



MARY TOWNSEND

**Professor, KU Administration
The University of Kansas**



TRAIL-BLAZING

In 1965, Mary Townsend joined KU's faculty. While her degrees were in Social Work, she crossed the bridge into our Psychology Department and made a unique and fast climb to tenure status within our department!

Once tenured, she turned to administration, leading what is now the Office of Minority Affairs from 1974 to 1982. She transformed the office from a gathering place for black students to an enrichment center, with programming, counseling and advising.

Townsend earned numerous honors including the University of Kansas Higher Education Service Award in 1978.

Mary Townsend began her career as a KU Secretary, completed her bachelor's and master's in Social Work at KU, and earned tenure department in 1971.