Mary McLeod Bethune (born Mary Jane McLeod; July 10, 1875 – May 18, 1955) was an American educator, stateswoman, philanthropist, humanitarian, womanist, and civil rights activist. Bethune founded the National Council for Negro Women in 1935, established the organization’s flagship journal Aframerican Women’s Journal, and resided as president or leader for myriad African American women’s organizations including the National Association for Colored Women and the National Youth Administration’s Pioneering educator and college founder Mary McLeod Bethune set educational standards for today’s black colleges and served as an advisor to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Discover more about her on womenshistory.org. A champion of racial and gender equality, Bethune founded many organizations and led voter registration drives after women gained the vote in 1920, risking racist attacks. In 1924, she was elected president of the National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs, and in 1935, she became the founding president of the National Council of Negro Women. Mary Jane McLeod Bethune was an American educator, stateswoman, philanthropist, humanitarian and civil rights activities. She was a co-founder of UNCF and one of the few women to serve as college president in the pre-Civil Rights era. She was born on July 10, 1875 in Mayesville, South Carolina. Mary McLeod Bethune was a famous black spokesperson for education, civil rights, and women's rights. Learn more about her life and work. Mary McLeod Bethune Civil Rights Activists. Topics included about Mary McLeod Bethune: diligence-equality-African American rights- female-poverty-Roosevelt, and foldables to cover important vocabulary and character traits. Jackie Robinson and Mary McLeod Bethune in 1955 just before her passing.