



## *Joseph G. Farmer '56*



When Joe Farmer began his career as a math and mechanical drawing teacher in Valley Stream Public Schools, he had no idea that this position would set the stage for a thirty-eight year career in public services. But his appointment as Yonkers Public Schools Superintendent of Schools in June 2000 brought him back to the district he served proudly from 1973 to 1995, first as principal, then as district wide administrator as leader of the states' fourth largest school district.

Born in Wilson, North Carolina, Mr. Farmer spent most of his childhood in Bay Shore, Long Island where he graduated from high school with honors. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York at Oswego, and completed extensive graduate study in education at the City College of New York, Fordham University and Teachers College at Columbia University. He also received his Master of Science degree in Guidance and Counseling from Hofstra University.

From 1973 to 1986, Mr. Farmer served as principal of Yonkers High School, Saunders Trade and Technical High School, Franklin Junior High School and Longfellow Junior High School. In 1986, he became a district wide administrator, serving as Executive Director of Registration and Compliance for two years before accepting a position as Assistant Superintendent of Supervision and Curriculum. He later assumed the position of Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Instruction, serving until his retirement in 1995.

Mr. Farmer's commitment to public service was not limited to education. From 1990 to 1992, he served as a Yonkers City Councilman, where he developed budgets and negotiated union contracts for public employees. In 1996, Mr. Farmer again returned to public service, this time as the Special Assistant to the Mayor for Housing and Redevelopment. In this position, Mr. Farmer oversaw the implementation of the Federal Court order to desegregate public housing, and directed the Affordable Housing Office, which offered housing opportunities to low and moderate-income residents of Yonkers.

Mr. Farmer has served as a trustee for the Westchester County Historical Society and has held the position of Vice President of the board for the Community Planning Council of Yonkers, Inc. In addition, he has served as a board member for Yonkers General Hospital and the Nepperhan Community Center. Furthermore, Mr. Farmer has proudly served his country in the United States Army National Guard. He is currently a Captain in the New York Guard.