

# DAILY ANNOUNCEMENT

Monday, February 25, 2019

Our Thought for the Day is:

*If you think you can or you think you can't you are absolutely right.*

## **Black History Month Reading:**

Annie Easley was born to Samuel Bird Easley and Mary Melvina Hoover in [Birmingham, Alabama](#).<sup>[1]</sup> Before the [Civil Rights Movement](#), educational and career opportunities for African-American children were [very limited](#). African American children were educated separately from white children, and their schools were most often inferior to white schools. Annie was fortunate in that her mother told her that she could be anything she wanted but she would have to work at it. She encouraged Annie to get a good education. From the fifth grade through high school, Annie attended [Holy Family High School](#), and was valedictorian of her graduating class.

After high school she went to [Xavier University](#) in [New Orleans, Louisiana](#), which was then an African-American Roman Catholic University. She majored in [pharmacy](#) for about two years.

In 1954, she returned to Birmingham. As part of the [Jim Crow laws](#) that established and maintained racial inequality, African Americans were required to pass an onerous [literacy test](#) and pay a [poll tax](#) in order to vote. She remembers the test giver looking at her application and saying only, "You went to Xavier University. Two dollars." Subsequently, she helped other African Americans prepare for the test.

In 1963, racial segregation of Birmingham's downtown merchants ended as a result of the [Birmingham campaign](#), and in 1964, the Twenty-fourth Amendment outlawed the poll tax in Federal elections. It was not until 1965 that the [Voting Rights Act](#) eliminated the literacy test.

Shortly thereafter, she moved to [Cleveland](#) for personal reasons, with the intention of continuing her studies. Unfortunately, the local university had ended its pharmacy program a short time before and no nearby alternative existed.

Throughout the 1970s, Easley advocated for and encouraged female and minority students at college career days to work in STEM careers.

Here is Mrs. Belknap with today's Words of Wisdom.