



Shirley McBay

(1935–2021)

Born in segregated Georgia (USA), Shirley Mathis McBay earned a BA in chemistry from Paine College (1954), then MS degrees in chemistry (1957) and mathematics (1958) from Atlanta University. McBay was the first Black person to earn a PhD (1966) from the University of Georgia.

McBay served Spelman College as mathematics faculty, as Division Chair (1972–75), and as Associate

Dean (1973–75). At the NSF (1975–80) she directed two national programs to increase minority participation in STEM. She was Dean of Student Affairs at MIT (1980–90) and founded and led Quality Education for Minorities (1990–2016).

In 2021, the University of Georgia's Science Library was renamed for McBay. An annual MAA-SIAM-AMS lecture is also named in her honor.

This poster is part of the EvenQuads project, which combines innovative mathematical card games with learning about amazing women mathematicians. The project celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Association for Women in Mathematics.

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