



Meredith M. Black



A scholarship was established in memory of Meredith M. Black who was the principal of Central High School for 21 years before he suffered a heart attack at age 60 - approximately a year after he was appointed as the principal of the new Memorial High School. At the time of his appointment, Superintendent Charles Mason spoke of Black's, "Unusually rich background and experience in maintaining the high academic standards at Central High School."

Black's path to hist posts had many honors and obligations. He was among the youngest administrators in the district when he was appointed to Central High School. He was born and raised in Missouri and for a period of time was a football coach there before moving to Oklahoma. He attended Central Missouri Teachers College and received a bachelor's degree from Northeastern State College, Tahlequah, OK in 1927 and then a Master's Degree from Oklahoma State University.

Black served on the North Central Association's Commission for secondary schools and was a member of Sigma Tau Gamma and Phi Delta Kappa, an honorary educational fraternity and Iota Lambda Sigma, a trade and industrial fraternity. At one time, he was chairman of the Americanism committee of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce. He was President of the Tulsa Rotary Club in 1947 and was active in the First Presbyterian Church where he was an elder.

Black was particularly loved by the Central students and a yearbook, the Tom Tom, was dedicated to him in 1942 during an assembly of wildly applauding students. He had only been the principal for one year at the time. In May of 1959, an impressive life-size portrait of him was unveiled. Modestly accepting the portrait, a gift of the class of 1959, Black said, "Maybe the seniors see in me a representative symbol of all the fine teachers we have at Central."

- Adapted from Tulsa Daily World, August 6, 1962