

100 Black Men of Madison, Inc.
Outstanding Mentor and Educator Appreciation Breakfast



14 May 2011

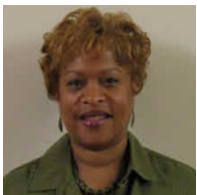
Quarles & Brady LLP
Madison, Wisconsin



Today, within the context of our community, there are few actions more important than the education of African American children. In concert with our Mission and Values, the 100 Black Men of Madison, Inc., recognizes those mentors and educators who have demonstrated an extraordinary sense of humility and a strong commitment to continual improvement, based on a fundamental motivation to inspire student success.

“What They See Is What They Will Be.”

K-12 District Nominees



Michelle Belnavis

Michelle Belnavis has been an educator for the Madison School District for 26 years. This year she is humbled and honored to be named the Instructional Resource Teacher for Cultural Relevance in the Curriculum and Assessment Department/Equity and Family Involvement

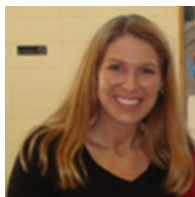
Division. Michelle has always been influenced by the children she teaches and was influenced by her grandmother to be an educator. She firmly believes that you can do anything if you try. Even when something is difficult, remember the struggles of those who came before us and keep trying. Don't give up! Knowledge is power! It gives you the freedom to be all that you can be! Be an instrument for inspiration and DON'T LET GO.



Andreal Davis

Andreal Davis has been instrumental in forming family-school relationships ever since she began teaching in 1986, and now serves as Assistant Director of Equity and Family Involvement with the Madison Metropolitan School District.

Inside and outside the classroom, she is a performer and storyteller. Andreal created a workshop entitled, *Ethnic Melodies: Hearing Voice and Harmony in African American Children's Literature*, in which she demonstrates various ways to turn children on to reading and make a connection through the use of Afrocentric literature. She presents throughout Wisconsin and is working to publish a lesson plan book, CD, educational video series and software program to enrich this workshop presentation, as well as a new curriculum model entitled, *Secret to Freedom*.



Chris Mand

This is Chris Mand's 10th year working as a school social worker in the Verona Area School District. She belongs to the Allied Stakeholders, Dane County School Social Workers' Group, Wisconsin School Social Workers' Association, Joining Forces for Families-Verona, and a Commission on Sensitive Crimes Subcommittee. Chris coordinates an annual winter clothing distribution and co-coordinates two summer family events in the Allied Drive Neighborhood. She facilitates the collection and delivery of gifts for a Holiday Toy Drive and started the VAHS-Sugar Creek Elementary School Mentor Program. From 2003-2005, she represented VASD on the City of Madison Mayor's Allied Task Force. During 2002-2005 she held quarterly "Family Resource Nights." In 2003-2004 Chris coordinated a homework club in the Allied Drive Neighborhood.

High School Nominees



Kate Brien

Achievement via Individual Determination (AVID) – these are empty words without hopeful students and a strong, caring teacher in their lives like Kate Brien. Four years ago, 30 students started in AVID. Today, with Ms. Brien's help and determination, East High School has 7 classes of 160 students and 37 students in college next year. Ms. Brien has dedicated the last 14 years of her life to teaching and helping students grow. Many attributes describe Ms. Brien: she is a leader, mentor, counselor, organizer, and protector. She also has a great sense of humor and is very energetic. There are not enough words to describe her, but Ms. Brien is truly an advocate for us students and is like a mother making us a big family.



JoAnne Brown

JoAnne Brown passionately worked with hundreds of students in the PEOPLE program and for 2 years worked with the Urban League of Greater Madison's Schools of Hope Program. Now, she serves as the Minority Service Coordinator for James Madison Memorial High School. At Memorial she has led students to lead other students to assist with reducing the achievement gap. She has assisted students of color, who were deemed unsuccessful during their high school careers, be accepted to 2- and 4-year colleges. She has worked with thousands of students throughout the district to believe in the possibilities of success. Her passions are youth work and serving as a mentor, advocate, teacher and coach in order to help students reach their fullest potential.



Cynthia Chin

Cynthia Chin is a graduate of Madison East High School and UW-Madison and, since 1991, a math teacher at East. She has coordinated recruitment and in-school placement of mathematics tutors since Principal Milton McPike first dedicated school funds for that purpose. Other activities include community outreach for the math department, interdisciplinary theater projects, and partnerships with the National Society of Black Engineers and Society of Hispanic Engineers. She is excited to help connect students from all backgrounds with mentors, experiences, and opportunities at our world-class university and throughout the country with the aid of NSBE and SHPE. As an advisor for East's engineering club, she mentors students with their own grant-supported science outreach to diverse groups at local middle schools.

High School Nominees Continued



Anne Colville

Anne Colville has been an educator for 36 years and is honored to work with the families, staff, administrators, and community partners in the Madison community. As a school social worker at James Madison Memorial High School, Anne's role is to serve as a bridge between the home, community and school environments. She partners with students and families to address the barriers to academic success and believes that all students have the capacity to be successful learners. Anne has been a voice for families and children that may feel disengaged from our educational system and has helped them feel empowered to be their own best advocates and believe that they can be successful in navigating the educational system.



Sean Gray

Sean Gray has worked at West High School for 9 years. As a member of the AVID site team and coordinator of an after-school tutorial for athletes, Sean is a proven educator, coach and inspirational leader of the highest caliber. He has been particularly successful advising and mentoring minority students through his work with the West High School Black Student Union. This organization, founded by Gray in 2003, works to provide a support system for minority students interested in pursuing higher education. In addition to its central mission, the Black Student Union plans activities that promote black history awareness, encourages peer tutoring, and fosters positive working relationships between students and staff. His effort, interest, and passion for his students are second to none.

Katie Jones My teaching experiences include East High School and Shabazz, the Night School Degree Program, teaching at a prison and mental health institution, lecturing in university classes, and teaching at a Job Corp Center. All of these experiences have assisted me with understanding and communicating with the students that I teach. My work as an educator also includes conducting multicultural workshops focusing on educating teachers on diversity issues, both in curriculum and with the individual students they teach. A few years ago, I went to Boston to join 200 exceptional teachers from across the country to share ideas on closing the achievement gap and to debate the No Child Left Behind initiative. I take my work with and for the students seriously.



Tom Jones

Tom Jones has taught English at Memorial High School since 1974. Mr. Jones's awareness of the "minority achievement gap" existent in the Madison Metropolitan School District led him to develop a program that allowed minority and other struggling students to build on the skills needed for 10th grade and beyond, while still meeting the same requirements as other English classes. Minority students have benefited from individualized instruction in capped classrooms, which has had a significant impact on their language arts and interpersonal skills. Jones's program recognized the import of the inclusion of culture as it is relevant to the positive development of character and self-esteem in his students. Over the years, the program has expanded to include 11th and 12th grade English students.



Lauren Zepp

Lauren Zepp has been a Special Education Assistant at Madison's East High School since April 2009. Prior to joining East High School's staff, she served at an alternative elementary school in Washington, DC. Currently, she supports students with disabilities in completing academic assignments in the school's resource room. Her educational philosophy is to foster positive relationships with students in order to provide them with emotional support and requisite skills for success in their classrooms and communities. She is also pursuing her teaching certification and masters degree in Special Education at UW-Madison.

Also nominated in this category: [Keith Stewart](#)

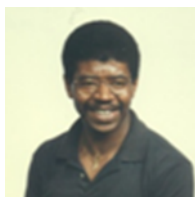
Middle School Nominees



Gladys Blackmon

My family's strong lineage in areas of education, nursing, and military greatly inspired me. Aunt Little Sister, an Elementary School Teacher, stimulated my zeal to learn. At age four, while correcting her class' spelling tests, I learned spelling-facts. She demonstrated great love, respect and devotion for her students. In this, I held Aunt Little Sister (and all teachers) with highest esteem, as I strived to emulate her tactics. During ninth grade, Mrs. Millicent Carroll offered me a Sunday School Teacher's Aide position because, "...one day you will become a teacher, because you have a way with children..." This experience solidified my vision of becoming a teacher. Currently, I service Madison Metropolitan School District students, 6th-8th grades as Physical Educator/Special Physical Educator.

Middle School Nominees Continued



Michael Hibbler

Michael Hibbler is celebrating 30 years of educational service, 25 of those with the MMSD. Michael came to Madison in 1985 as a teacher of a 3rd-4th grade combination classroom at Marquette Elementary until he left to be a part of a new program for the Arts School at Hawthorne Elementary, teaching a combination class of 4th-5th graders. He then left and joined the Sherman Middle School teaching team and taught 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. He then went back to Marquette to teach 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders until he went to O’Keeffe Middle School as a 6th grade Language Arts/Reading/Social Studies teacher in 2005. In 2006, Michael moved to 7th grade Language Arts/Reading/Social Studies, where he is presently employed.



Allison Jaeger

Allison Jaeger, Director of Bands and Jazz at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, holds the position of music department chair. Ms. Jaeger is currently completing a M.M. in Music Education at UW-Madison, focusing on multicultural education, race and gender equity issues in the classroom and the progress and achievement of all students in the arts. Ms. Jaeger helps African-American students shine academically in and outside of the classroom by providing performance and summer camp opportunities, programming Memorial High School musicians as mentors, and implementing private lesson programs to further achievement. Ms. Jaeger also serves on Jefferson’s leadership team, which works to promote equity, diversity and student achievement through collaboration and focus on community- and school-wide improvement.



Kate Jorgensen

Kate Jorgensen attended public school and college in Madison but didn’t really experience “education” until she left for West Africa in 2003 to serve in the Peace Corps. This experience nurtured her into a more thoughtful and critical educator and taught her the significance of learning from those you teach. In 2006 she began teaching 7th grade Social Studies and Math at Sherman Middle School. She’s had the privilege of working with the finest teaching partners in the world and owes much of her craft to the lessons learned from them. Teaching adolescents isn’t easy. But what makes teaching feel easy is the joy she receives from knowing that young people are questioning and understanding their world in ways they never thought possible.



Andrew Kreuser

As a teacher at Black Hawk Middle School, Andrew Kreuser finds energy, ideas, and inspiration from students. To him, teaching is more than a profession; it is a passion. Fostering relationships among all students is at the forefront of his practice as a teacher. Students need to understand that all voices are valued, respected, and heard. Incorporating all voices into his curriculum has not only provided his students with a safe and engaging learning environment, but it has also given Andrew the opportunity to be a learner himself. Andrew wishes to continue to grow in this way as an educator and truly thanks the 100 Black Men of Madison for this honor.



Kimberly Robinson

Hello, my name is Kimberly Robinson. I am an SEA/Community program leader at Ray F. Sennett MS. I’ve been an employee with the Madison Metropolitan School District since 1996. I am a proud single mother of 2 wonderful and beautiful children whom also attend MMSD schools. When I first began, I started as Kitchen Staff. A year and a half later, I was promoted to SEA. I’ve enjoyed working for MMSD as one of their African American female role models for our prominent young learners today. I feel like my rewards are granted as I watch high numbers of our young learners achieve and strive to be the best they can be. That is my Greatest Success of Achievement.

Also nominated in this category:
[Michael Hay-Chapman](#)

Elementary School Nominees



Sandra Brown

When I sit back and consider the significant events in my past, the important aspects of my current life and future goals, the underlying theme is one of gratitude for having such a wonderfully blessed life by touching and making a difference in the lives of so many people. My career in education has afforded me with opportunity to come face to face with the past, present and future of today’s society. I have always been a firm believer that learning is a life-long endeavor. As a seasoned educator, I have come to the realization that I learn just as much, or more, than I teach.

Elementary School Nominees Continued



Kathryn Burns

Kathryn Burns began teaching in the Madison Metropolitan School District in 2000. At Aldo Leopold Elementary School, Kathryn has the opportunity to make a positive impact on many African American students and families. She worked closely with the Even Start Program offering support to parents as a teacher presenter and as a GED tutor. Kathryn has the ability to work well with children that often feel misunderstood or out of place at school. She has provided many hours of after school tutoring to students and works closely with families to make sure that her students are reaching their full potential and that each family feels like part of the school community. She believes that success happens when teachers and families work well together.

Theresa Sanders Theresa Sanders grew up in Madison and has been teaching here for 10 years. Her interest and passion is working with children and showing them that they can learn and do whatever they want to do with the right attitude and enough work. During her 6 years at Leopold Elementary, Theresa has been involved with Unity, a parent involvement group for African-American parents and kids. She organizes parent support meetings, a Unity Fall Festival, and a Black History celebration. She also helped to get the 100 Black Men to come to Leopold Elementary and volunteer in the classrooms. It is her goal and desire to help kids see how valuable they are, how we believe in them, and most importantly, that we are there for them.

Also nominated in this category:
[Marisa Carr-Flowers](#)

College/University Nominees



Gloria Ladson-Billings

Gloria Ladson-Billings is the Kellner Family Professor of Urban Education in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction and Faculty Affiliate in the Department of Educational Policy Studies at UW-Madison. Her research examines the pedagogical practices of teachers who are successful with African American students. She also investigates Critical Race Theory applications to education. Ladson-Billings is the author of the critically acclaimed books, *The Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers of African American Children*, *Crossing over to Canaan: The Journey of New Teachers in Diverse Classrooms*, and *Beyond the Big House: African American Educators on Teacher Education*, and more than 50 journal articles and book chapters.



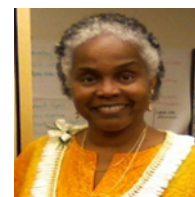
Shirley Stennis-Williams

Shirley Stennis-Williams' educator experience started at the K-12 level for Jackson State University Laboratory School and for the public school system of Chicago, IL. Her university-level experience and accomplishments include being the first tenured black faculty member and Associate Provost at UW-Oshkosh, Founding Director of the UW-Oshkosh Head Start Program and their Pre-college Computer-assisted Courses Program for middle school students, Founding Director of the UW-system's Doctoral Fellowships Program for Minority Faculty, first female Dean and black Dean of Education at the University of Pennsylvania, and the first black Dean of Education at Southeast Missouri State University. She is on several Boards including Madison Metropolitan Chapter of the Links, Inc.



Alfonso Studesville

Alfonso Studesville is currently employed at Madison College as a Student Services Career Counselor/Instructor and Coach focusing on working with dislocated workers. Alfonso is the VP of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute and board of directors, which provides education and economic solutions for African American students and families in the greater Madison area. He was a high school teacher and counselor at Madison East High School for nine years and the Program Director for South Madison Neighborhood Center. He belongs to numerous professional organizations including the Wisconsin Association of Technical College Educators, 100 Black Men of Madison, and Urban League.



Hazel Symonette

Hazel Symonette is Program Development & Assessment Specialist at the UW-Madison Division of Student Life, Multicultural Student Center. Her work centers on using assessment as a participant-centered self-diagnostic resource for continuous improvement, developmental innovation, and strategic image management. She moves this agenda forward through a variety of capacity-building strategies using multi-level assessment/evaluation processes to advance a diversity-grounded personal transformation, organizational development and social justice change agenda, which undergirds her long-standing involvement in creating and sustaining inclusive and responsive teaching, learning, living, and working environments that are conducive to success for all.

Also nominated in this category:
[Fannie Frazier Hicklin](#) and [Josephine Yelder](#)

Community Nominees



Darlene Hancock

In 1972, Darlene Hancock was hired as the first Black female principal in the Madison Public Schools. She was the founder/organizer/first president of the Madison Metropolitan Links Inc. and created the first Links Student Recognition program for minority students, which continues today. Leader in Head Start as an administrator, teacher, and evaluator, Mrs. Hancock was among the few chosen to attend the training in Washington, D.C. as Lady Bird Johnson introduced the Head Start nationally. Described as a trailblazer, from Head Start to Evaluator of Admissions for Purdue University, the Madison community is privileged to have her continuing to keep academic achievement alive! In 2010, as Volunteer Director, at SS Morris Church, the Instructional Resource Center was created to help students achieve.



Colleen Hayes

Colleen Hayes has worked with youth for many years, beginning in 1997 at Creative Learning Preschool in downtown Madison. She was then employed by the Madison School District for several years as a substitute teacher, primarily teaching at Sherman Middle School. Colleen has been employed by the Goodman Community Center for nearly three years. She was initially hired as the youth resource center coordinator partnering with O’Keeffe Middle School, moved into the role of Lussier Teen Center coordinator, and now is the Girls Inc. coordinator. Colleen is originally from the Chicago area and moved to Madison to attend the University of Wisconsin. She graduated in 1997 with a B.A. in History. She loves living and working on the East side.



Leslie Thompson

Leslie Thompson started working with MSCR in 2006. She started with the CASPER after-school program at Emerson Elementary and went on to become the site director for the same program at Lapham. In 2008, she accepted her current position as site supervisor for the Allied Safe Haven program. Her favorite times at the Center have been the little things, like when the staff and kids get to have snack outside together. With everyone relaxed and the music playing, she feels like the kids can really be themselves. Her proudest moment happened during her first year at the Center, when she helped one student progress from a reading level 6 at the beginning of the year to a level 28 at the end.

Also nominated in this category: [Will Green](#)

Criteria for Outstanding Educator Nominations

Demonstrates strong ability to foster excellence in education as evidenced by ongoing contributions to the improvement of African American student learning and the learning environment for African American youth

Demonstrates leadership in educational development of African American youth, locally or statewide and/or at a national level, both within or out of the school setting

Displays exemplary interpersonal skills in communicating with African American students, parents, administrators, community members and professional colleagues

Engages African American parents/families as partners in the learning process to enhance student achievement

100 Black Men of Madison, Inc.

Mission

The Mission of the 100 Black Men of Madison, Inc. is to improve the quality of life within our communities and enhance educational and economic opportunities for all African Americans.

100 Black Men of Madison, Inc.

Values

100 Black Men of Madison, Inc. is committed to the intellectual development of youth and the economic empowerment of the African American community based on the following precepts: respect for family, spirituality, justice, and integrity.

100 Black Men of Madison, Inc.

Vision

100 Black Men of Madison, Inc. seeks to serve as a beacon of leadership by utilizing our diverse talents to create environments where our children are motivated to achieve, and to empower our people to become self-sufficient shareholders in the economic and social fabric of the communities we serve.

