



Oklahoma Historical Society

Founded May 27, 1893

Oklahoma History Center • 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917
(405) 521-2491 • Fax (405) 521-2492 • www.okhistory.org

August 30, 2018

Superintendent Sean McDaniel
OKCPS
Northeast High School

Dear Superintendent Sean McDaniel and Board Members:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Dr. Bob Blackburn, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society and me, endorsing the proposal for naming the future Oklahoma City Board of Education Administrative Office Building the "Clara Luper Center for Education Services."

On July 2, 2009, the National Education Association, consisting of 3.2 million educators, honored Dr. Clara Luper with its covenant Rosa Parks Memorial Award. This award is given to inspire educators to champion the cause of human rights and civil rights. Mrs. Luper emboldened both of these attributes. Additionally, Dr. Luper had the ability to motivate her students to achieve academically and to channel their hardships into successes and their obstacles into stepping stones.

Dr. Luper told young people that they could change the world and they believed her. So on August 19, 1958 Mrs. Clara Luper escorted 13 student of the N.A.A.C.P Youth Council to the Katz Drug Store lunch counter in downtown Oklahoma City. They attempted to sit at the lunch counter and order soft drinks. This seemingly simple gesture ignited a non-violent act of civil disobedience which became known as "sit-ins". This event catapulted Mrs. Luper into the spot light of the local and national press and has since earned her a place in the annals of American History.

Although Mrs. Luper marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in many of the most dangerous protest in the nation and lead many human rights protest in Oklahoma, she never ceased to teach. In 1969, she became the leader of the sanitation workers strike in Oklahoma City. Some of her critics challenged her right to teach. However, the president of the Oklahoma City Teachers Association said that Mrs. Luper is a "superior" teacher with the right to be a first class citizen also.

So, it is with much enthusiasm that we absolutely support and endorse without any reservations the proposal to name the OKCPS future administrative office building the "Clara Luper Center for Education Services".

Yours Truly

Bruce T. Fisher
Administrative Program Officer (Retired)