

Dr. Doris A. Derby

Dr. Doris Derby and is a ten-year veteran of the Civil Rights Movement and was a working member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Since 1990 she has been the Director of African American Student Services and Programs at Georgia State University. She has taught at the College of Charleston, the University of Illinois, and the University of Wisconsin. She has also lectured at Jackson State College on African Art and Culture. Dr. Derby is a documentary photographer, whose photographs have been exhibited throughout the country, including the Smithsonian Institute, the Field Museum in Chicago, the Bronx Museum in New York, the Skirball Museum in Los Angeles, and the High Museum in Atlanta.

SNCC was a pivotal civil right organization started by Ella Baker in 1960 at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. The movement was to assist with informing those in the segregated southern region about civil rights. Dr. Derby joined SNCC in 1961, and in 1962 was sent to Jackson and Tougaloo, Mississippi, to work in an adult literacy project. From 1963-1972 she was involved in many SNCC projects and initiatives, including COFO (Council of Federated Organizations), MFDP (Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party), and the first Head Start Program in the United States, CDGM (Child Development Group of Mississippi). She was one of the founders of the Southern Theater. She also worked many years with the PPC (Poor People's Corporation), and was the founder of the Liberty House Cooperative Marketing arm of the PPC. She also joined the team of Southern Media, a documentary film-making group.

SNCC recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with a gathering of SNCC members from around the globe. "Hands on the Freedom Plow," a book published to commemorate the 50 years of SNCC, is a personal account of 52 contributors, including Dr. Doris A. Derby, during the active years of SNCC.