

South Caroliniana Library Report of Acquisitions

Volume 2022

Article 8

2022

Diploma, [1900, 1901, or 1902] Awarded to Lillian Garrett

South Caroliniana Library

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Recommended Citation

Library, South Caroliniana (2022) "Diploma, [1900, 1901, or 1902] Awarded to Lillian Garrett," *South Caroliniana Library Report of Acquisitions*: Vol. 2022, Article 8.

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Diploma, 2 May [1900, 1901, or 1902], was awarded by the Colored Normal, Industrial, Agricultural, and Mechanical College of South Carolina to Lillian Garrett, who “merited the degree Licentiate of Instruction.” The diploma is signed by Thomas E. Miller, President; J.M. Hoffman, J.E. Wallace, R.S. Wilkinson, N.C. Nix, and R.L. Douglas, all member of the faculty; M.B. McSweeney, Chairman and Governor of South Carolina; and W.R. Loman, Secretary of Board of Trustees.

Founded in 1896, South Carolina State University was known as the Colored Normal, Industrial, Agricultural, and Mechanical College of South Carolina until 1954. Thomas Ezekiel Miller (1849–1938), the institution’s first president, was an African American Republican who served in the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1874 to 1880 and the South Carolina Senate from 1880 to 1882. He lost a contested election to the United States House of Representatives in 1888 but was finally seated in 1890 after a ruling by the House Committee of Elections and served until 1891. He was reelected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1894 and served until 1896 when he resigned to assume the presidency of the college. He remained in this position until 1910 and was followed by Robert S. Wilkinson (ca. 1865–1932), who had served as Professor of Physics at the college for the preceding sixteen years. **Acquired for the library by the University South Caroliniana Society.**