

Virginia Tech Professor and Poet Nikki Giovanni Passed Away at 81

Poet Nikki Giovanni has passed away at the age of 81 years and recently received an Emmy for 'Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project.' She was a Virginia Tech English Professor.



Blacksburg, Virginia Dec 10, 2024 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Highly acclaimed poet and Virginia Tech Professor Nikki Giovanni is a favorite of many. Unfortunately, this amazing persona died at the age of 81. However, it was a peaceful death as she died by her lifelong partner. Yolande Cornelia Giovanni, better known as "Nikki" was born in Knoxville, Tennessee. This distinguished professor was born on June 7, 1943, and dedicated all her years as a Professor in the English Department at Virginia Tech. She was also a part of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Being an honorary member, she has received numerous awards and honors for her countless contributions.

Most recently, she received the 2024 Emmy for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking based on her highly acclaimed work, 'Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project.' Giovanni is also one of the most prominent figures in the Black Arts and Civil Rights Movements who had been in touch with the legends and worked with Aretha Franklin, Nina Simone, Rosa Parks, James Baldwin, Muhammad Ali, and the list goes on. She inspired many generations of artists, students, authors, scholars, musicians, and everyone regardless of their age and ambition.

While Nikki Giovanni is a role model for many, she has been battling cancer for a long time. She battled with it a couple of times but the third time, she did not let the disease hamper her peace and art. A few weeks back, Nikki was found performing with saxophonist Javon Jackson and they offered a wonderful show at the Louis Armstrong House in New York City. Perhaps she predicted what was coming as the

forthcoming book of poetry is titled “The Last Book” which will be published soon in 2025. What will remain forever like her books is the love between Nikki and her wife, Virginia Fowler.

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