



Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

Tallahassee, Florida 32307

Excellence With Caring

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Resolution of Respect & Tribute

Honoring the Lifelong Contribution of

Ms. Shirley S. Garrett

Tallahassee, Florida | Saturday, October 25, 2025

*"No matter what your trials are, or how big your mountain seems;
The Lord is there to see you through; He'll go to all extremes.
So, if your cross seems hard to bear; and you know not what to do;
Our God who loves you most of all will be there to see you through."*

Whereas, we pause with deep sorrow to acknowledge the passing of our beloved colleague, **Ms. Shirley S. Garrett**, on Sunday, October 12, 2025—a woman whose life and service are forever woven into the fabric of our College;

Whereas, **Ms. Garrett** began her journey with the **Florida A&M University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Institute of Public Health (CoPPS, IPH)** in 1986 as a **Clerk Typist Specialist**, and through nearly four decades of dedicated service, rose to the position of **Coordinator of Administrative Services**. Her professionalism and kindness made her a steady and welcoming presence throughout the College community. She was affectionately known as one of the "OGs" of the College—a title that always brought her laughter and pride;

Whereas, **Ms. Garrett** was a **two-time alumna of Florida A&M University**, earning her **Bachelor of Science in Office Administration** in April 2000 and her **Master of Education in Adult Education** in May 2013;

Whereas, even in moments of personal challenge, she remained resilient and devoted to her work—embodying excellence, humility, and quiet strength. Her warmth and compassion touched the lives of faculty, staff, students, and visitors alike;

Whereas, **Ms. Garrett** was more than a colleague—she was family. Her familiar greetings and joyful spirit brightened each day. Even while facing illness, she remained steadfast in her duties, demonstrating remarkable strength, grace, and devotion. Her example reminds us all of what true dedication and courage look like;

Whereas, **Ms. Garrett** was often described as the "pretty girl" of the College. As she graced the hallway of the Dean's Suite, her elegance, confidence, and poise reflected both her inner and outer beauty as a true queen. Her unmistakable *swagger* and presence are truly irreplaceable.

Whereas, her Dean, **Dr. Seth Y. Ablordeppey**, expressed:

“It is with a heavy heart that we mourn the loss of **Ms. Shirley S. Garrett**, a cherished member of our College family whose presence graced our halls for nearly four decades. **Ms. Garrett** was more than a colleague—she was a cornerstone of our community, a quiet force of dedication, and a source of warmth and wisdom to all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her legacy is reflected not only in the years she served but in the lives, she touched—with kindness, grace, and unwavering commitment to excellence.”

Therefore, be it resolved, that we, the **CoPPS, IPH family**, extend our deepest condolences to her **daughter, Shirelle, grandson, Kayden, mother, Ms. Jeanette**, and the entire **Smith–Garrett family**. May you find peace in knowing that **Ms. Garrett’s** life was a true blessing to all who knew her, and her spirit will continue to inspire us.

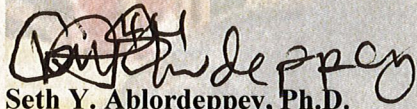
Be it further resolved that we honor **Ms. Garrett’s** memory by upholding the values she exemplified—**kindness, resilience, professionalism, and service**—and by strengthening our community through compassion and unity.

As we grieve, we hold fast to the comforting promise of God’s Word:

“Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.” —Matthew 5:4

Therefore, be it finally resolved, that we bow to the sovereign will of God, trusting that we shall meet **Ms. Shirley S. Garrett** again—in the joy of the Lord and in the fullness of His matchless mercy.

Lovingly and Prayerfully Submitted,
With Deepest Condolences,



Seth Y. Ablordeppey, Ph.D.
Interim Dean and Professor