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Shuster Hall, Room 379  
250 Bedford Park Blvd  
West Bronx, NY 10468

Phone: 718-960-8222  
Fax: 718-960-8042  
[www.lehman.edu](http://www.lehman.edu)

In Memoriam: David Fletcher

Dear Lehman College Community—

The College is deeply saddened to announce the passing of Dr. David Carroll Fletcher, a faculty member in the Department of Middle and High School Education. Dr. Fletcher was a member of the Lehman family for 24 years and served as an Assistant Professor in the School of Education. He was a scholar and activist fighting for human rights and justice.

Below is a tribute to Professor Fletcher, the result of several pairs of loving hands pulling together his story at a time of real loss.

David Fletcher died at his home in Mount Vernon on September 12 at the age of 73. A native of Brevard, North Carolina, Dr. Fletcher was a respected educator, with a calm demeanor, charming personality, and melodic southern accent. During his 24 years at Lehman College, he had served as an Assistant Professor in the School of Education Department of Middle and High School Education, Program Coordinator for English Education, Technology in Education, Human Rights and Restorative Justice in Education and Department Chair. Dr. Fletcher tirelessly devoted his life to serving individuals and communities.

His was a life of doing, and his actions reflected his beliefs and convictions. He had a deep commitment to education and social justice. He was a co-founder of the School for Community Research and Learning, a small high school on the Stevenson Campus in the Bronx. His love and support for students there contributed to many of them going on to graduate from CUNY, SUNY, Ivy League institutions, and other private universities. Today, there are writers, teachers, nurses, EMTs, scientists, small business owners, and community activists who owe their success to Dr. Fletcher's mentorship. He was also a long-time board member with the Bronx Community Health Network and was an active member of the Lehman Chapter of the Professional Staff Congress of The City University of New York.

Dr. Fletcher completed his bachelor's degree at Appalachian State University. After working four years as an educator for neurodivergent children in North Carolina, earned a master's degree from the University of Michigan. He completed his PhD in education at New York University, in 1998. He soon joined Lehman and worked to develop strong and meaningful relationships between schools and community organizations that could support and sustain the development of healthy learning environments for children and their families. Dr. Fletcher was guided in his work by the Quaker values of simplicity, equality, and the sanctity of life.

During the last decade, Dr. Fletcher embarked on a new phase of his career focused on studying, teaching and practicing restorative justice as a means of healing and restoring teachers, students, schools, and communities. As an anti-racist educator, he led the School of Education's ad hoc anti-racism group that morphed into each School of Education department forming their own anti-racism working group. Dr. Fletcher was a founding team member and the Board Chair of Community Change, Inc. and CareerVisions, NY and was instrumental in their success. Dr. Fletcher was a former advisor to Lehman's queer and trans student group. He recently completed a video interview on the history of queer and trans activism in the Bronx. Informed from his experience growing up in the southern United States, Dr. Fletcher embodied the fight for equity and social justice in anti-racism and other anti-oppression work.

Dr. Fletcher loved to travel and did so widely. As a young man he hitchhiked and bused his way across Europe and on to Afghanistan and India. He loved spending summer at the beach in North Carolina, swimming daily in the ocean. During the academic year he frequented Lehman's pool. He loved to cook and entertain. Dinners at his house were sumptuous, often including mouth-watering southern recipes.

He is survived by sisters Sharon Fletcher Kirby, Laura Fletcher Cassell, brother Jerry Fletcher and preceded in death by his parents Carroll and Sally Fletcher, brother Richard Fletcher and sister Kathy Fletcher. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews and many close friends and colleagues at Lehman and beyond. An online memorial is planned for later in the fall. Those who would like to attend may email: [dcfmemorial@gmail.com](mailto:dcfmemorial@gmail.com)

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Be well and remain safe.

Sincerely,

-P

Peter O. Nwosu, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Success

Director, The CUNY Leadership Institute



Office of the Provost  
Shuster Hall 379  
250 Bedford Park Blvd. West  
Bronx, NY 10468