



BLACK STUDENT UNION

- Dell Roberts helped found the BSU at Poly H.S. in 1968 & Advised Statewide BSUs
- BSUs grew at high schools at colleges throughout the IE in the late 60s.



““I formed the BSU to have students take ownership in the school, which worked. They did.”





Dell Roberts spent nearly four decades working in education as a coach, assistant to the Poly H.S. principal responsible for discipline, and founder of an Inter-cultural student group. In 1968, he helped students found the Black Student Union, which he advised at the state level.

Famously, he brought Muhammed Ali to Riverside in 1977.

BSU & Leadership



"Most of the students in BSU and especially ones that took leadership roles have gone on to be great citizens. Holly Mitchell [1st row in 1982] was a two-year president for me. She's now a congresswoman."
-Dell Roberts, 2015

For 43 years, the Black History Parade & Expo, started by Roberts, has been celebrated.

The Adrian Dell & Carmen Roberts Foundation, founded in 2001, sponsors scholarships, Empowering Young Women Conferences, and other activities that center culture, family, and community.

Dell and Carmen Roberts will be recognized by the Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California on Feb. 28, 2023 with a 1st Annual Legacy Builders Award.



Credits

Quotations from 2015 and 2021 interviews.

Photos: courtesy Doug McCullough, Dell Roberts.

Poly H.S. BSU yearbook photos 1969 and 1982. Ancestry.com.



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