

Dr. Christine King Farris has taught at Spelman College since 1958, and is currently an associate professor of education and director of the Learning Resource Center. She is the author of several books and a public speaker on various topics, including the King family, multicultural education, and teaching.

Dr. Farris traced her love of reading to the house her aunt, Ida Worthem, spent reading to her and her brothers. This “laid the foundation” for her future as a reading professor. Dr. Farris received her BA in economics from Spelman College in 1948. She then attended Columbia University Teacher’s College to pursue a master’s degree in the social foundations of education (1950) and a master’s in special education (1958). Dr. Farris’ first teaching position was with the Atlanta Board of Education’s W. H. Croghan Elementary School. She went on to become associate professor of education at Spelman College, followed by an appointment as an adjunct professor at Morehouse College and Atlanta University.

Dr. Farris married Isaac Newton Farris on August 19, 1960, and they had two children, Isaac Newton Farris, Jr. And Angela Christine Farris.

In addition to focusing on her family and career, Dr. Farris was, for many years, vice chair and treasurer of The King Center. Currently, she is founder and chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Child Development Center, Inc., Vice Chair Treasurer of the ML King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change and a member of the Advisory Board for the Martin Luther King National Historic Site. Farris has been active for several years in the International Reading Association, and various church and civic organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She is the recipient of many awards including the NAACP Image Award, Living Legend Award of the National Association of Black School Educators. She is an active member of NAASC and a recipient of the Spelman / Tiffany Alumnae Achievement Award.