

# 100 Black Men of Madison, Inc.



23 September 2011

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Kaleem Caire  
President & CEO  
Urban League of Greater Madison  
2222 S. Park Street, Suite 200  
Madison, Wisconsin 53713

Dear President Caire:

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

In the letter and spirit of that mission, the 100 Black Men of Madison, Inc. (100 BMM) endorse the establishment of the Madison Preparatory Academy for Young Men and Women according to the development plan currently envisioned by the Urban League of Greater Madison.

This decision is driven solely by our concerns about the paucity of academic success among minority youth in Madison and the obvious need to try different approaches to address this crisis. Because we have always had an amicable and collaborative relationship with the Madison Metropolitan School District, this letter of support should not be construed as an indictment of Madison Public Schools. Nor should it be construed as a blanket endorsement of charter schools as a concept. The 100 Black Men of Madison has no established position on either issue.

Simply stated, given the disparity in the achievement gap between minority and non-minority youth, the 100 BMM feel that the time has passed for rarely productive academic policy debates. Madison Prep may possibly present a unique opportunity to alter the current negative educational curve of African American youth. As a complement to the Mission of the 100 BMM, our community must investigate all education models that could plausibly deliver on the most important consideration by far, i.e., serving the best educational interests of our children.

The 100 Black Men of Madison believe Madison Prep is a potential template for fostering the intellectual development of our minority youth and a first step in the arduous process of restoring our schools to their rightful place of educational leadership and innovation.

Sincerely,

Floyd Rose, Ph.D., President

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