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Gangs and Thangs: The Pursuit of Fulfillment



**Michigan Youth Banner
Cover Story**

**Seen on the Scene: Great
Lakes Bay Hispanic
Leadership 2020
Graduation**



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Remembering Kobe Bryant

On January 26, 2020, a helicopter carrying nine people aboard including Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna, crashed into the side of a mountain in Calabasas, California killing everyone on board.

Bryant's untimely death was immediately felt around the world from sports fan and non-sports fans alike. What he stood for, trained for, and played for extended far beyond the courts he competed on.

Kobe Bryant was born on August 23, 1978 in Philadelphia and was the youngest of three

children and only son of former NBA player Joe Bryant and Pamela Cox Bryant.

Bryant started playing basketball when he was just three and earned national recognition during a spectacular high school career at Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, Pennsylvania where he played on the varsity basketball team as a freshman.

Although his basketball skills and grades would have ensured admission to any college

Continues on pg 2, Kobe Bryant

Cover Story, Kobe Bryant

he chose, ultimately, the 17-year-old Bryant made the decision to go directly into the NBA, becoming only the sixth player in NBA history to do so.

Before the 1996 NBA draft, Bryant had worked out in Los Angeles, where he scrimmaged against former Lakers players Larry Drew and Michael Cooper and, according to then-Laker manager Jerry West, "marched over these people".

The Lakers were looking to trade their starting center Vlade Divac for a player's draft rights to free up salary cap space to make an offer to free-agent center Shaquille O'Neal. Bill Branch, the Hornets' head scout at the time, said that the Hornets agreed to trade their draft selection at #13 to the Lakers the day before the draft. Before the trade agreement, the Hornets never considered drafting Bryant. During the draft, the Lakers told the Hornets whom to select minutes before the pick was made. Bryant was the first guard drafted directly out of high school. After the draft, the trade was put in jeopardy when Divac threatened to retire rather than be traded from Los Angeles. However, on June 30, Divac relented on his threat and the trade was made final on July 9, 1996, when the league's off-season moratorium ended. Since Bryant was still 17 at the time, his parents had to cosign his contract with the Lakers until he was able to sign his own when he turned 18 before the season began. Bryant signed a three-year rookie contract totaling \$3.5 million.

Bryant would end up playing his entire 20-season professional career in the league with the Los Angeles Lakers.

During his time in the NBA, Bryant won five NBA championships, was an 18-time All-Star, 15-time member of the All-NBA Team, 12-time member of the All-Defensive Team, was named the 2008 NBA Most Valuable Player (MVP), and was a two-time NBA Finals MVP winner. Widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time, he led the NBA in scoring during two seasons, ranks fourth on the league's all-time regular season scoring, and ranks fourth on the all-time postseason scoring list.

At 34 years and 104 days of age, Bryant became the youngest player in league history to reach 30,000 career points. He became the all-time leading scorer in Lakers franchise history on February 1, 2010, surpassing Jerry West. Bryant was also the first guard in NBA history to play at least 20 seasons. His 18 All-Star designations are the second most all time, while it is the record for most consecutive appearances as a starter. Bryant's four All-Star MVP Awards are tied with Bob Pettit for the most in NBA history. At the 2008 and 2012 Summer Olympics, he won two gold medals as a member of the U.S. national team. In 2018, he won the Academy Award for Best Animated Short

Film for his 2017 film Dear Basketball.

Kobe was known for his greatness on the court, but it he also made an impact off the court through his community work and initiatives.

Bryant was the official ambassador for After-School All-Stars (ASAS), an American non-profit organization that provides comprehensive after-school programs to children in thirteen US cities. Bryant also started the Kobe Bryant China Fund which partnered with the Soong Ching Ling Foundation, a charity backed by the Chinese government. The Kobe Bryant China Fund raises money within China earmarked for education and health programs. On November 4, 2010, Bryant appeared alongside Zach Braff at the Call of Duty: Black Ops launch event at the Santa Monica Airport, where they presented a \$1 million check to the Call of Duty Endowment, an Activision-founded nonprofit organization that helps veterans transition to civilian careers after their military service has ended.

Together with his wife, Bryant founded the Kobe and Vanessa Bryant Family Foundation (KVBFF). Its goals are "helping young people in need, encouraging the development of physical and social skills through sports and assisting the homeless". Bryant spoke of the injustice aimed at homeless people who are blamed for their situation, saying that homelessness should not be ignored or made a low priority. Bryant said he wanted more out of life than just a successful basketball career.

He was also a successful business man, establishing Kobe Inc. to own and grow brands in the sports industry. The initial investment was a 10% stake in the Bodyarmor SuperDrink company for \$6 million in March 2014. The headquarters are in Newport Beach, California. With The Coca-Cola Company purchasing a minority stake in the company in August 2018, the valuation of Bryant's stake rose to approximately \$200 million.

On August 22, 2016, Bryant and his business partner Jeff Stibel launched Bryant-Stibel, a venture capital firm focused on different businesses including media, data, gaming, and technology, with \$100 million in funding.

In 2018, Bryant became the first African American to win the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film and the first former professional athlete to be nominated and to win an Academy Award in any category for his film Dear Basketball.

Bryant also co-founded Mamba Academy, a full-circle facility designed to update the way men, women and youth approach human performance, by creating a multi-platform environment that activates, educates and provides an opportunity for humans to unlock their full potential.

Kobe leaves behind his wife Vanessa; their three surviving daughters, Natalia (17), Bianka (3), and a host of friends of friends and family.

Shortly after losing her husband and daughter, Vanessa posted the following message on her Instagram account:

My girls and I want to thank the millions of people who've shown support and love during this horrific time. Thank you for all the prayers. We definitely need them. We are completely devastated by the sudden loss of my adoring husband, Kobe — the amazing father of our children; and my beautiful, sweet Gianna — a loving, thoughtful, and wonderful daughter, and amazing sister to Natalia, Bianka, and Capri. We are also devastated for the families who lost their loved ones on Sunday, and we share in their grief intimately.

There aren't enough words to describe our pain right now. I take comfort in knowing that Kobe and Gigi both knew that they were so deeply loved. We were so incredibly blessed to have them in our lives. I wish they were here with us forever. They were our beautiful blessings taken from us too soon.

I'm not sure what our lives hold beyond today, and it's impossible to imagine life without them. But we wake up each day, trying to keep pushing because Kobe, and our baby girl, Gigi, are shining on us to light the way. Our love for them is endless — and that's to say, immeasurable. I just wish I could hug them, kiss them and bless them. Have them here with us, forever.

Thank you for sharing your joy, your grief and your support with us. We ask that you grant us the respect and privacy we will need to navigate this new reality.

To honor our Team Mamba family, the Mamba Sports Foundation has set up the MambaOnThree Fund to help support the other families affected by this tragedy. To donate, please go to MambaOnThree.org. To further Kobe and Gianna's legacy in youth sports, please visit MambaSportsFoundation.org.

Thank you so much for lifting us up in your prayers, and for loving Kobe, Gigi, Natalia, Bianka, Capri and me.

Most of us did not know Kobe personally, we only knew what we saw on the basketball court, and yet so many of us can take away so much from the life he lived as an athlete, a father, and man. Since his passing, tributes have popped up all around the world, which gives an idea of just how big of a footprint he left, both in basketball and in life.

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The Michigan Banner operates and serves as a print and online media venue committed to educating, informing and enlightening our readership regarding events and news that directly and indirectly affect the communities regionally and globally. Furthermore, to serve as a catalyst and a link for cultivating young adults as entrepreneurial and business leaders for the future.

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 3

Navigating the Narrative, w/ Mr. Clark: “Gangs and Thangs: The Pursuit of Fulfillment”

Corey Pritchett MA, CPS (c) AKA Mr. Clark



Welcome to “Navigating the Narrative w/ Mr. Clark” presented to you by your friendly “Neighborhood Hope Dealer” C. Pritchett. As discussed in the last article, our ultimate goal (as we present information and insight into youth development) will be renewing the minds of adults towards “youth” and raising the expectations of “youth” among themselves to be more responsible for themselves and towards their fellow man, referring to those who are in their community i.e. neighbors, peers, etc. The final aspect of our ultimate goal is to raise the expectations of youth being accountable for being the “progenitors” (a person or thing from which a person is descended or originates; an ancestor or parent) for the future of this nation.

To achieve this goal we have to begin to explore the minds and hearts of the youth as well as observe the various behaviors demonstrated by them on a daily basis in connection with various relevant factors such, as family dynamics, their environment within the home as well as their neighborhoods/ surrounding areas, childhood experiences, etc. In reflection, during the last article we discussed the reality of how some adults are insensitive to the range of young people’s situations. American teenagers’ economic and social circumstances differ in many ways, which means that there are multiple possibilities for unique experiences during

these teenage years. It makes sense to talk about “teens’ experiences” only if we keep in mind these differences. This is my inspiration to explore the subject matter of youth and gangs as well as gang culture. Why are so many youth gang banging or either so interested in gang banging that they are willing to portray that they are in a gang when they “clearly” are not? Instead of relying on a “preconceived notion” of what we already believe the answer to this question is, how about talking to teens to find out what they have to say about this question and subject matter. Gang members are often involved with the justice system and can usually be identified through that system. However, gang-involved youth may be difficult to locate: they may be out of school; they may work; they may be homeless or unemployed. Although some gang youth under age 16 will still be attending mainstream schools, others can be found in alternative schools, GED programs, job-training programs, or community- based programs. Some can be located in juvenile detention centers and residential treatment centers, while others can be located through juvenile and adult probation.

I have been actively serving youth and families in the Great Lakes Bay Region, mainly in the inner city of Saginaw, for over 14 years. Throughout this time I have

encountered many gang- involved youth who have shared tons of insight and information with me regarding their personal lives and their gang involvement. Today, I am the Dean of Students at Saginaw Learn to Earn Academy where we have a peculiar blend of youth whom we serve on a daily basis. Some of our population has gang-involved youth within. We believe all students have the potential to become productive adults. We recognize that some students have challenges that may create obstacles to learning and we provide individualized teaching approaches to overcome these obstacles. I absolutely love serving in our school, it is one of the most fulfilling endeavors I have taken. During the development of this article, I spoke with two of my students who I have been personally working with, intimately on their academic/ personal development. The results of our conversations are as follows. For various reasons, I will not disclose either of their names; however I will us a description to distinguish the two. The only description necessary is that one of them is directly involved with the gang lifestyle and the other one indirectly. Youth 1 will be the indirect youth and Youth 2, will be the directly involved youth. (NOTE: These youth were interviewed individually not together.)

When asked who is involved in gangs (age, gender, race etc) Youth 1 believes that “a lot

MYB Cover Story, "Gangs and Thangs: The Pursuit of Fulfillment"

of gangbangers start around 14, mainly males. More females are into cliques or groups and not necessarily gangs. Its more Blacks and Mexican gangs but mostly African Americans." Youth 2 says "all races, ages 16-21. But mostly males but some females." When asked "why and when (age) did you join a gang" there were two different aspects to the answering, seeing as how Youth 1 is not directly in a gang. Therefore his response was based on relatives and friends' experiences.

Youth 1 stated that "the upbringing from the environment they were raised in. My family is more like a mob-style type, not really a street gang. It's more about respect. I have a different perspective than some of my peers. It started in Detroit, with my Great-great Grandfather who was a carpenter but liked to gamble a lot. He got into the loan shark business and passed it down to his son (which is my grandpa) which he began organizing the crime family with the monies gained by his father. It started with the purpose to assist the family with their needs being met. As people in the family were killed on few different occasions, the "crime family" grew more into a "gang-type" of organization. Not that the family began terrorizing neighborhoods or anything to the nature, however, the family would now begin to carry weapons and be more on the defensive and alert aspects of crime."

Youth 2 stated: "I joined gang at 13 years old. I didn't know too much about the gang. But start hanging with him. They start showing me a lot of love, you feel me. When I was young I didn't really get into much beef because I got "boated (locked up) for four years. When I turned 17 it really got real 'street'... our gang is not really a gang. We all related, we all family. We just do gang things. I don't know really, what type of influences motivated our "gang-type" lifestyle."

When asked about their family status, Youth 1 stated "Right now, I'm working on independent status but residing with mother at the moment."

Youth 2 stated "My dad passed away, I don't mess with my mother. So I'm on my



Courtesy Photo

own." When asked about their employment status both youth stated they were employed part-time at the moment. Both youth were asked "what crimes do gang youth report committing?" (WITHOUT directly incriminating yourself, in general speaking) Youth 1 stated "Shooting people houses up, vandalism on certain peoples properties/objects, stealing cars, people walking around here right now who have committed murders, so many young people bragging on how many bodies they got, there are a lot of guns in the hand of the youth. We got young people riding around with assault rifles and they are teenagers. It doesn't make sense, why are we all killing each other. I feel like this is the stuff I see everywhere around me." Youth 2 stated "Like, duh, regular gang stuff... you know what type of stuff we do." He would not comment more than this regarding the crimes being committed.

When asked what are gang youths' perceptions about the gang problem? Youth 1 stated "a lot of them who have lost people or had people in that life, some of them think it's pointless. Another person's life isn't worth the color you are repping. The gang violence is getting out of control. It's happening with young people who don't even get a chance to grow up. In certain gangs and environments some people don't have a choice. You either roll with it or get rolled over. It's even bad as certain areas people getting their shoes snatched." Youth 2 reported "Youth in gangs don't see any problems with

gangs. It's just a different type of hustle. It's a hustle the way we want to do things instead of the way people expect it or expect us to."

When asked "why would youth leave a gang" the two youth were more on the same page then the last question asked. Youth1 stated "they start losing people that they care about and it start giving them a different outlook. Maybe they want to turn around their life after realizing there aren't as many benefits in being in the gang, or maybe seeing that there are more options in this life. Some people get locked up and it deters them from the gang lifestyle." Youth 2 stated "some may just not be built for it. Some may just want to turn they life around, it may be getting old to them. Others probably nervous or afraid of what they may see or encounter. A person may have a child too."

In conclusion, during the next exploration we will go further into this subject matter involving an additional gang-involved youth, community leader/servant, a parent or two and a community resident. Until next time, keep "Navigating (planning, directing) the Narrative(story)" during your personal Journey(life).

Grace and peace be multiplied to you all, Beloved.

In Service, Mr. Corey Pritchett, MA

February Is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



Courtesy Photo

Did you know that 1 out of every 3 teenagers will be involved in an abusive relationship? Abuse can be physical, emotional, or even sexual. Dating violence can have immediate and long-term consequences. Teens are vulnerable to depression and are likely to turn to drugs or alcohol for relief. Many victims of teen dating violence develop low self-esteem and have trouble adjusting to life as an adult.

Do you suspect that your teen is involved in an abusive relationship or are you a teen involved in an abusive relationship? It is important to get involved and stop the abuse before it causes long-lasting harm. Here are 4 ways to stop teen dating violence.

Know the Signs

Do you know how to identify the signs of dating violence? The first step in stopping abuse is by knowing what it looks like. Abuse can take many shapes and forms. Keep an eye on your teen and see if they

demonstrate any of these signs:

- Physical bruises, scrapes, or abrasions
- Unexplained violent mood swings
- Fear of disappointing their dating partner
- Displaying submissive behavior while with their dating partner
- Depression, anxiety, or other emotional distress
- Drug or alcohol use, or
- Spending less time with old friends

It can be difficult to tell if these are signs of dating violence or simply growing pains that accompany the teenage years. The best way to find out what these behaviors indicate is by having a conversation.

Talk to Your Teen

While you may be able to identify the signs of dating abuse in your child, they may not know what teen dating violence looks like from the inside. You can equip them with this knowledge. Let your teen

know that the following behaviors can be classified as teen dating abuse:

- Refusing them to spend time with other friends or family members
- Pressure to have sex before they are ready or willing
- Making the teen feel guilty for not having sex
- Eavesdropping on private conversations, texts, and emails
- Hitting, slapping, biting, or punching
- Yelling, screaming, and inflicting emotional distress, and
- Blaming the teen for failures in the relationship.

Having the ability to identify abuse can allow your teen to end an abusive relationship before it escalates.

Keep a Journal

Do you think that your teen is in an abusive relationship? Have you been unable to get them to communicate with you? Keep a journal of your concerns. Write down a sign or symptom of teen dating abuse each time you identify one. This can help down the line. The list can help your teen see the relationship from a different perspective. If the abuse escalates, your journal can be used to support a restraining order or criminal charges.

Get the School Involved

Once an abusive relationship has been identified, it is important to make sure that your teen is protected. They may be hesitant to end the relationship because they will have to see their abusive partner at school. You can get the school involved by speaking with administrators and counselors.

Loop them in on the situation and ask for their help in keeping your teen safe. Counselors can be available to talk to your teen and help them through the breakup. Any stalking or abusive conduct can be identified and stopped before it can cause harm. Getting the school involved can also allow the abusive teen to get the help he or she needs.

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Asylum Seekers Receive Grassroots Aid Along the Border in Mexico



Courtesy Photo

*Written by Tracy L. Barnett
for yesmagazine.org*

Gaby Zavala was in her obstetrician’s waiting room in Brownsville, Texas, when she first saw the video. Across the river in Matamoros, Mexico, a 15-year-old Honduran girl had been swept away by the current as she bathed in the Rio Grande. While an asylum-seeker filmed the September incident, two others pulled her from the water, trying—and failing—to resuscitate her.

An ambulance arrived just in time to save the girl, one of about 2,500 women, men, and children living in a makeshift tent camp on the banks of the Rio Grande. Stranded in this high-risk cartel zone under the Trump administration’s “Remain in Mexico” policy, people are waiting months for their asylum hearings.

“Watching them trying to resuscitate her was heartbreaking,” says Zavala, who at the time was pregnant with her second child. “They didn’t know what to do, so they were just standing there.

It just broke my heart — it felt like a group of abandoned people trying to help a member of their community.”

Zavala, who was born in Brownsville and grew up on both sides of the river, was moved to action. “That’s when we said, ‘No más —This can’t happen again,’” she says.

Within two days, she and a team of volunteers had raised enough money to set up basic bucket-bathing shelters and bring in a truck of water so that people could safely bathe. Within a month, she had put down a deposit on a house across the street from the encampment and opened the Resource Center for Asylum Seekers.

The two-story house would serve as the Mexico counterpart to a center she had operated in Brownsville as the migrant caravans brought tens of thousands to the border last year. The

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Continued from LB Cover Story, Asylum Seekers

center has become a hub for social service providers, attorneys, health care workers and other volunteers – many of them, like Zavala, crossing the border from the U.S. and filling a need that governments and international NGOs have avoided.

Additionally, Zavala coordinates a team of about 20 asylum-seekers who manage basic camp needs, giving them a small stipend and a job reference. The team, for example, manages the “Aqua Blocks” that filter water from the Rio Grande and operate free stores from tents in four areas of the camp.

In July, when the Trump administration’s so-called Migrant Protection Protocols went into effect in Brownsville, hundreds of asylum-seekers were returned to Mexico to fend for themselves in Matamoros, which the U.S. State Department classifies as Level 4, “Do Not Travel.”

No security exists for the tent camp, and response from the Mexican government has been minimal. Major international aid organizations have steered clear. Kidnappings, extortion, and sexual assaults are routine.

A similar scenario is unfolding all along the border, from Matamoros to Tijuana, where an estimated 60,000 asylum-seekers have now been waiting months for their hearings.

Zavala was among the first responders to the camps, walking through with a clipboard resting on her pregnant belly. When the baby came later in September, Zavala barely missed a beat, working from her car with little Scarlet in a carrier at her side.

“I realized a lot of their issues were much more deeply rooted than just needing basic supplies,” she says. “I gained their confidence, and I started to see that they were being extorted, that they were being victims of organized crime while waiting in Matamoros. There were things like sexual coercion and kidnapping, and other things that were very frightening.”

The first days of the New Year found Brendon Tucker, a volunteer from Texas and Zavala’s right-hand man who does engineering work around the camp, building a set of shelves for the new camp pharmacy. The pharmacy is in the mobile clinic of Global Response Management, another grassroots organization that provides lifesaving emergency medicine in high-risk areas such as this one.

U.S. Army veteran and nurse practitioner Helen

Perry established the clinic in October after hearing from a Salvadoran friend about the desperate conditions at the camp. Perry was a volunteer for GRM, which was founded in 2017 by Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

“I was seeing all of these pictures of people who were living in tents and how despondent they were,” Perry says. “So... I started tracking down the people who had been here and started asking, ‘what are they doing for health care?’ And nobody could answer the question. So I said, ‘Fine, I’ll just go myself.’”

Waylaid by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas, where she spent three weeks, she landed in Matamoros the first week in September, with a simple aid bag and some over-the-counter medication. After word got out that a nurse was at the camp, she was bombarded.

She saw multiple cases of people with chicken pox living next to pregnant women —putting both mother and baby at risk. She saw kids with severe cellulite infections, such as a baby girl with a fungal infection so severe it had contracted the skin and she couldn’t lift her arm.

“I was seeing kids who were already starting to have corneal hazing from having chronic pinkeye because they were washing in the river,” she says, noting that while pinkeye is very treatable, without the right antibiotics it can lead to permanent vision loss.

Perry returned home to Florida and wrote a proposal, then started cold-calling people, quickly raising \$50,000 to set up a mobile clinic. With the funding she put together a team, including several doctors, and began operating.

Staff from GRM’s 750-member network of health care providers come down for a week or two to lend a hand. They include people such as Mari Cordes, a veteran nurse and Vermont state legislator who used the holiday break to serve. And Dr. Johanna Dreiling, a family physician who is spending a week here with her family while taking a year on the road in what they’re calling a “road school.”

As the medical team attends to about 50 patients a day, Wisconsin immigration attorney, Charlene D’Cruz, of the nonprofit Lawyers for Good Government, attends to the legal needs of another 50. Frequently the teams work in tandem. Under the Migrant Protection Protocols, the medically vulnerable should not be returned to Mexico once presenting themselves at the U.S. border, but they are — repeatedly.

D’Cruz, Perry, and Zavala all intervened in the case of Yanet, a Honduran asylum-seeker with an abdominal tumor appearing to be ovarian cancer. Together, D’Cruz and Dreiling went to talk with CBP officials. She was turned back the first time and forced to wait before finally being allowed to join her husband in Nevada.

D’Cruz, one of the founders of the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, began working with Central American asylum-seekers in the 1980s, during the U.S.-sponsored civil wars that wreaked political and economic havoc on Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.

She sees a lot of similarities with the clients she’s interviewing these days, both in the level of violence they face and in the reluctance of the U.S. government to take in the victims, despite its role in destabilizing the region. In both cases, innocent families are the ones caught in a level of violence horrific enough to force them to grab their families and flee, she says.

“Trauma is a cornerstone of asylum law, and what these folks are facing is not just trauma, but re-trauma,” she says. “They are re-traumatizing them by forcing them to stay in Mexico. They are re-traumatized constantly on the trip up here— and then the trauma of facing judges and border agents. It’s just continuous.”

A fundamental principle of asylum law is non-refoulement—a prohibition on returning asylum-seekers to a country where they are in danger. “Many of my clients have been sequestered, kidnapped, raped,” she says. “And they tell the stories to the asylum officers saying, ‘I am so afraid of going back to Mexico’— and they still get denied. Hardly anybody gets approved through a non-refoulement interview to stay in the U.S. The State Department has said that this is a level 4 highly insecure area, and yet they do not believe any of it.”

For her part, Zavala is determined to do all she can to ensure that in this camp where she operates, everything possible is being done to assure these traumatized families a measure of dignity and a fair shot at a new life.

She says, “In a time where asylum-seekers are being denied the fundamental right to humane and dignified treatment and access to the services they urgently need, we have pledged a strong commitment to fighting for them.”

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Seen on the Scene: Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership 2020 Graduation // January 30, 2020



Seen on the Scene: Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership 2020 Graduation // January 30, 2020



Community Board

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8th Annual Premios K?ONDA Awards Ceremony

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SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ SCHOLARSHIP

Application deadline: February 7, 2020

This scholarship was established to honor a great mentor and Hispanic labor leader and organizer. Its intent is to provide financial assistance to Hispanic students of Southwest Michigan who have demonstrated a record of academic success and civic responsibility. César E. Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, in Yuma, Arizona. César left school after the eighth grade to work in the fields full-time to support his family. He joined the US Navy in 1946 and served in the Western Pacific in the aftermath of World War II. He began as a community organizer in 1952 when he joined the Community Service Organization (CSO), a prominent Latino civil rights group. In 1962, César founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers of America. For more than three decades César led the first successful farm workers union in American history, achieving dignity, respect, fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, and humane living conditions for hundreds of thousands of farm workers. A strong believer in the principles of nonviolence, César effectively employed peaceful tactics such as fasts, boycotts, strikes, and pilgrimages to achieve social justice. In 1994 he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in America.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must be a Southwest Michigan high school senior of Hispanic or Latino origin
- Must be enrolled or must plan to enroll full-time at an accredited college or university in the State of Michigan as an undergraduate student for the upcoming academic year
- Must be able to use the scholarship on the upcoming academic year
 - \$2,000 scholarship for students attending 4-year college
 - \$1,000 scholarship for students attending 2-year college
- Must have earned and maintained a high school cumulative Grade Point Average of no less than 3.00 on a 4.0 scale

FUTUROS LÍDERES SCHOLARSHIP

Application deadline: February 7, 2020

The Southwest Michigan César E. Chávez Committee has established the Futuros Líderes Endowed Scholarship in order to support the University's diversity goals of recruitment and retention of students that meet the following criteria:

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Incoming freshmen or current full-time student at Western Michigan University
- First generation college student
- Work experience in agricultural labor or the service sector is preferred
- Demonstrate financial need
- Priority will be given to students from the following Michigan counties: Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren
- Annual awards will be granted based on availability of funds to: a) at least one incoming first-year student, b) at least one current WMU student, c) if funds are available to others in the application pool
- Scholarship selection committee is comprised of three members of the Southwest Michigan Cesar Chavez Committee, and two members of the WMU Latino Employees Association. At least one committee member will be a WMU faculty member. Special consideration based on committee's decision

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We encourage readers to send letters, story ideas, comments and questions.



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Thoughts on Diversity and Equity



Courtesy Photo

Diversity has been a “buzz word” and a priority for a long time now. But what does it mean, and does diversity impact or change structural racism?

Let’s start with diversity. To what extent is there diversity across your organization as a whole, and to what extent is there diversity within the different aspects of your organization? Reflect on expressions of diversity such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, country of origin, educational attainment, and physical ability. Is there one “type” of person that dominates the organization? Is there an appreciation for those outside the dominant group? Ask, “How welcoming and affirming are we?”

How would you assess diversity across your organization?

1. Board of trustees or board of directors. Does everyone look and sound alike?
2. Vendors. Who does our organization spend its money with? Do we know? Does it matter to us?
3. Volunteer leaders. Do friends invite friends into leadership, or do we extend ourselves beyond our peer group?
4. Administration. Is there a diversity of opinions, experiences, and knowledge represented amongst decision makers?
5. Staff. Do our staff members share a common

background with those we serve, teach, heal, or advocate for?

6. Donors. Where does our organization’s money come from? Who do we ask for funding and who do we not ask?
7. Clients served or students educated. Are we serving and teaching those we know need our services, or those we know?
8. Advisory group. Who provides guidance and direction when new information is needed?
9. Programs and special events. How do we determine what types of programs to offer?
10. Communication and messaging. Who is telling our story? Who are we sharing it with?

As you reflect, identify the areas your organization

has shown the most growth in. Can you see where more growth is needed? What feels overwhelming? What are you honestly not interested in addressing? Can you live with that truth? Are you personally willing to change?

Let’s take the conversation a little deeper: is diversity a “two way street?” Should Black-led and Black serving organizations seek to become racially diverse? Are they already diverse? Diverse enough? How will our organizations address the changing demographics that impact all Americans? Are we required to, or are we exempt?

As celebrations of Black history month begin, we at Saad&Shaw have been discussing the importance of diversity and equity. We have come to understand diversity as a first step in the process of working towards equity, and that using a racial equity lens is an important tool in dismantling structural racism. A lack of diversity and the presence of structural racism impact the work of the nonprofit sector. They are preconditions that give rise to many nonprofits, and they seriously impact funding and resources available to nonprofits, especially those that are Black led and Black serving.

We ask that you take the time to reflect and take action to improve diversity, dismantle structural racism, and move us together towards racial equity.



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Mel and Pearl Shaw are authors of four books on fundraising available on Amazon.com. For help growing your fundraising visit www.saadandshaw.com or call (901) 522-8727.

HEALTH

Ascension St. Mary's Outpatient Surgery Center Becomes First in Saginaw to use High-Tech Robot



Courtesy Photo

On Monday, Jan. 27, 2020, surgeons performed minimally invasive procedures using the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System at the Towne Centre Surgery Center located at Ascension St. Mary's, 4599 Towne Centre Road in Saginaw Township.

Maher Ghanem, MD, and Christopher Bruck, MD, performed the first robotic surgeries at the Towne Centre Surgery Center using the da Vinci Surgical System. Dr. Ghanem, CMU Health Department of Surgery physician, performed a robotic cholecystectomy (gallbladder procedure). Dr. Bruck completed two inguinal hernia repairs.

"We are the first in Saginaw County to offer robotic surgery at an outpatient surgical center," said Bapineedu Maganti, MD, Towne Centre Surgery Center's Medical Director. "Having the ability to perform robotic

surgery in an outpatient surgical center is a great option for individuals who may not need a more acute hospital setting. Often, the scheduling time is much quicker, the environment is quieter, more private, and the care is more personalized."

Physicians will use the da Vinci robot to provide general and gynecological services, including robotic hysterectomies, single-site gynecological procedures, gallbladder, and hernia surgeries. They also offer robotic-assisted surgery for partial knee replacement procedures.

Towne Centre Surgery Center has four operating rooms and provides care in a number of medical specialties including colorectal surgery, gastroenterology, general surgery, gynecology, ophthalmology, oral surgery, orthopedic surgery, otolaryngology,

pain management, plastic/cosmetic surgery, podiatry, urology and vascular surgery.

Individuals who may require extended recovery from surgery prior to being discharged home are accommodated in the Ascension St. Mary's short stay unit for up to 23-hours.

Also available at this location, Ascension St. Mary's provides an array of services including wound care and hyperbaric clinic, oncology and hematology services and a sleep center. Ancillary services include laboratory, x-ray, mammography and advanced imaging (CT, MRI, PET) in addition to a 24/7 emergency care center.

Ascension St. Mary's and Towne Center Surgery Center are both accredited by The Joint Commission.

More than safe harbor in crisis, we come through, when others don't, with a path home. We connect all people based on their individual circumstances with the families and communities that will empower them to live their fullest life possible.

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- ☞ **This award kicked off a year-long Samaritas initiative called Lift Up Saginaw ... One child, one family, one neighborhood at a time.**
- ☞ **At the center of this initiative is the Samaritas Community Center, located in a resilient neighborhood from where a lot of Saginaw leadership are from.**
- ☞ **Samaritas will also provide a holistic approach to education by combining wraparound human services with an innovative academic approach.**
- ☞ **Also part of Lift Up Saginaw, a full-scale renovation to Samaritas Senior Living Saginaw completes the community, consisting of 40 private rooms in a new state-of-the art rehabilitation center, private long term care bedrooms, and a secure memory care.**

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MDHHS invites public input on aging for new state plan

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging and the Aging & Adult Services Agency are inviting the public to join community conversations throughout the state to discuss the needs of older adult residents.

Every three years the Aging & Adult Services Agency, which is part of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, develops a state plan and seeks input regarding the needs and gaps in programs and services. The feedback is used to ensure priorities are on track with its support of the health and well-being of Michigan’s older adult population.

The goal is to complete the new state plan by July 1.

The State Plan on Aging serves as a blueprint that outlines the coordination and advocacy activities undertaken to meet the needs of older adults, including integrating

health and social services delivery systems.

“Michigan is one of the most rapidly aging states in the country,” said Dr. Alexis Travis, senior deputy director of Aging & Adult Services Agency. “By 2025, the number of Michiganders age 65 and over will outnumber those under the age of 18. As people are living longer, we must be strategic, collaborative and innovative in our work. That means we need the opportunity to hear from the public about the realities of aging in Michigan and hope to have great participation in these community conversations.”

Dona Wishart, chair of the Commission on Services to the Aging, said public input is vital. “Whether you are an older adult, a caregiver, or someone working with older adults in a volunteer or professional capacity, we urge you to participate in these community conversations. Your feedback is imperative to ensuring the new state plan

addresses the critical needs of older adults in our state.”

Community conversations will take place in 16 locations across the state including the following conversations in Midland and Flint:

- Midland Senior Services, 4700 Dublin Ave., Midland, March 3, noon-1:30 p.m.
- Brennan Senior Center, 1301 Pingree Ave., Flint, March 10, 1-2:30 p.m.

Anyone with interest or insight into the needs of older adults is invited to attend a local community conversation. Space is limited and organizers require RSVPs for planning purposes. Please RSVP to Kelly Cooper at 517-284-0182 or cooperk6@michigan.gov.

Visit the Aging & Adult Services Agency website – where the current state plan may be found – or Facebook page for more information.



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Great Lakes Pace: More Choices for Seniors!

The Great Lakes PACE program has been opened since May 1, 2015. This is exciting news for seniors. We assist those with failing health and other needs wishing to remain in their homes. A nursing home is no longer the only option for those who are aging with health problems. There are more choices. PACE stands for Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly. A holistic style is used for meeting the health needs of our enrollees. Our team includes Doctors, Nurses, Physical-Occupational-Recreational Therapists, Social Workers, a Dietician, a Transportation Coordinator and a Center Manager. We provide medical and nursing care in our on-site clinic.

Our other services include pharmacy, lab, therapy day care, meals and more. There is transportation to and from our PACE center for Adult Day Health or medical appointments. Aides are scheduled to help in the home if needed. PACE participants are responsible for the cost of medical services received from out-of-network providers without prior approval- except for emergencies.

Great Lakes PACE is offered to those who are 55 years or older and meet the medical and financial guidelines. We cover most of the Great Lakes Bay Region and a few nearby areas which are known by zip codes. (See below). Many may choose a nursing home due to being uninformed of other choices. Our two Intake Coordinators will answer your questions. Their role is to provide you with information about this amazing program.

Our Outreach Marketing Specialists are connecting with medical professionals, local churches and other community organizations to offer informational sessions that will meet your time limits. Individual or group tours are available on walk in basis. Evening tours arranged if needed. Call to schedule a lunch tour for yourself or a group of any size. Help us to empower the seniors of our community to make informed decisions about their future. Great Lakes PACE is great news! It offers more choices for seniors. Contact us at 989 272-7610. We look forward to meeting with you soon.



Courtesy Photo

Great Lakes PACE services available in these Zip Codes:

Saginaw County

48415, 48417, 48601, 48602, 48603, 48604, 48605, 48606, 48607, 48608, 48609, 48614, 48616, 48623, 48626, 48637, 48638, 48649, 48655, 48663, 48722, 48724, 48734, 48787

Overlap with Saginaw and Another County

48457, 48460, 48747, 48757, 48768, 48807, 48831, 48841

Bay County

48604, 48611, 48623, 48631, 48634, 48642, 48650, 48706, 48708, 48732, 48747, 48757

Shiawassee

48449, 48460, 48616, 48649, 48817, 48831, 48841, 48867

Gratiot

48615, 48637, 48662, 48807, 48831

Tuscola

48415, 48435, 48701, 48723, 48733, 48734, 48744, 48746, 48757, 48767, 48768

Midland County

48640, 48642, 48620

Arenac

48650



BUSINESS & WEALTH

UAW International Executive Board Names Gerald Kariem Vice President and Director of the UAW Ford Department



Courtesy Photo

Detroit - UAW Region 1D Director Gerald Kariem was unanimously selected by the UAW International Board to the position of Vice President and Director of the UAW Ford Department. Kariem will serve out the term left vacant when Rory Gamble was elected President last fall.

“Gerald brings a wealth of leadership in contract implementation, and he will be able to pick up on the recently ratified Ford contract,” said UAW President Gamble. “His experience in implementing the merger of Regions 1C and 1D and building teamwork through his leadership will be invaluable as we implement reforms within the UAW.”

During his almost decade as an IEB Member, and at the helm of one of the most diverse regions in the union, Kariem skillfully managed the merger between Regions 1C

and 1D. His leadership and guidance brought the Aerospace-GM-IPS-TOP region together. The leadership, staff, retirees, support staff, and membership now proudly serve under the single banner of Region 1D.

Kariem is a leader in touch with the membership. He is a strong believer in leadership development and empowerment of workers and in communities. His state-wide community relationship led to him being selected to serve on Governor Whitmer’s Transition Team.

“I look forward to working with our members as well as the Ford Corporation, which has demonstrated good corporate citizenship in the past,” said Kariem. “We will also aggressively implement the new contract. Our members will benefit from the pathways to full pay they created and the launch of new products and

new technologies. This is an exciting time for UAW Ford members.”

Kariem was appointed assistant director by then Region 1D Director Don Oetman in June 2008. He started his union/work career in 1976 at 20 years old when he began working at Saginaw Steering Gear, represented by UAW Local 699. He is currently a member of UAW Local 362.

Kariem was appointed to International Staff as a servicing representative in 2001 by UAW President Stephen P. Yokich, as recommended by Region 1D Director George Andros.

Assistant Director Steve Dawes will serve as the region’s point of contact until delegates from the region’s locals meet and elect a new leader.



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United Financial Credit Union Office holds Ribbon Cutting for New Auburn Office



Courtesy Photo

United Financial Credit Union held a ribbon cutting for their new office located in Auburn on January 15th. The new office is located at 1026 W. Midland Road in Auburn. The one level, 2,257 square foot building replaced the previous office located at 4710 N. Garfield Road.

United Financial Credit Union has been located in the Auburn community since 2009 and are excited to bring a new, modern branch to the area. This location will feature some of the newest technology in member service delivery. The one story full service branch will be able to process new accounts, mortgages, consumer loans, insurance products and wealth management services for personal or business members.

The lobby features a teller pod for one-on-one personal attention, along with two private member offices. The nontraditional standalone drive thru feature our Live Personal Tellers that are open expanded hours; Monday – Friday 7:00am – 7:00pm and Saturday 9:00am – 2:00pm for member transactions and they can also be used as a 24 Hour ATM.

The Credit Union worked with TSSF Architects and Serenus Johnson Construction for this building project.

Midland Hires First Female Police Chief



Courtesy Photo

Midland, MI - After a nationwide search, the City of Midland is pleased to announce that Nicole Ford has been hired as the new chief of police for the Midland Police Department. She is the first female chief of police to serve the City of Midland.

Ford's 22-year law enforcement career offers significant experience in a variety of areas including community policing, emergency response, and command staff leadership. She most recently served as interim police chief and deputy police chief for the City of Flat Rock, Michigan and previously held roles as a lieutenant with the Huron Clinton Metroparks Police Department and as a sergeant and patrol officer with the Northfield Township Police Department.

Ford holds a bachelor's degree in public safety administration and a master's degree in public administration, both from Eastern Michigan University

(EMU). She is also a graduate of the EMU School of Staff and Command and serves on its Police Staff and Command Executive Panel. She is an Assessor for the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission and is a member of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and its Training and Education Committee.


“Chief Ford is a highly respected professional in Michigan’s law enforcement community and brings with her extensive experience in all facets of community safety and security,” said Midland City Manager Brad Kaye. “We are excited to welcome her to Midland and look forward to her leadership in both the community and the Midland Police Department.”

Ford will be officially sworn into her position on Monday, February 3.

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EDUCATION

SVSU Hires New Dean of Education



Courtesy Photo

SVSU hires new dean of Education to tackle Michigan's growing teacher shortage and other challenges

Saginaw Valley State University has hired an experienced educator – with a passion both for preparing the next generation of teachers and developing individuals already leading classrooms – to serve as the new dean of the institution's College of Education.

James Tarr will join SVSU after more than three decades spent working as a teacher, researcher and faculty leader at the K-12 and higher education levels, including most recently at the University of Missouri.

Tarr said he was excited for the opportunity to join an institution with SVSU's strong reputation for empowering individuals in the education sector. "As dean, I will support SVSU's outstanding faculty and staff in delivering high-quality

programs, engaging with local communities, and producing scholarship that informs practice and addresses important societal challenges," Tarr said.

"One of my favorite sayings is, 'To teach is to touch the future.' Today's college students are passionate about making a difference in the world, and a career in teaching is an essential way to cultivate a new and brighter future."

Deborah Huntley, SVSU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, said she was impressed by Tarr's experience as an administrator and his strong record of research and teaching.

"We are looking for a strong leader as we work to respond to the current and looming teacher shortage across Michigan, as well as other changes in the educational landscape," Huntley said.

"Our College of Education has been growing in enrollment, and we want that momentum to build. We are confident Dr. Tarr has the qualities and experience we need, and we welcome him to SVSU."

Tarr served in various roles at the University of Missouri, which he joined as an assistant professor in 2000 and was promoted to associate professor in 2006. After earning his status as a professor of mathematics education in 2013, he served first as the associate director and later as chair of the university's Department of Learning, Teaching & Curriculum. In those roles, he oversaw expansion of online education; developed graduate programs; and advocated for policies that favored diversity and inclusion among students, faculty and staff.

He served in leadership roles for several University of Missouri programs exploring the influence of various math education approaches on students. Among those

programs was a research initiative known as the COSMIC (Comparing Options in Secondary Mathematics: Investigating Curricula) project, which examined how different math education curriculums impacted teaching and learning in U.S. high schools.

As an educator, Tarr also demonstrated a passion for studying the influence of math education. He authored 65 scholarly papers and presentations that appeared in professional journals, books and academic conferences. He also served as chairperson of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics research committee from 2012-13.

Prior to joining the University of Missouri, he worked as an educator at Illinois State University, Middle Tennessee State University and as a visiting scholar at the University of Minnesota. Earlier, he gained experience in the K-12 system as a middle school and high school math teacher in Lincoln, Nebraska and St. Paul, Minnesota from 1987-1993.

Tarr received a Ph.D. in mathematics education from Illinois State University in 1997. He earned a master's degree in educational psychology and measurement from University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1993; and both a bachelor's degree in mathematical sciences as well as a teaching license in math from University of Iowa in 1986 and 1987, respectively. He will join SVSU on July 1.



#ProudMIEducator Video Underscores Critical Impact of Black Male Educators



Courtesy Photo

LANSING – Research shows that students who have educators who look like them are far more likely to graduate from high school and beyond. And while racial and ethnic minorities make up a growing percentage of Michigan’s student population, only two percent of the state’s educators are black males.

In its latest #proudMIEducator video, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) takes an in-depth look at the need for more black male educators and the critical perspective they bring to the state’s education fiber.

The video features Quan Neloms, Brian Ferguson-Bey, and Carl Brownlee – three black male educators from Detroit discussing their passion for teaching, dedication to their students, and necessity in the classroom.

“For Michigan to meet its goal of being a Top 10 education state, we need to have a diverse educator workforce that reflects our student population,” said State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice. “We are proud to highlight some of the unique contributions of our black male educators in Michigan’s public education system. They

are a crucial part of our state’s workforce, and we need to ensure we are doing our best to support them as they support our students’ learning.”

In the 2018 study “The Long-Run Impacts of Same-Race Teachers,” researchers Nicholas Papageorge at Johns Hopkins University and Seth Gershenson at American University examined the effects of racially similar educators on student success.

Their findings reveal that African American students who’d had just one African American teacher by third grade were 13 percent more likely to enroll in college, and those who’d had two were 32 percent more likely.

According to Ferguson-Bey, a World History teacher at Detroit’s Central High School and featured in this #proudMIEducator video, one of the reasons this representation matters is because students who have experiences influenced by the color of their skin can approach their teacher and know that teacher has likely had similar experiences.

Quan Neloms, Brian Ferguson-Bey, and Carl Brownlee are members of a Detroit-

area black male educators movement called In Demand, which is engaged in connecting black men with opportunities to become educators, mentors, and volunteers in the city of Detroit. To view their video and podcast, please go to the group’s YouTube site.

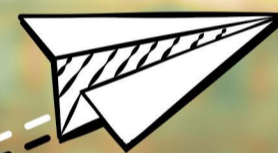
The #proudMIEducator initiative is part of a greater effort by MDE to recognize and celebrate the state’s education workforce. Anyone can participate in the social media-driven campaign designed to shine a spotlight on those making a difference for students in schools and districts across the state. Simply tag posts using the #proudMIEducator hashtag. To stay connected and like/follow both MDE and the Office of Educator Excellence on social media:

Facebook: @MIEducator and @MichDeptEd
Twitter: @MIEducator and @MIEducation
Instagram: @MIEducator
YouTube: @MichDeptEd

For more information about the #proudMIEducator campaign, including previous videos in the series, visit michigan.gov/proudMIEducator or e-mail Josh Roesner at roesnerj1@michigan.gov.

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Application Deadline: **February 15, 2020**



About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

Established in 1965, Head Start promotes school readiness for children, ages three to five, in low-income families by offering educational, nutritional, health, social and other services.

Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

Early Head Start, launched in 1995, provides support to low-income infants, toddlers, pregnant

women and their families.

EHS programs enhance children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development; assist pregnant women to access comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care; support parents' efforts to fulfill their parental roles; and help parents move toward self-sufficiency.

Together Head Start and Early Head Start have served tens of millions of children and their families.

At Saginaw ISD Head Start our attentive staff is available Monday through Friday to answer all your questions and make every effort to ensure you are 100 percent satisfied.

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Saturday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Sunday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM

For additional information concerning Saginaw ISD Head Start visit: www.saginawheadstart.org

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

“Head Start graduates are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to need special education, repeat a grade, or commit crimes in adolescence.”

Joe Baca, former Dem. Calif. Congrmn., Dist. 43.

“Our mission is to provide high quality services, developing school readiness and family empowerment for prenatal to age five children and families by working in partnership with parents and the community.”
-Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

COMMUNITY



Celebrating Local Black Achievements

EDUCATION

Adelaide Robinson	First Black graduate from Saginaw High School	1898
Margaret Haithco Groves	First Black teacher for the Saginaw Public Schools	1946
John A. Wagner	First Black faculty member at Delta College	1961
Frances E. Carter	First Black Principal in the Saginaw Public Schools	1965
Lucille Turnstall	First Black female faculty at SVSU	1965-1967
Wade McCree, Jr.	First Black male to serve on SVSU Board of Trustees	1966-1967
Ruben Daniels	First Black Saginaw Board of Education Trustee & President	1967-1993
Paul Leek	First Black to achieve tenure & Full Professor at Delta College	1970
Dr. Guy Lee, Jr.	First Black male faculty, administrator, Dean at SVSU	1970-1995
Dr. Kayte Fearn	First Black Principal Saginaw High School	1971
Sylvester Stephens	First Black male to serve on Delta College Board of Trustee	1971-1972
Charles Coles	First Black Varsity Head Coach Saginaw Public Schools	1972-1982
Dr. James B. Smith	First Superintendent in Saginaw County First Black male to serve as Superintendent of B.V. Schools	1978-1986
Leola Wilson	First Black female to serve on Saginaw Intermediate School Board First Black female to serve on SVSU Board of Trustees	1977-Present 2005-2013
Joseph Powe	First Black male to serve on Saginaw Intermediate School Board	1985-Present
Vivian Keys-Brown	First Black female to serve as Superintendent Buena of Vista Schools	1996-2001
Marcia Marsh-Goffney	First Black female to serve on Delta College Board of Trustees	1997-2001
Dr. Gerald D. Dawkins	First Black Superintendent of Saginaw Public Schools	2001-2008
Nathaniel McClain	First Black Principal of Arthur Hill High School	2008-Present

Celebrate Black History Month in Flint & Genesee County



Courtesy Photo

February is just around the corner. Looking for ways to celebrate Black History Month? Here are five ways to participate in Flint & Genesee.

1. Kick off the celebration with the Genesee District Library's 19th Annual Black History Month Brunch, Saturday, Feb. 1, 2019, at 10 a.m. This year's honorees are The Ivy House, Ms. Melinda Anderson, Dr. Recco Richardson and Dr. Karen Weaver.
2. Visit the Flint Institute of Arts featuring two exhibitions focusing on African American art. "Community" celebrates the works by African American artists in the Flint Institute of Arts Collection, and "Wonderfully Made: The Artis Collection of African American Art" features art from a private collection by Flint natives Antony J. and Davida J. Artis.
3. Patronize Mott-Warsh Gallery – a private collection of fine art created by artists of the African diaspora.
4. Celebrate with the University of Michigan-Flint Department of Africana Studies with Africa Week 2020 activities Feb. 2 – 12.
5. Catch Communities First, Inc.'s African American Film Series at the Flint Institute of Art on Thursday, Feb. 13. This month's movie is Mr. Church, a story of a young girl and her dying mother who are joined by a black male cook who comes to live with them.

Acclaimed actor to bring MLK portrayal to Delta College



Courtesy Photo

Celebrated actor and advocate Jim Lucas will give a special performance about the life and times of Martin Luther King, Jr. on February 19 as part of the Delta College President's Speaker Series.

The event will take place at 10am in the Lecture Theater (G160) on Delta's main campus. It is free and open to the public.

Lucas has received nationwide acclaim for his recitations and interpretive readings that depict the life and legacy of MLK. He has performed internationally and at

more than 200 colleges throughout the country.

His film and television credits include *The West Wing*, *The Wire*, *24* and *National Treasure 1 and 2*, among others. He is currently co-starring in "The Meeting," a play about the lives and philosophies of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X.

To RSVP for a class group or for disability-related accommodations, contact series coordinator David Baskind at 989-686-9374.

Visit Delta's events website to learn more.

President's Speaker Series

The Delta College President's Speaker Series is funded by the President's Office and the Peter and Barbara Boyse Endowment Fund through the Delta College Foundation. The college brings nationally and internationally renowned speakers to talk about important issues in the world today. The series aims to help broaden knowledge and widen the classroom experience by focusing on civic engagement and challenging the college community to think deeply and to act responsibly.

To learn more about the series and past speakers, visit the President's Speaker Series website.





Saginaw County Community Action Center



11th Annual

Walk for Warmth

Saturday, February 15, 2020

Fashion Square Mall
(Food Court Entrance)
Saginaw, Michigan

Registration: 8:30 am – 9:30 am
Walk begins at 9:00 am

Pledge sheets are available at:

Saginaw County CAC
2824 Perkins Street
Saginaw, MI 48601

For more information call 989-753-7741

Tax deductible donations can be made at:
www.saginawcac.org/programs/walk-for-warmth

Thank you to our Sponsors:



FASHION SQUARE

“Hateful Things” Exhibition at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum Uses Racist Memorabilia to Teach Tolerance

The Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum at Saginaw Valley State University presents the traveling exhibition, “Hateful Things,” from the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia, on display from February 1 - 29, 2020.

“Hateful Things,” is comprised of 39 items of material culture from the late 19th century to the present, embodying the terrible effects of the Jim Crow legacy. In addition to items from popular and commercial culture, the traveling exhibition also contains images of violence against African Americans as well as the Civil Rights struggle for racial equality.

The disturbing objects in “Hateful Things” have been lifted from their original purposes to now serve as powerful reminders of America’s racist past. But more importantly, the exhibition gives viewers new eyes with which to see present-day images of racial stereotyping that might otherwise pass unchallenged.

Dr. David Pilgrim, founder and Director of the Jim Crow Museum, the nation’s largest, publicly accessible collection of racist objects, located at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan, will speak about the “Hateful Things” Exhibition on Wednesday, February 5, from 7 – 8 pm at the Rhea Miller Recital Hall on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University.

A “Hateful Things” Exhibition Opening Reception at the Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum will be held before the lecture on Wednesday, February 5, from 5 – 7 pm. Dr. Pilgrim will be present and signing his book, *Understanding Jim Crow*, during the reception which includes free refreshments and a cash bar. From Aunt Jemima advertisements to the board game Ghettoopoly, American popular culture is replete with racist images. The “Hateful Things” traveling exhibition furthers the Jim Crow Museum’s mission of stimulating the scholarly examination of historical and contemporary expressions of racism, as well as promoting racial understanding and healing.

The museum also has a schedule of engaging and educational programs for the community to participate in, including:

Hateful Things

This exhibition of racist memorabilia from the collection of the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State University helps teach tolerance and promote social justice.

February 1 - 29, 2020

SCHEDULE A TOUR!

Contact us to schedule a guided tour or customized field trip: 989-964-7125 or ondish@svsu.edu

Ask us about bus subsidies for schools!

- Guided tours and customized field trips centered around the “Hateful Things” Exhibition. To schedule a tour please call 989-964-7125. There are also bus subsidies available for schools.
- Poetry Slam: Black History Month Edition, to be held February 19 from 6 - 8:30 pm inside the museum is free and open to all to come listen to students and others perform their original or favorite Black History Month poems. Refreshments will be provided. If you would like to participate please email Cecelia at cahopkin@svsu.edu.
- A free CREATE & TAKE Saturday: Adinkra African Symbols Workshop will be held February 22 from 1-4 pm, where visitors can learn about these African symbols while making your own version in a variety of methods. This drop in program is fun for all ages.

For a full up-to-date list of programming, visit

the museum website at MarshallFredericks.org.

“Hateful Things,” runs February 1 - 29, 2020. It is free of charge and open to the public.

Exhibition Credits

This exhibition is co-sponsored by the Saginaw Valley State University Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and the Office of Diversity Programs. The Dr. David Pilgrim lecture is presented through the Dow Visiting Scholars & Artists Program.

The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum is located on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University, 7400 Bay Road, University Center, MI. Museum hours are Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (989) 964-7125 or visit the Museum’s website at www.marshallfredericks.org.



Celebrating Local Black Achievements

ORGANIZATIONS

Bethel AME Church	First Black church to organize in Saginaw	1867
Reverend Peter S. Marks	First President of the NAACP, Saginaw Branch	1919
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.	First Historically Black Sorority to organize in Saginaw	1963
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.	First Historically Black Fraternity to organize in Saginaw	1971
Craig Chancellor	First Black CEO Saginaw County United Way	1988-1994
Harry W. Browne	First Black President of U.A.W. Local 668	

GOVERNMENT & CIVIL SERVICE

Cal Nicholson	First Black Police Officer & Detective City of Saginaw	1934
Warren S. Hurt	First Black Fireman & Fire Marshall City of Saginaw	1947-1977
Harry W. Browne	First Black male elected Saginaw County Board Commissioners	1951
Henry G. Marsh	First Black male elected to Saginaw City Council	1961-1963
	First Black male to serve as Mayor of City of Saginaw	1967-1969
Marie Davis	First Black female elected Saginaw County Board Commissioners	1968-1990
Dr. Joy Hargrove	First Black female elected to Saginaw City Council	1979-1986
Michael Finney	First Black Interim City Manager City of Saginaw	1986-1987
Al Holiday	First Black male to serve as Chair of County Board Commissioners	1989-1990
Terry L. Clark	First Black Saginaw County District Court Judge	1990-Present
James Golden	First Black Chief of Police, City of Saginaw	1996-2000
Wilmer Ham-McZee	First Black female to serve as Mayor of City of Saginaw	2001-2005
Carl Williams	First Black 96th MI State House of Representatives	2001-2007
Darnell Jackson	First Black Saginaw County Circuit Court Judge	2006-Present
Brigette Braddock	First Black female serve Chair of County Board of Commissioners	2009
Ebony Rasco	First Black female Lieutenant, Saginaw County Sheriff's Department	2017
Tonya Norris	First Black female Sergeant, B.V. Township Police Department	2017



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Giving a Voice to the Voiceless; Hundreds Gather for Inaugural March for Life in Saginaw



Courtesy Photos

On Friday, January 24, Community members in support of life from Mt. Pleasant to Lexington, Gladwin to Birch Run, joined Bishop Robert Gruss to line Washington Ave. in downtown Saginaw, and walk in public witness for the sanctity of all human life.

They walked in solidarity with those at the national March for Life in Washington, D.C.

“I can’t help but to be inspired as we walk together in support of human life,” said Bishop Gruss to those gathered. “I can’t help but to be filled with great hope by what I have seen and experienced this morning. I am inspired and filled with hope because each one of you is a voice for the voiceless.”

Rally kicks off inaugural march

The local march began with a rally at Holy Family Church in Saginaw and included uplifting praise and worship music led by Roberta Conley, Father José Maria Cabrera and others.

Those gathered were led in prayer and invited to pause for a moment and thank God for the precious gift of their own life.

Pro-life speakers included mom of four, Mary Rathke, who shared her powerful personal

testimony of being an adopted daughter whose birth mother had been raped. She described the pain of being labeled by some as the “daughter of a rapist,” but said she never allowed that label to define her. She said she found her image and identify in being a daughter of our Heavenly Father who can bring good from even the most unspeakable evil.

The March for Life in Saginaw began immediately following the rally and the large group braved light rain and cold temps as they held signs and marched down Washington

Ave., to the Cathedral on Hoyt Ave.

The event concluded with Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Gruss and a powerful call to live the Gospel of love.

Each person is a 'masterpiece of God's creation'

“We must also remember that the Gospel of Jesus is not a Gospel of judgment,” said Bishop Gruss in his homily message. “It’s a Gospel of love and mercy. The gospel of Jesus is about mercy. Mercy for the innocent and defenseless child in the womb, mercy for the frightened and overwhelmed mothers ... mercy for post-abortive mothers or fathers ... mercy for abortion advocates ... mercy for abortion clinic workers, volunteers and yes, even abortionists.

“In the end, judgement is about condemnation ... mercy is about love ... and love is what will heal this culture. It’s what will heal families ... relationships ... communities.

“So as we leave here today ... united in prayer with those participating in the March on Washington ... as we approach the Altar of Sacrifice where Jesus will give himself completely to us ... let us all renew our call to witness in our own way to the powerful and life-transforming love of Christ and to the respect and reverence that is due each person as an icon of Christ ... as a masterpiece of God’s creation.”

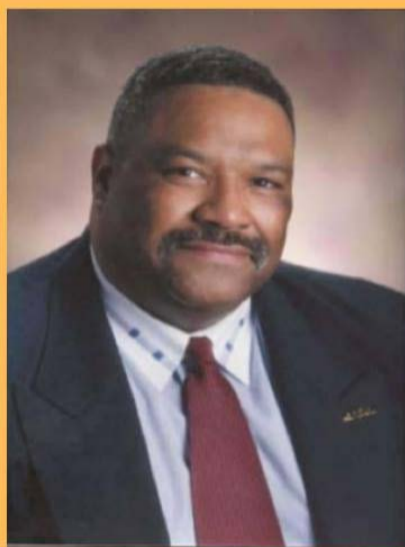


Courtesy Photos

Gary Loster speaks on "A Journey Through African American History"

Join Us in Celebrating African American History Month

Guest Speaker,
The Honorable Gary Loster,
will share with us
A Journey Through African American History.
February 13th 6:30PM



In celebration of African American History Month, The Honorable Gary Loster, who is also a former Mayor of Saginaw, will share with us A Journey Through African American History. The event will take place on February 13 at the Bridgeport Public Library.

Along with being the Mayor, Mr. Loster has also served in the Marines and was the Buena Vista Police Chief. Hon. Gary L. Loster currently serves as President of The Loster Group Consulting Firm; former co-chairman of the Board of Directors of Global Vision Network (GVN), Los Angeles, CA; on the Board of Directors Saginaw International Mahogany Scholarship Fund; Board of Directors African World Expo Detroit Michigan; Board of Directors: Ogazi Peace Foundation Nigeria; on the Board of Directors of the Multicultural Women's Council, of Houston, TX: a nonprofit organization created to bridge the divide and improve the lives of women and children around the world; the Advisory Board of the World Conference of Mayors, Tuskegee, AL; and he was the co-founder of the Saginaw Citizens Advisory Committee to address police brutality.

Is the Student Ready?

Written by Barbara M. Littles, Esq.



Have you every taken on a cause, a project, an assignment, a job that in hindsight you wish you had passed by? Of course hindsight is

20/20 although for many even in hindsight we would make the wrong decisions due to our ego and pride in failing to admit that the initial decision was wrong. We also lack good counsel in many areas of our lives. Relationships is the area in my life in which I cannot afford to make wrong decisions and I submit to you today that you cannot continually make wrong relationship decisions either. Why? Because every relationship we have is leading us somewhere; particularly our inner circle relationships. I used to think if I had good relationships I could afford to have a stragler every now and then. WRONG! Every relationship you have costs you something; time energy and resources. For some, the price

has been BIG. it has cost lack of advancement in career, business, ministry and as I was talking to someone recently it literally almost cost them their life. So why is this an area where we continue to struggle? We continue to struggle because we refuse to take the time to be intentional and lack of intentionally will derail you from purpose in your life.

Some say intentionality is not possible because their business, their ministry, their career is different. I challenge you that is the excuse we give ourselves to unknowingly get "sucked" into relationships, conversations, groups, committees, projects that profit very little. Consider this week that the quality of every single area of your life brings you back to relationships. I can look over the years and see the ups and downs of my weight and relate it back to relationships during certain periods of time. When health, clean eating and exercise was a priority for me, I I had people in my inner circle where health, clean eating, and exercise were also a priority for them. When I was out of priority, I had people in my inner circle who could care less because it wasn't a priority for them....you guessed it, my weight was higher. We don't

want to admit that we attract who we are and not what we want. That's why my upcoming webinar of "Who's On Your Bus?" begins with YOU as the driver of your bus. Time to take responsibility and step up to the "seat." You may have heard the quote, "when the student is ready, the teacher will appear." Only you can decide that you're ready. If you've already registered, look for information in your email by tomorrow to include on your calendar with further instructions. If you would like to register click here <https://purpose-by-design.ck.page/66b945846c> and get on the bus!

Oh and by the way....don't fool yourself that because you're "successful" that this is not an issue....the more successful you become the bigger of an issue it will be. I know you've made resolutions, promises, vision boards, strategic plans, etc. for 2020 but none of it will effectively come to pass without considering your relationships. I again invite you to join me On February 1 for a FREE webinar about "Who's On Your Bus?" Wisdom calls.... will you answer? Enjoy your week and be intentional.

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
VISITING SCHOLARS & ARTISTS SERIES
WINTER SEMESTER

Black History Month Event

Exhibition Opening & Reception
**“Hateful Things: An Evening with Dr. Pilgrim,
founder of the Jim Crow Museum”**

Wednesday, Feb. 5 • 5-7 p.m. • Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum

Dr. Pilgrim will sign his book, “Understanding Jim Crow” during the reception.
Free refreshments and cash bar.

Free of charge and open to the public.

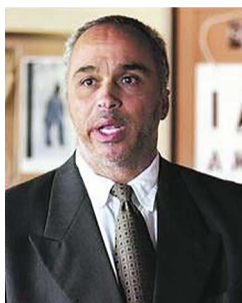
Co-sponsored by the SVSU Office of Diversity Programs

Black History Month Lecture

“Lecture on Hateful Things: Dr. David Pilgrim”

Wednesday, Feb. 5 • 7 p.m. • Rhea E. Miller Recital Hall

David Pilgrim, Ph.D., is the founder and director of the Jim Crow Museum, the nation’s largest, publicly accessible collection of racist objects, located at Ferris State University. There, he serves as vice president for Diversity and Inclusion. Dr. Pilgrim, an applied sociologist with a doctorate from The Ohio State University, is a Ferris State University Distinguished Teacher. He has been interviewed by NPR, Time, BBC and dozens of media outlets, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune and Los Angeles Times. Dr. Pilgrim is also the author of “Understanding Jim Crow: Using Racist Memorabilia to Teach Tolerance and Promote Social Justice.”



David Pilgrim

Free of charge and open to the public.

Sponsored by the SVSU Office of Multicultural Student Affairs
and the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum



For program information, please visit svsu.edu/publiclectures

SVSU will provide reasonable accommodations for those persons with disabilities. Individuals who wish accommodations should contact The Conference Center at SVSU at 989-964-4348 at least three days prior to the need. SVSU does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical impairment, disability or veteran status in the provision of education, employment and other services.



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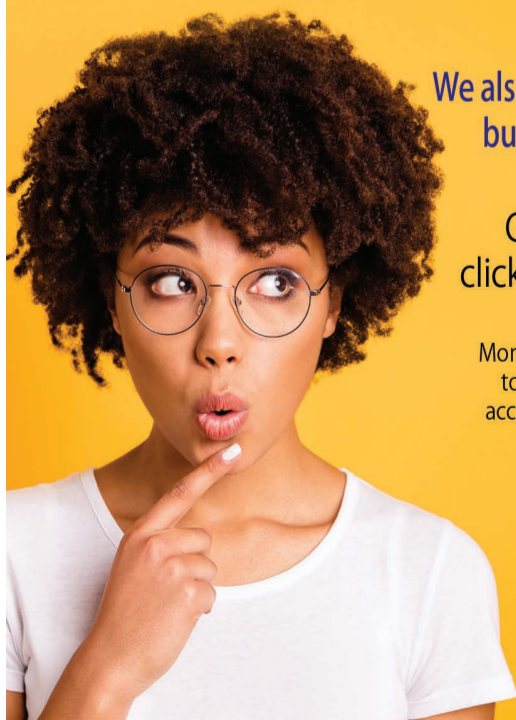
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Smithsonian Exhibition Exploring Importance of Work in American Life Coming to Castle Museum



Young women delivering ice, 1918. National Archives, Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs

SAGINAW, Mich. –Work and the workplace have gone through enormous changes between the mid-19th century, when 60 percent of Americans made their living as farmers, and the early 21st century. The Smithsonian traveling exhibition, *The Way We Worked*, celebrates the history of work in America. It tells the stories of how hard-working Americans of every ethnicity, class, gender and age power the nation. The exhibition will be on view at the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History beginning February 8.

The Way We Worked, an exhibition created by the National Archives, is adapted for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and made possible with the generous support of the United States Congress.

“The work that each of us does every day speaks volumes about who we are as individuals, as communities and as a country,”

said Myriam Springuel, director of SITES and Smithsonian Affiliations. “We all have our own work journeys, and each one of these jobs reflects the various kinds of work that has and continues to build and strengthen the nation.”

The Way We Worked is accompanied by a cell-phone tour that allows visitors to access additional details provided by exhibition curator, Bruce Bustard, senior curator for the National Archives.

The photos featured in the exhibition come from the vast collection of the National Archives, which is home to thousands of photos of work and workplaces taken by government agencies. The images featured in this exhibit though possibly taken merely for purposes of record keeping, often reveal much more about how social forces such as immigration, gender, ethnicity, class and technology transformed the workforce.

A companion exhibit, *Saginaw at Work*, will complement *The Way We Worked*. Using photographs and objects from the Castle Museum's collection, the exhibit will capture individual stories of the labors of Saginaw County residents. Images included in the exhibit will focus on construction, farming, factories and many other trades and professions. An interactive portion of the exhibit will encourage children and adults to explore a mid-20th century office.

Historical Society of Saginaw County members and members of the media are invited to attend a special reception Tuesday, Feb. 11 from 5 – 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information about this exhibit at the Castle Museum, please call 989-752-2861 or visit www.castlemuseum.org.

2020 BRINGING BACK THE ICE AT HOYT PARK

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DATE

Saturday, January 18

EVENT

Night Skate

Enjoy free skate rental compliments of KISS 107.1!

TIME

4:00 - 7:00 pm

sponsored by Jolt Credit Union & Kiss 107.1

Saturday, January 25

School Skate

Wear school colors and enjoy free skate rental compliments of MIX 106.3!

12:00 - 4:00 pm

sponsored by MIX 106.3 & Delta College

Saturday, February 1

Skate with the Mascots

Come Meet Roary from the Detroit LIONS! 1-3pm

12:00 - 4:00 pm

sponsored by Dow & My 96.1

Saturday, February 8

Skate with SVSU Hockey Team

12:00 - 4:00 pm

sponsored by Jolt Credit Union & WIOG 102.5

Saturday, February 15

Skate & Sledding
6th Annual Outhouse Race

Race Starts at 1:00 pm

12:00 - 4:00 pm

sponsored by 97.3 JOE FM

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Find and like our *Bringing Back the Ice* Facebook Page



Posters courtesy of: Dornbos Printing Impressions (989) 755-2116

WIOG will Host 2nd Annual Covenant Kids Radiothon

102.5 WIOG has stepped up to host the second annual Covenant Kids Radiothon to raise funds in support of local pediatric patients at Covenant HealthCare. The Radiothon will air live on 102.5 WIOG from 6:00am until 6:00pm Thursday, February 13th and Friday, February 14th. Hear life-changing stories from Covenant Kids and their families as WIOG raises awareness and funds during this special two-day event. The Covenant Kids Radiothon is presented by Jolt Credit Union and Mike Young GMC of Frankenmuth.

Why Covenant Kids? Covenant is the region's Children's Hospital, in providing health care to children through the following services and more:

- Level III Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (RNICU) offering the highest level of critical care for neonatal infants
- The only Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) serving mid-Michigan and the northern lower Michigan region designed

to care for critically ill infants and children through the age of 17

- ACS-Verified Pediatric Trauma Center — one of only seven in Michigan verified to care for the whole family in an emergency
- Region's only Child Life program
- Community-based urgent care through MedExpress
- Extensive clinical programs for children (autism, diabetes, rehabilitation, cardiology, and more)

Want to participate? Here's how.

1. Listen. Listen in and encourage co-workers to listen to 102.5 FM February 13th and 14th.
2. Call. Dial 1.855.475.KIDS (1.855.475.5437) during the Radiothon to

donate and keep the phone bank volunteers busy!

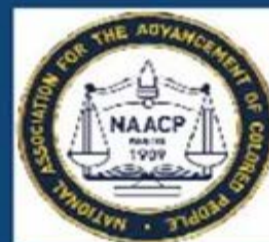
3. Online. Go to WIOG.com to find out how you can help.
4. Share. Mark yourself as going to the event or share with friends to spread the word

Diagnosing sight issues early in premature infants. Easing the anxiety of a child during an MRI. Educating a preteen and her family about how to deal with diabetes. Giving a voice to adolescents with speech limitations. These moments are happening to kids across the region because of Covenant Kids and the businesses, organizations and individuals who support it. Every penny of every gift donated to the Covenant Kids Fund with the Covenant HealthCare Foundation goes directly to support medical programs and equipment for our region's tiniest patients.

More at www.CovenantKidsMI.com or www.WIOG.com. To get involved with Covenant Kids, contact Karen Luplow at 989.583.4166.



Saginaw Branch
NAACP & Youth Council



Celebrate African-American History Month 2020

"African Americans and the Vote"

Sunday, February 2, 2020

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church

810 Cathay Street, Saginaw

3:00 PM

Join the "chain" as communities across the country celebrate African-American heritage and culture by reading works by African-American authors during the Annual African American Read-in. Individuals are invited to share a 3 minute favorite selection or choose one from our book displays by African American writers.

Light refreshments will be served

Online application opens Nov. 1, 2019

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Since awarding our first \$500 scholarship in 1987, the Saginaw Community Foundation has awarded college scholarships to area students totalling more than \$5.3 million, thanks to our generous donors. Each year, over 300 college-bound or career and technical education students benefit from our scholarship awards.

Our single application process makes it easy to potentially qualify for one or more of our 225+ scholarships. **Applications will begin being accepted on Nov. 1, 2019 and must be submitted by Feb. 15, 2020.** Visit saginawfoundation.org/site/scholarships/ for more information or call (989) 755-0545.



Saginaw

community foundation



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BE COUNTED MICHIGAN2020

April 1, 2020 is Census Day. It is important that everyone is counted – and here’s why.

Millions of dollars in federal funding is at stake for Saginaw County. Federal agencies use census data to provide funding at state and local levels for vital community services such as hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, job training centers, senior centers and police departments. The census also determines how many Representatives each state has in Congress. If we get undercounted, we get underfunded and underrepresented.

We’re counting on community leaders *like you* to promote the importance of participation in Census 2020.

Learn more at becountedmi2020.com



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jdarby@greatlakespace.org

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rcosag@yahoo.com

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989-399-0016

Saginaw County Community Action Agency, Inc. (CAC)

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989-753-7741

Saginaw Promise

1 Tuscola St., Suite 100B
Saginaw, Michigan 48607
(989) 755-0545
www.saginawpromise.org

The Michigan Banner Outreach Ministries

301 E Genesee Ave, Suite 201
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-992-2600

The Saginaw Community Foundation

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Saginaw, MI 48607
989-755-0545

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womenofcolor.org

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Bread of Life Harvest Center

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Saginaw, MI 48603
989-790-7933

Christ Disciples Baptist Church

Founder Pastor Eddie Benson
Pastor Genevieve Benson
3317 Lapeer Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-2444

Christ Fellowship Baptist Church

Rev. Robert Davis, Jr.
818 N. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-4435
PastorD818@gmail.com

Faith Harvest Church

Bishop Ronald E. Chipp
1734 N. Mason
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-799-4200
www.faithharvestministry.org
office@faithharvestministry.org

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Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-3212

Greater Renaissance

Pastor Cedric R. Cheatham
1535 S. Warren Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-1455
260-515-6456

Greater Williams Temple

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989-755-5291



Jacob's Ladder

Bishop Elect Dempsey Allen
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Saginaw, MI 48602
989-799-6601

Life in Christ Ministries

Pastor Dennis Cotton, Sr.
2915 S. Washington Road
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-401-4465
LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church

2615 Williamson Road
Saginaw, MI 48601
Pastor Otis Washington
Phone: 989-777-2636
Fax: 989-777-2640
messiahmbc@att.net
www.messiahmsag.org



Mt. Olive Baptist Church

Pastor Marvin T. Smith
1114 N. 6th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-8064



New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry

Pastor Roy & Evelyn
Baldwin
2609 E. Genesee
Saginaw, MI 48601

989-777-8272

Pastorbaldwin@charter.net



New Beginnings Life Changing Ministries

Pastor Otis Dickens
2312 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-755-3650



New Birth Missionary Baptist

Pastor Larry D. Camel
3121 Sheridan
Saginaw, Michigan
989-327-1755



New Covenant Christian Center

Pastor Ron Frierson
2395 S. Outer Drive
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-8485

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Willie F. Casey
1721 Tuscola Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-7600



New Life Baptist Church

Pastor Rufus Bradley
1401 Janes St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-753-1151

New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor Alfred "AJ" Harris Jr.
3610 Russel St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-0801

New Way Ministries

Pastor Dwight & Princess Dobbins
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Farmington Hills, MI 48336
(248) 987-2434
www.thenewwayministry.org



Ninth Street Community Church

Pastor William L. Scott Jr.
Assistant Pastor Rex Jones
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Saginaw, MI 48601
989-752-7366

Prince of Peace Baptist Church

825 North 24th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-754-2841
Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Pastor Carl Ballard
915 Federal Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
Phone: 989-754-0489
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Saginaw Valley Community

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Saginaw, MI 48603
989-752-4769



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True Vine Baptist Church

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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce Announces Position on Saginaw County Ballot Proposals



Courtesy Photo

On Tuesday, March 10, 2020, the people of Saginaw County will go to the polls to vote on countywide ballot proposals. Additionally, the people within the City of Saginaw will vote on city-specific proposals. The Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted to support three proposals for the County and one proposal for the City.

Saginaw County Proposal 20-1 is a renewal request for .2942 mills for Saginaw County Parks & Recreation. This is a six year millage proposal. Funds will continue to support 6 full time staff and 35 seasonal staff, maintenance of all seven parks and trails, programming and capital development. The Board of Directors

voted to **SUPPORT** Saginaw County Proposal 20-1.

Saginaw County Proposal 20-2 is a renewal and increase for .450 mills for the Saginaw County Event Center. The funds will be used to continue Event Center operations and improve deteriorating infrastructure. If improvements are not made to the Saginaw County Event Center, Saginaw will lose a driving force in the downtown resurgence, one that generates both commerce and tourism. The Board of Directors voted to **SUPPORT** Saginaw County Proposal 20-2.

Saginaw County Proposal 1 is a renewal of

7.5 mills for the City of Saginaw Police and Fire Services Special Assessment. The funds will continue to support 20 police officers and 10 firefighters in the City of Saginaw. These public safety officials will continue to reduce crime, and losing them will move the community in the wrong direction. The Board of Directors voted to **SUPPORT** City of Saginaw Proposal 1.

All three proposals are critical to the mission of the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce and our members. We urge a **YES** vote on Saginaw County Proposals 20-1, 20-2 and City of Saginaw Proposal 1 on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Congresswoman Veronica Escobar to Deliver Democratic Response to President Trump's State of The Union

Washington, D.C. – Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) announced that Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer will deliver the Democratic Response to President Trump's State of the Union address on Tuesday, February 4, 2020. Congresswoman Veronica Escobar of Texas will deliver the Spanish language response to the speech.

“Since day one, Governor Whitmer has rolled up her sleeves to get things done for the people of Michigan,” said Speaker Nancy Pelosi. “During her time in public service, she has led the charge to expand health care to hundreds of thousands of people, expand protections for hard-working middle-class families and ensure clean drinking water in our communities. Her decades of hard work on behalf of the people should serve as a model for our nation. She's a forward-looking leader who is laser-focused on solving problems for everyday Michiganders and is uniquely qualified to deliver Democrats' message of progress for all Americans.”

"Governor Whitmer's dedication to Michiganders is a model for public servants everywhere. Thanks to her tireless efforts, thousands more families across the state have access to quality health care, safer drinking water and the opportunity for a good-paying job," said Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer. "Whether it's pledging to 'Fix the Damn Roads' or investing in climate solutions, Governor Whitmer's vision for the future is exactly what this country needs, and I'm thrilled she is giving the Democratic response.”

“Across the country, Democrats are staying focused on building a stronger, more sustainable country for future generations” said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. “As leaders, it's our responsibility to ensure a safe, healthy future for our children and families, and that's exactly what we're working toward in Michigan. That means

protecting our environment from the harmful effects of climate change, ensuring a great public education that gets our kids on a path to a good job that they can raise a family on, and keeping them healthy by expanding access to quality, affordable health care and protecting those with pre-existing conditions. This response is an exciting opportunity to show the American people that not only are Democrats getting things done for them, but also for future generations to come.”

Governor Gretchen Whitmer is a lifelong Michigander, lawyer, educator and former prosecutor, State Representative and Senator. Governor Whitmer was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 2000 and elected to the Michigan State Senate in 2006 where she served as the Senate Democratic Leader and was the first woman to lead a Senate caucus. As Senate Democratic Leader, she led negotiations to expand access to health care for more than 680,000 Michiganders through the state's Medicaid expansion, which has also added 30,000 jobs per year and \$2.3 billion to the economy. Since being elected Governor, she has put together the most diverse cabinet in Michigan's history and has signed executive directives to clean up drinking water, end discrimination in state government based on sexual orientation and gender identity, secure equal pay for equal work and expand opportunities for small and disadvantaged businesses.

“Democrats in Congress are pleased to announce that Congresswoman Veronica Escobar will be delivering the Spanish language response,” said Speaker Pelosi. “Congresswoman Escobar is an outstanding Member of Congress, who made history as the first of two Latinas from Texas to serve in the Congress. In the House of Representatives, she is making a difference for El Pasoans and for all Americans, as she fights to end the gun violence epidemic and to protect children and families at the southwest border. Her values and vision beautifully represent our party and our country, and we look forward to hearing

her positive message of progress.”

"Whether it's giving a voice to Latinos across America, or helping her home town of El Paso heal after gun violence, or holding the Trump Administration accountable for its assaults on the vulnerable, Congresswoman Veronica Escobar has embodied the best of public service in her first year in Congress," said Senate Democratic Leader Schumer. "At times like these, we need champions to step up, so I am thrilled she will deliver the Democratic Spanish-language response."

“I am honored to be delivering the Democratic Spanish-language response to President Trump's State of the Union and look forward to addressing our nation on the progress Democrats have made For the People,” said Congresswoman Veronica Escobar. “Our diversity is our strength. Now more than ever, Democrats will continue to celebrate our diversity, defend our democracy, and work for a more equal and just nation.”

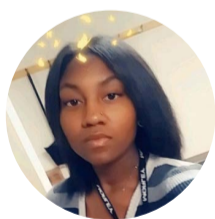
Congresswoman Veronica Escobar proudly represents Texas's 16th Congressional District in El Paso. She took office on January 3, 2019 as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives after making history as the first woman elected to this seat and the first of two Latinas from Texas to serve in Congress. Congresswoman Escobar serves on the prestigious House Judiciary Committee, as well as the House Armed Services Committee. She was elected by the House Democratic Caucus freshman class as Freshman Co-Representative to Leadership and serves in leadership positions on the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC), and the Democratic Women's Caucus. She is also a member of the New Democrat Coalition and the Women's Working Group on Immigration, where she serves as Co-Chair. Before coming to Congress, she served on the governing body for El Paso County, first as a County Commissioner and then as County Judge.

SPORTS

A Dream That Became Reality



Courtesy Photos



Written by
LaShawn Johnson

“Never judge a book by its cover because inside those pages are a lot to be discovered.” The testimony

behind this young man’s life is powerful. Throughout his life, issues arrived that tried to break him, but he overcame every battle he thought was impossible. After experiencing the loss of loved ones, failures, disappointments, setbacks, and instability, you’d think he’d have nothing left to offer. That’s where you’re wrong!! Martel Handley is a man who keeps pushing even when he gets knocked down.

As a child growing up, Martel had no clue what his life would turn out to be. His mother and father were devoted parents who pushed him to live out his dreams. They imparted plenty of things in him to help him grow but their lives were short lived. In 2007 and 2009, he received news that no child ever wants to hear. His parents gained their heavenly wings. Martel’s mindset and heart changed in a major way, but it never blew out the fire in his heart to be successful. It gave him an increase of motivation to make his parents proud of the man he envisioned and promised to be.

Born and raised in Saginaw, Michigan, Mr. Handley graduated from Arthur Hill High School in 2014. Shortly after, he attended

Delta College and earned his Associates Degree in General Studies. Currently, he’s a student at Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina pursuing his bachelor’s degree in liberal studies. He’s been playing basketball ever since he was a kid. “At first, it was just something I enjoyed doing but suddenly I developed a love for it, especially after reaping the positive benefits,” he stated. Although he was offered invitations to some of the top league colleges to play ball, also for educational purposes, Martel chose to start off somewhere he felt was fit for him and climb his goal ladder as time progressed.

One of the qualities he took from his father is being a family man. His relationships aren’t based on who’s blood related or not, just who loyalty stands, which is the reason he has devoted bonds with teammates, coaches, and supportive friends. One of his biggest fans is the only memory of his father he has left besides relatives, his gem and jewel, grandmother Burnell (Vera) Handley. In a recent interview, he mentioned Vera and his coach, Carlos Mcmath, both are parent figures



Continues on pg 48, A Dream That Became Reality

Continued from pg 47, A Dream That Became Reality



in his life. They've helped shape, mold, and build much needed progress in Martel. Everybody needs somebody because we aren't built to live this life alone.

Martel Handley is a driven, talented, hardworking, and self-motivated man. His inspiration to stay focused and be humble

comes from experiences life taught him. The Serenity Prayer is Mr. Handley's favorite quote and scripture because it improves his way of thinking and living. After fulfilling every goal, he wants to travel to Hawaii for a vacation. When he's not busy shooting three pointers or scoring good grades, he spends time upgrading car audio systems in different kinds of vehicles. Kevin Garnett is his favorite basketball player because he's fearless and the man plays with a high level of heart and passion. An uplifting saying he wants to pass to the generations after him is to stay focused on bettering yourself first and after you've reached the top, provide advice and support that can help someone else excel. If anything in this world could be eliminated, he believes it should be discrimination because everyone should be treated equally, respectfully, and fair regardless of race, age, gender, beliefs, or wealth status. In some point of this man's life, he did not have the confidence to go forth with obtaining a basketball career. He worked consistently on improving his skills,

maintaining the best time to push this dream, and hitting a high score when it was his time to shine. Martel played for a few local schools, both junior high and high. When the right time approached, he joined Delta College's basketball team which took his career to higher levels, and helped his team make it to Nationals winning 4th place in the whole nation.



Coaching Staff Announced for 2020 Loons

One returnee, two newcomers bring wealth of baseball experience to Midland



Courtesy Photos

MIDLAND, Mich. -- John Shoemaker is set to return for his fifth season as manager of the Great Lakes Loons in 2020. In conjunction with the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Loons announce the following coaches will be joining him in the dugout for the upcoming season: Seth Conner as Hitting Coach; Stephanos Stroop as Pitching Coach; Elian Herrera as Bench Coach.

'Shoe' is entering his 44th season in the Los Angeles Dodger organization and 27th season as a minor league manager. This summer will be his third consecutive year in the Loons dugout after leading Great Lakes to back-to-back playoff appearances in 2018 and 2019. He previously spent the 2011-12 seasons as Loons manager.

Most recently, Shoe guided the Loons to one of their best seasons in franchise history in 2019, compiling an 81-55 record in the regular season, as well as winning the first half Eastern Division Championship to clinch the Loons' seventh postseason appearance. He has compiled a 282-277 record in 559 games over four seasons as Loons manager and is

the winningest manager in team history. Shoe also became the second manager in franchise history to win Midwest League Manager of the Year in 2019.

SETH CONNER, HITTING COACH
Conner, who turns 28 today, returns to Great Lakes after spending last year as the hitting coach for the Rookie-level Ogden Raptors. The Missouri native got his start in coaching with the Loons in 2018 after playing five minor league seasons in the Toronto Blue Jays organization. He was drafted out of high school in the 41st round of the 2010 MLB Draft and spent 2013 and 2014 in the Midwest League, as a player, as a member of the Lansing Lugnuts. Conner played third base, first base and catcher while posting a .244 batting average with six home runs and 76 RBI in 187 career games.

STEPHANOS STROOP, PITCHING COACH
A relative newcomer to the Dodger organization, Stroop spent last season as the pitching coach with the Arizona League Dodgers and will spend his second season in the minor leagues with the Loons. After

getting his master's degree in sports industry management from Georgetown University, Stroop spent seven years involved in baseball with a variety of organizations. He was an assistant coach with George Washington University (2012-14), an associate scout with the Washington Nationals (2014) and Atlanta Braves (2014-16), as well as a pitching coach with St. Petersburg College (2016-17) and Southern University (2018-19).

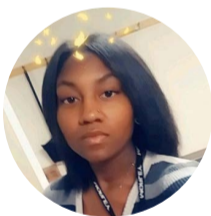
ELIAN HERRERA, BENCH COACH
Herrera, 34, returns for his second season with the Dodger organization and his first with Great Lakes. The former infielder played in parts of four Major League seasons from 2012-15, including two seasons with the Dodgers in 2011-12. He hit .253 with eight homers and 55 RBI in 223 big league games.

The support staff that will be traveling to Midland for the season from the Dodgers includes: Daniel Hayes (Performance Coach), Chelsea Willette (Athletic Trainer), Mac Lozer (Development Coach), James McIntyre (Video Associate).

There are a number of former Loons managers and coaches who will work with other Dodgers minor league affiliates during the upcoming season: Jason Bourgeois, 2019 (Single-A Rancho, Hitting Coach); Jair Fernandez, 2017-18 (Rookie AZL, Manager); Jeremy Rodriguez, 2017 (Double-A Tulsa, Assistant Coach); Fumi Ishibashi, 2015-17 (Dominican Summer League, Manager); Bill Simas, 2013-14 (Triple-A Oklahoma City, Pitching Coach).

Some familiar names from recent years have made the jump to Major League Baseball, as well. Most recently, last year's hitting coach Justin Viele has joined former Dodgers front office member Gabe Kapler as a hitting coach with the San Francisco Giants. Connor McGuinness, who was our pitching coach just three years ago, has joined Dave Roberts in L.A. as the team's assistant pitching coach. And one name that many fans remember from the 2016 MWL Championship team, Aaron Bates is entering his second season as the Dodgers assistant hitting coach.

Built to Lead; Destined to Succeed



Written by
LaShawn Johnson

At the age of 21, Corey Pritchett Jr. has a mindset that is beyond his years. Most young men don't mature until they become adults, but this young man can't be compared to others. Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan but raised in Saginaw, he achieved goals that he didn't expect to. Growing up with nothing inspiring to do around the neighborhood, he found something that brought him joy before he discovered his true talent. The first time he laid eyes on a basketball is a day that he'll always remember. Being surrounded in an environment filled with negative influences, high volume of crime, and poverty backgrounds wasn't enough to convince Corey Jr. not to be the best that he can be. He fought to the finish even when he was encouraged to give up. "You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only option you have."

Corey Jr. graduated from Saginaw High School in 2016. Soon after, he took courses at Grand Rapids Community College to further his education and play basketball, hoping for a shot to show and prove who and what he stands for. However, while waiting for his moment, personal situations occurred that delayed his plan temporarily. Having a mind full of wisdom and a heart that is open to receive, he transferred to Delta College ready to begin a new chapter in his life. Corey Pritchett Sr., his father, gave him the uplifting push he needed. "I look up to my father because he speaks on everything in truth. He taught me everything I know." Jr. quoted.

Losing a loved one is extremely difficult to recover from. Corey is the prime example of being his 'Brother's Keeper'. After losing his blood brother Ta'Carhri a few years back, he just couldn't wrap his mind around the meaning of life. How would you feel withholding information that could bring a family peace and justice? In life, some things we will never understand but we keep on moving along. When Mr. Pritchett started healing, it created a flame within him to do all things he aimed to, not only for himself, but his brother as well. These gentlemen had high hopes for the future and because plans changed, Jr. will still let his brother's life and light shine with and through his life. "My brother was my biggest fan, supporter, and backbone. I never had to question his loyalty because he consistently came through for me." Although he only has memories to hold on to, he will still make sure he carries on his brother's legacy.

There are other great highlights about this successful man besides basketball. Corey loves spending quality time with his family, peers, teammates, and supportive people who believe in his vision. Writing is one of his greatest strengths. It comes in handy when it's needed most. Like many others, LeBron James is his favorite basketball player. Looking to fill some big shoes, Jr. is determined to do whatever it takes to create something greater within himself and the lives of someone else. Struggling to believe he is a star because of not having enough self-confidence along with a chance, Corey has improved his thoughts to line up with whatever God has in store for him. Youth have very little options to choose from because not many people are doing something worth noticing. Those that are paving the way for others to have opportunities bigger than they had are unknown or less talked about because of lack of support and/or funding blockage. If you had a chance to make a difference in someone else's life by telling your story, would you take it? A question that Jr. could not resist saying yes to. Even after responding to that, he also had some encouraging words that he hopes will help someone choose to be a better person. "Chase your dreams rather than attempting to live someone else's. Be different, be brilliant. You got this!"



Courtesy Photos

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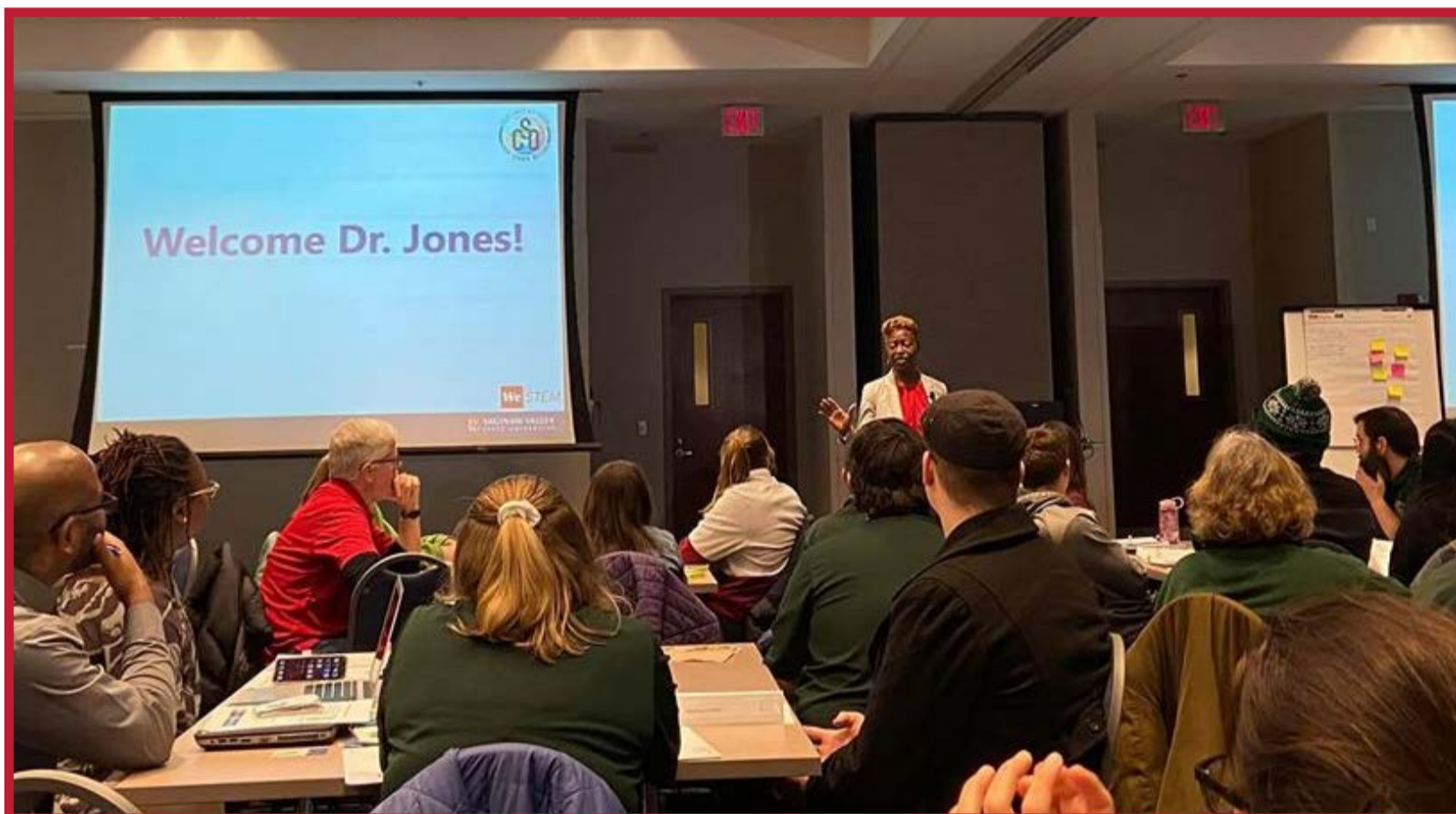
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PICS OF THE WEEK

On January 21, SVSU hosted NASA's Dr. Ruth Jones and inspired regional Chief Science Officers to be the leaders of tomorrow. Dr. Ruth D. Jones, Branch Chief for Industrial Safety Branch at NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama and was also the keynote speaker for the MLK Regional Celebration held on January 22 at SVSU.





We empower.

Brittany Saunders is ready to pay it forward. The Chicago native enrolled at SVSU with ambitions to pursue a teaching career. Brittany was encouraged and invigorated by other passionate educators who worked closely with her to ensure she would accomplish her goals. And she is. Even before she was set to graduate, Brittany could boast a résumé with a paid internship in a school district along with K-12 classroom experience. **Now she can't wait to begin a professional career, inspiring students with the same kind of one-on-one attention she received from her professors at SVSU.**



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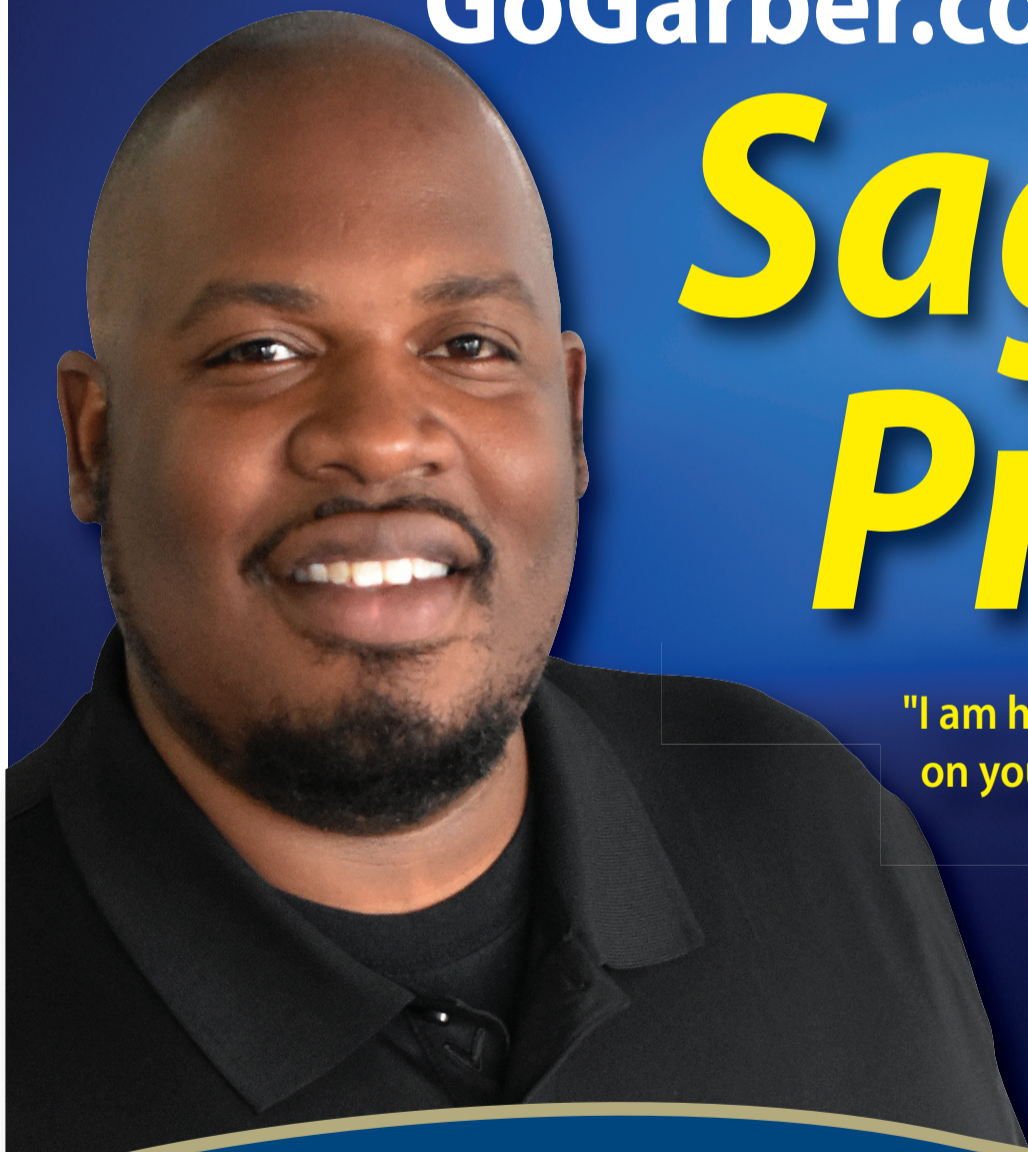
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