



MISSION CHAMPIONS

Dr. Virgil M. Rogers

In 1947, Dr. Virgil M. Rogers, a prominent educator and superintendent of schools of Battle Creek, Michigan, was in Europe as a member of a War Department mission surveying German school systems and was asked to file a report on the Overseas Dependents High Schools for the North Central Accrediting Association (NCA). He conducted his investigation during the last two weeks of April 1947.

Rogers' report commended the high schools for their *"efficient instruction, high morale, and intellectual tone."*

He praised the intercultural activities, found the buildings adequate and safe, and the pupil-teacher ratio highly favorable. He identified libraries as weak, lacking sufficient books, but commented in general that the "learning situation and services provided by DSS are far above the average high school accredited by the NCA."

He reported that the high schools also were able to capitalize on educational field trips to nearby points of historical and cultural interest to supplement classroom instruction.

Born in Moore, South Carolina, Virgil M. Rogers earned his Bachelor's Degree at Wofford College in 1921, near his hometown. Upon graduation, he moved west and worked as a high school teacher in Delta, Colorado for several years. Rogers earned his Master's Degree from Western State College of Colorado and his Doctorate from Teachers College of Columbia University. He began his career in school administration, working as a superintendent in several different cities before joining Syracuse University. He served as superintendent in Gunnison, Colorado from 1929 to 1934; Boulder, Colorado from 1934 to 1940; River Forest, Illinois from 1940 to 1945; and finally Battle Creek, Michigan from 1945 to 1953.

Rogers was part of a team of educators selected to assist with the reorganization of the German school system after World War II and was a group leader in the White House Conference on Children and Youth in 1950. He served as President of the American Association of School Administrators from 1952 to 1953 and in 1953 was hired as Dean of the School of Education at Syracuse University.

During his time as dean, Rogers fought to increase federal aid for public schools and universities and frequently lectured about educational policy and reform. He was also involved in several significant historical events related to the field of education

Rogers retired as Dean of the School of Education in 1963 and was hired to lead a national study project on the effect of automation on education. In 1964, Rogers testified again as an expert witness in a trial concerning the Becker Amendment, arguing against the amendment's desire to allow prayer and Bible reading in public school classrooms. He died in March 1990.

Sources:

- "Evaluation of American Secondary Schools in Germany, April 1947" by Dr. Virgil M. Rogers.
- "A Historical Study of the Establishment and Evolution of the United States Dependents Schools in Europe 1946 - 1971" by Allen Dale Olson.
- Syracuse University – https://library.syr.edu/digital/guides_sua/html/sua_rogers_vm.htm

dodea

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY