social Activism through Research and/or the Advancement of Social Policy. This award recognizes efforts that support issues pertaining to equal educational access and success.

Annual Fielder Scholar-in-Residence Program. Selected through a formal nomination process and based upon scholarly work or activism related to the mission of the Center, this Scholar will give at least one major institutional and one major public lecture on his/her work. The Scholar will also be available for dissertation consultations during summer and national sessions within his/her area of expertise.

Fielder Research Fellowships. These students, competitively selected at the dissertation level, are conducting research on subjects pertaining to the mission of the Center.

Certificate in Academic Leadership. This certificate for women, particularly women of color, promotes diversity at senior levels of leadership in higher education.

“Dr. Fielder was a genius in working respectfully with all kinds of people to help empower and enable them to solve their own problems.”

—Congressman **Ronald V. Dellums**
Acknowledgement in the Congressional Record (1995)

Annual Fielder Monograph. The Center will publish a collection of commissioned papers on a seminal topic pertaining to the mission of the Center, including peer-reviewed articles that are consistent with the annual topic.

Publication on the life of Dr. Marie Fielder. A thorough research effort, launched by the Center, on the life and legacy of Dr. Fielder will culminate in a publication that emphasizes the principles of transformational change for social justice exemplified through her life path and her philosophy and contributions to equity, education, and justice.

For additional information, or to donate, contact MFC@fielding.edu.

PHOTO CREDIT: SEATTLE MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES

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Orlando Taylor—Ex-Officio Member
Vice President, Strategic Initiatives & Research, Fielding Graduate University
Director, Institute for Social Innovation, Fielding Graduate University

ADVISORY COUNCIL

To ensure that the Fielder Center is responsive to the social needs and challenges of our society, an advisory council has been established. Members of the Fielder Center Advisory Council represent diversity in terms of academic discipline, social activism, position, gender, race, age, and sexual orientation. They serve as ambassadors, advise on the scope of work for the Center, and review all award nominations.

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