

# FOUR-D COLLEGE™

*Our Goal Is Your Success*



1020 East Washington Street • Colton, CA 92324  
Phone: 909.783.9331 or 1.800.600.5422 • FAX: 909.783.6529  
[www.4dcollege.com](http://www.4dcollege.com)

## **LINDA L. SMITH, MBA, BSN, RN** FOUNDER / PRESIDENT / CEO

Mrs. Linda L. Smith has been a Registered Nurse for 31 years. By combining her love of Nursing, high standards of health care professionalism and a deep spiritual faith, she has founded the first and only African-American owned, fully accredited vocational career college in California licensed to teach Vocational Nursing and other allied health programs.

In September 1992, Four-D College enrolled its first class of two students and today is proud of the more than 6,000 graduates who have begun careers in the health care field after completing courses in Programs such as Acute Hospital Nurse Aide, Computerized Medical Billing, Dental Assistant, Home Health Aide, Medical Assistant, Medical Billing/Coding, Pharmacy Technician, Pre-Certified Nurse Assistant/Home Health Aide with Cross Training and Vocational Nursing. More than thirty courses are offered through the Continuing Education Department, with an annual enrollment of between 800–1000 participants. Mrs. Smith helps Students by having available to those who qualify a non-profit, licensed, State-funded childcare center for their children while they attend classes.

Four-D College was honored in 1997 as The Outstanding Business in San Bernardino County by the Private Industry Council, as well as Outstanding School of the Year by the City of San Bernardino. Mrs. Smith was selected as 1997–98 Business Person of the Year by the San Bernardino African-American Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Smith received the 1998 Women of Achievement Award, and The Elizabeth S. Genne Life-Time Achievement Award by the West End Inland Empire YWCA. In September 2001, The San Bernardino Black Culture Foundation awarded Mrs. Smith The Black Rose Award. This award honors extraordinary achievement, consisting of one giving of themselves unconditionally to the African-American Community throughout the Inland Empire.

Mrs. Smith is also a recipient of the 1998 Women of Distinction Award, presented by The Business Bank of California in the City of San Bernardino. Mrs. Smith was selected as a nominee for Small Business Person of the Year 2001. Mrs. Smith has received recognition on numerous occasions from local and state officials for her dedication in serving the community. Essence Magazine featured Mrs. Smith in its June 1999 edition under the heading "How I Did It - Starting a Health-Care Training School".

In 2003 she was interviewed on the television show "Making It! Minority Success Stories". In July 2004, Mrs. Smith received the Wells Fargo/Turning Point Living History Maker Entrepreneur Award. The Press Enterprise presented her with the Caring Spirit Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement for Advancement in July 2004. Mrs. Smith recently received recognition in the category of General Entrepreneur under the Press Enterprise Spirit of the Entrepreneur Award.

In April 2005, Mrs. Smith received the Celebration of Excellence Award in Education-Postsecondary from the Inland Valley News. Four-D College also won the African American Inland Empire Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award in April 2005. That summer, Mrs. Smith was featured in a four-and-a-half page article in Minority Nurse Magazine. Also, she is pleased to be this year's JBEAD Foundation SCOPE Corporate Award recipient.

Mrs. Smith served as Past-President for the National Council of Negro Women, Inland Empire Chapter. Mrs. Smith is a member of the Professional Women's Roundtable and National Association for Female Executives, the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools West End Educational Advisory Committee and the Education Community Collaborative. She is a board member of The National Association of Women Business Owners/Inland Empire Chapter, The Visiting Nurses Association Support Services, the Alliance for Education of San Bernardino County Schools and Community Health Systems., Inc.

Mrs. Smith has helped change a Dental Assistant policy that will affect all schools in California that have Dental Assistant Programs as well as some dental offices' education methods. She challenged a statute that states schools cannot use actual dental offices for certain teaching purposes. She asked why vocational schools are required to create their own dental office environment on their campuses instead of also using real dental offices. It lead to a three-year struggle but she was recently successful in gaining the cooperation and support of various boards. It is a history-making decision in the healthcare field.

Mrs. Smith continually seeks and implements methods for keeping Four-D College successful, progressive and growing. At the beginning of 2007 she will proudly open the first hands-on vocational health care college in the High Desert, in the City of Victorville. She will then operate Four-D College – Colton Campus and Four-D College – Victorville Campus.

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