



Black Power 2016: The 44 Most Influential African Americans in Wisconsin

By **Henry Sanders** - Dec 19, 2016



Last year, we published our first Black Power list, naming 28 of the most influential African American Wisconsins. I intended this list to highlight the beauty of the diversity in our community. I wanted kids in Wisconsin to see role models of people who are succeeding, to know that it's possible for African Americans to achieve great things here.

That's exactly what last year's list accomplished, and what we hope to continue with this year's list.

This list is not, and was not intended to be, exhaustive. It will, however, introduce you to some people you've never heard of who are doing great things in other parts of the state or simply working behind the scenes doing the work without the accolades.

It was important for us to expand the way we think about influence, and to highlight more of the people who are doing what it takes to improve their community. That's one reason this list is entirely new — we couldn't name anyone named on last year's list to be ineligible for this one, even though most of them continue to

considerable influence.

Over the next five days I hope you learn something you didn't know about some of the real leaders communities throughout Wisconsin, and that we might be able to make some connections and start conversations that really move communities forward.

Henry Sanders



Nigel Hayes is one of the best — and best-known — basketball players in the United States, but more importantly, a real giver in this community and a powerful voice in it. The *New York Times* calls "college basketball's most political room." The UW forward was named the preseason Player of the Year in the Big Ten conference, but has really made a name for himself outside basketball by speaking out on racial justice issues through social media. He's also a dedicated volunteer with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dane County, where he helps mentor and inspire young people, as well as raising money for the club, often without any fanfare or press coverage.



Ashanti Hamilton, the president of the Milwaukee County Council, was thrust into the spotlight last year when he replaced Michael Murphy, who had served in that post for just two years. He was also front and center when riots broke out following a police shooting in August. Since being elected in 2004, Hamilton has authored and sponsored many key pieces of community-focused legislation including the Milwaukee Opportunity and Restoring Employment (MORE) ordinance and the Milwaukee Promise, which was established in 2011 to address police-related disparities and inequality.



Tracey Robertson, founder of the nonprofit organization FIT, comes up if you speak with anyone about diversity in the Oshkosh community. FIT focuses on increasing racial literacy in the Winnebago community. They have held workshops and training sessions with a wide variety of organizations, including The Winnebago County Housing Authority, the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh, the Winnebago Literacy Council, The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, North High School Congregational Church and St. Bernard's Church, to name a few.



A group of Madison's black community activists including **Kaleem Caire (One City Early Learning)**, **Milele Caire (Umoja)**, **Dr. Ruben Anthony (Urban League of Greater Madison)**, and **Greg Jones (Dane County NAACP)** recently come together, naming themselves **The Black Leadership Council**, to deal with the pressing issues facing the black community here. This group has been involved in one way or another in all major racial conflicts in Madison in the past year. They were at the forefront of trying to keep the peace when the young man Tony Robinson was killed by police officer Matt Kenny. They were involved when 18-year-old Genele was beaten by police; in fact, numerous members helped file two complaints with the US Department of Justice and the US Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin against the Madison Police Department over the excessive force used against Genele.



Grady Crosby is vice president of public affairs and chief diversity officer of Milwaukee-based Johnson Controls. He helps keep one of the state's corporate giants focused on being a good corporate citizen. He leads the company's government relations strategies, sustainability efforts and its philanthropic initiatives for social responsibility, community involvement and the environment. As chief diversity officer, Crosby drives Johnson Controls' commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive workforce, as well as partnering with a diverse

vendor/supplier base aligned with company values. He also serves as president of the Johnson Controls Foundation. In 2017 he is co-chairing the Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee Gala. A former

University football player, he also holds a law degree from Wake Forest.



M Adams's work often lands her in nationwide strategy sessions on how community leaders should respond to injustice. She is the co-executive director of Freedom, local nonprofit that works with low-income communities. She is also a co-founder and key member of Young, Black & Gifted. Earlier this summer, she was part of the central focus for the platform for a coalition affiliated with the Black Matter movement that released its first policy platform to promote concrete, real-world solutions to racial and

inequality

Adams is also known internationally; she was a U.S. Delegate to the United Nations' 2014 Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, held in Geneva, Switzerland. Nationally, Adams was part of the delegation to the White House for the LGBT Leaders of Color Summit.



Ann Terrell is the executive director at the Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation. Rarely do we see in Wisconsin a black person leading a foundation, but Ann is doing just that. Before her role with the foundation, she served 13 years as director of early childhood education for Milwaukee Public Schools. Under Ann's direction, the foundation reinvested more than \$1 million in the community through scholarships for MPS grads last year, in addition to funding real-world learning opportunities at Southeastern Wisconsin museums, cultural experiences and scientific venues.



Wesley Sparkman is director of the new Tamara Grigsby Diversity and Inclusion for Dane County, and he represents community on the influential Madison Police and Fire Commission. That commission is the one that keeps the Madison Police accountable to the community. The County has committed racial inequity head on, and called on Sparkman to lead the way. Wes is known for his humility and letting his work speak for itself. A Chicago native came to Madison to attend UW in 1991 where he earned a bachelor's and master's degree. Sparkman is a past member of the Board of SSM Health Care of Wisconsin, the Board of Directors of the Madison Children's Museum, African American Ethnic Affairs, and Access to Independence. He has been recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and the Dane County

Industry Council.



Geraud Blanks founded the Black Lens series, a part of the Milwaukee Film Festival dedicated to showing films by African American directors, in one of the very few film series of its kind in the world. The series screened eight films in 2015, and seven features and six shorts in 2016. He's a managing partner at the creative design firm Kairos Communications since 2001, and worked as a community resource advocate at Sojourner Truth Peace Center. Geraud, the whole state needs the Black Lens series! If you're ready, Madison365 is ready to help.



Telisa Yancy is the Chief Marketing Officer for American Family Life. She is clearly one of the most influential African Americans in Wisconsin, but also in the United States. The Chicago native currently controls almost \$200 million in advertising, in a new campaign featuring John Legend and former New York Yankee Derek Jeter. She was the guest of honor at the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce 2016 Icebreaker luncheon, and she stepped on the stage with Soledad O'Brien interviewing her in front of around 1,000 people. She has recently joined Barack and Michelle Obama, Lupe Fiasco, Michael Jordan, LeBron James, and more on the *Ebony Magazine* [Power 100 list for 2016](#). Not a bad year Telisa!



Muhibb Dyer and Kwabena Antoine Nixon are the cofounders of Flood the Hood With Dreams and the I Will Not Die Young campaign. At a time in our country when our black community are asking where are our black men look no farther than these two. I Will Not Die Young is an initiative that helps young black men in Milwaukee overcome the gun violence they too often experience in their neighborhoods. They are well known as spoken-word poets who often teach and appear together at poetry and other events. They also work in schools to groom the next generation of leaders, teaching young people to speak truth through public speaking, writing and community



Jason Kidd is as responsible as anyone for the turnaround of the Milwaukee Bucks. The San Francisco native played basketball at Stanford before being drafted second overall by the Dallas Mavericks in 1994. He went straight from the floor to the bench as head coach of the Brooklyn Nets in 2013, and the Bucks traded draft picks for his services the following year. Kidd inherited a team that had won a historically low 15 games and turned them to a 41-41 record and a berth in the playoffs. Even though the 2016 season wasn't as successful, Kidd has injected a new level of energy and excitement to the Bucks, as well as the downtown Milwaukee economy on game days. And the Bucks are more connected to the community than ever. Kidd is the perfect ambassador to take the Bucks from an organization with a Milwaukee state of mind to one with a Wisconsin state of mind. Milwaukee is here to help.



Ron Dunlap is one of the elder statesmen of the Fox was drafted by the Chicago Bulls in 1968 out of the U Illinois, and played professional basketball in the US a before going into education, where he really made his moved to Appleton in 1990 to become the principal of Elementary and later became the director of minority services for the entire district. The district now gives t Dunlap Award to students to overcome barriers to ach things, and Dunlap continues his community work as of the board of directors of African Heritage, Inc.



Chief Judge Maxine Aldridge White was appointed by the Supreme Court to serve as chief judge of the state's First Jud District, which is comprised of Milwaukee County, in March of the chief judge, Judge White is the administrative chief of the administrative district and is responsible for the administratio judicial business in circuit courts within the district, including supervising its personnel and fiscal management.

White earned her J.D. from Marquette Law School, where she numerous scholarships and honors, including Law Review and Jur Book Award in Constitutional Law. She earned her master with honors in Public Administration from the University of So California and her bachelor's degree magna cum laude from A

State University.



Gloria Ladson-Billings is a professor, writer, and pro developer in urban education with interests in critical theory, culturally relevant pedagogy, and the power of religious experience. She currently holds the Kellner F Chair in Urban Education at the University of Wisconsin. Recently, she has been exploring hip hop and educationally culturally relevant pedagogical strategy. In other words, working to transform inner-city education and educate students of color nationwide.

Ladson-Billings was recently elected president of the International Academy of Education. She's also a Hilldale Award Winner, Distinguished Service Award Winner, Teachers College

George and Louise Spindler Award Winner and much more. Ladson-Billings is a lifelong Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority member and current president of the Kappa Psi Omega chapter where she dedicates herself to serving the Madison-area community through educational enrichment, health promotion, family strengthening and more.



Emilio Cooper serves as the Senior Vice President, Head of Central Region Retail and U.S. Mortgage Sales for BMO Harris Bank. In that role, he oversees the retail banking in Minnesota and Central Wisconsin. He leads more than 400 mortgage professionals and 1,000 bankers across the United States. In addition to all of his work, he is the incoming board chair for the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County. BMO continues putting people of color in real positions of influence.



Derrell Connor is one of the leading African American broadcast media in Wisconsin. For many years he's been the host of Outreach Radio on WIBA-AM in Madison and The Connor Show in Milwaukee. He became the first African American to host a mainstream daily radio talk show when he took over Madison in the Morning earlier this year. He was recently cast as one of the hosts of the new show All In on CBS58 in Milwaukee and, as our readers might know, he also hosts Madison365 Radio. He's also the founder and host of Boombox, the classic hip-hop radio show on The Sun community radio in Sun Prairie.



Ray Allen is the Secretary of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), and an African American Republican in mostly-liberal Dane County. The Secretary is highly respected in the black community and he leads the state's talent development

agency, DWD connects employers with a robust pool of skilled workers; assists job seekers with achieving their employment outcomes; and oversees the state's Unemployment Insurance, Equal Rights Worker's Compensation programs. Secretary Allen has deep ties to the Madison community as well as a former publisher and owner of *The Madison Times*, a partner and vice president of Madtown Paradise, operates retail stores in Dane County Regional Airport, and a former Madison School board member as a 2007 candidate for Madison mayor.



Sheri Edison is the General Counsel and Corporate Secretary at packaging giant Bemis, one of the largest employers in the Fox Valley. Her responsibilities include the oversight of all of the legal and compliance affairs of the company, including enterprise risk management and trade compliance, responsible for other critical business functions, including information technology and regulatory affairs, and supporting the Board of Directors on governance and related matters. She also serves on the board of directors of the Performing Arts Center in Appleton.



Percy Brown, Jr. is one of the great leaders to arise from the south side of Madison and a true Madisonian who graduated from West High School. He followed his grandfather's footsteps into a career in education, beginning at his hometown school district before moving on to become Director of Instruction and Student Achievement in the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District. Brown is a difference-maker in the lives of numerous youth and was named a Rising Star, one of five President's Awards presented by the Urban League of Greater Madison, at its annual Urban Cabaret at the Monona Terrace. He helped to create the curriculum and also taught a special course on African American History for the Justified Anger Coalition, with about 100 people in attendance. The achievement gaps in Madison are real. Mr. Brown came against the odds and stayed home to make a difference. From one Madisonian to another ... you're inspiring! Or as Jay-Z says, we "love it just to see

make it!"



Khalif Rainey represents Milwaukee's Seventh District on the Milwaukee Common Council and the Second District on the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. Born and raised in the 5th Ward, Rainey was a leading voice during the riots in August, 2016, that took place in his district following the police killing of an African-American man. He is also a board member of the Milwaukee World Festival, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee's Community Brainstorming Conference, Black Male Action (BMA) Advisory Council, Milwaukee County Federated System (MCFLS) and the East Wisconsin Counties Rail Consortium.



Chris Rainey is the Global Diversity for Manpower. In his role, he has the potential to be the most

influential black person in the state. With Manpower's resources, research, and (no pun intended) I manpower, Rowland could have a huge impact on the state which has two of the worst cities to live in America. With great power comes great responsibility!



Sonia Summers, Ranell Washington and Crystal Morgan are three of the four people who founded Social X years ago to give young professionals — especially young professionals of color — a network for social and professional engagement. (The fourth is still involved, but lives in Washington, DC.) What began as a small group of friends gathering at happy hours has become a network of more than 1,000 young professionals who attend regular events and performances together. Understanding the need for Milwaukee businesses, and the local Milwaukee business community more broadly, to recruit and retain young diverse talent, Social X is making a real play for the future of the local economy.



Nia Trammell is an Administrative Law Judge for the State of Wisconsin where she presides over formal proceedings on a wide range of challenging cases involving Wisconsin's Worker's Compensation law. Trammell is current Board Chair of the Board of Directors of the Urban League of Madison and she co-founded the Urban League of Greater Madison's Professionals and served as its president from 2012 to 2015.

Trammell is also a former board member of Dane County Court Appellate Special Advocates. Through Dane County CASA, she has worked with the court to monitor compliance with judicial orders impacting abused and neglected children and their families. Trammell has also been active with Girls on the Run of Dane County, a program that teaches self-empowering healthy life choices to elementary school age girls. She also mentors a student through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Angela Russell is CUNA Mutual's Manager for Diversity and Inclusion, a role seemingly created just for her. She has more than 15 years of professional experience involving diversity and inclusion, external relations and outreach, communications, policy development, and research and evaluation. Russell is responsible for leading the development, direction and implementation of short and long-term strategies and programs that support diversity, equity, and inclusion at CUNA.



Prior to joining CUNA Mutual, Russell worked in various public health including serving as a Health Equity Coordinator for Public Health Madison Dane County and serving as Community Engagement Lead for the national County Rankings & Roadmaps program at the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. Russell started a popular page called "Equity Rocks" that tackles tough issues of equality in Madison.



Sabrina Madison is better known as Heymiss Progress. 2016 could be named the Year of Progress. She left her full-time job at Madison Community College a year ago to launch her career as a "socialpreneur." She founded Conversation Mixtape to spur

love, built the Black Women's Leadership Conference where over 250 women showed up and put a spotlight on Black-owned businesses through the first Black Business Expo, which around 500 people attended. She didn't stop there. She expanded the Black Business Expo for Black Friday, where over 60 black vendors exhibited and 2,000 people attended, spending their dollars with black entrepreneurs. She continues to write for Madison365, planning events and consulting. In a very short period, she's almost single-handedly energized and transformed the entire Black entrepreneurship scene in Madison.



Rob Davis, Director of Player Engagement for the Green Bay Packers, retired as a player from the Packers in 2008 after 10 years as the team's primary long snapper. An undrafted free agent out of Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, Davis played for the New York Jets, Kansas City Chiefs, Chicago Bears and Baltimore Stallions of the Canadian Football League before joining the Pack in 1997. Since stepping off the field, Davis has served the Packers in maintaining locker-room cohesiveness and overall player health. He assists players in acclimating to their roles, both on and off the field and in the Green Bay community. Any NFL team has a big impact on the community, the Packers more than most, as Green Bay

smallest city in any of the major professional sports league in the country. Keeping those players' heads straight, and guiding their involvement in the community, is an important job for the entire Fox Valley community.



Kimberley Goode is vice president of Communications and Corporate Affairs at Northwestern Mutual and supports the company's community involvement as a member of the Northwestern Mutual Foundation. Goode has earned numerous awards from industry organizations, including the Communicator of the Year from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), whose New Jersey chapter in 2003 named her Communicator of the Year. She also received Outstanding Women in Marketing and Communication from Ebony magazine in 2002 and was selected one of America's Best and Brightest Business and Professionals

by National Publications and Dollars & Sense magazine. She is also a member of the boards of Big Sister Sisters of Metro Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Urban League.



Tim Gaillard serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, one of the most influential health systems in the Midwest. He heads up UW Health's practices in Oncology and Radiation Oncology, Orthopedics and Rehabilitation, Neurology and Neurosurgery, Transplant and Organ Procurement and Heart and Vascular. He also leads the ancillary services of Pharmacy, Radiology and Clinical Laboratories. His other responsibilities include Administrative Surgical Services, Wisconsin Dialysis, and Value Analysis. He is the preceptor for the hospital administrative residency.

He chairs the hospital's Technology Assessment Committee and the Value Analysis Executive Oversight Committee. Tim is a member of the hospital's Authority Board's Audit and Finance subcommittees. He serves on several community boards.



Danae Davis is Executive Director of Milwaukee Succeeds, a collective impact, community-wide initiative that unites hundreds of individual organizations around a common purpose of improving educational outcomes for every child in every school, cradle to career. She previously served with PEARLS for Girls, a unique leadership development program serving girls from middle school through high school, and beyond, in Milwaukee. We encourage girls to live out the PEARLS values: Personal Responsibility, Empathy, Awareness, Respect, Leadership and Support. Before taking that role, she worked for seven years as the Director of Diversity Management at Pilsener Brewing. Danae also serves on the Board of Radio Milwaukee.



Greg St. Fort is the Executive Director of 100State, a community co-working space in Madison, Wisconsin. He works to bring entrepreneurs into Madison's entrepreneurial ecosystem and small business ecosystem. His members include students, entrepreneurs, and change agents of all types. 100State

regularly hosts problem-solving events, workshops, and discussions for the community. St. Fort, a Queens, New York, has a passion for team building, marketing, and event production and believes that success can only come true when people come together. His beliefs led him to founding his own company called LetsKeepBuilding, also known as LKB, which brings together entrepreneurs of all backgrounds by building relationships through technology, and events, and community initiatives.



Judge Everett Mitchell was sworn in as a circuit court judge at the Dane County Courthouse this past summer. He is the third African-American judge in the Dane County Circuit Court. Mitchell is a well-known advocate for social justice and racial equity in Madison who graduated from Morehouse College with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and religion and earned his law degree from UW. He has received numerous

awards and honors including the Presidential Scholar award in Mathematics, the American Scholar Award, the Mathematical Scholar, and the Urban League Young Professional of the Year Award.

Mitchell is also senior pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church in Madison, a congregation of over 400 members. The former assistant Dane County District Attorney, Mitchell was most recently the chief of community relations for the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he was responsible for a \$350,000 investment in South Madison "the Partnership" office space that engages University and Community Partnerships.

Andrea Williams is the News and Public Affairs Director for five Lakefront Communication Stations in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She produces and hosts a weekly Public Affairs program. Just like watching a couple of her shows, you will see a "Who's Who" of guests. Williams has delivered news on XM Satellite Radio and is currently the executive producer and host of On the Edge in Milwaukee, a local public affairs television program, on Milwaukee's My 24 and CW 18.

A graduate of Central State University, Williams is well known for her involvement in the Milwaukee community. She has worked at several schools and has hosted many community events and telethons for the United Negro College Fund. Regarding her career, Williams is a former six-year veteran of the Milwaukee Bucks Energy! Dance Team and has worked for 10 seasons as the Milwaukee Bucks Official Gameday Host.

Janel Hines is the Director of Grant Programs and Strategic Initiatives at the Milwaukee Foundation. The Rufus King High School alum earned degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and UW-Madison Law School before returning to Milwaukee. Earlier in her career, she was honored as a "Rad Woman" at the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee's annual dinner. Hines is a member of Professional Dimensions, which promotes the professional and personal growth of women through social and business networking through community participation. She is also a 2016 Professionals Learning & Leadership Community, Equity & Smart Growth (PLACES) Fellow with the Funder's Network. The PLACES Fellowship challenges assumptions and exposes Fellows to new ways of thinking about the role of philanthropy in empowering historically underserved and low-income communities.

Craig Robinson is the Milwaukee Bucks' vice president of player and organizational development ... and also still plays some pick-up ball with his brother-in-law who happens to be the President of the United States (for a few more weeks, at least). He's Michelle Obama's older brother, but tends to shy away from center stage, though he's gotten his share of the spotlight as a Division I men's basketball player at Brown and Oregon State. He recently joined the Bucks to work with the youngest roster in the NBA. In that role he's responsible for the personal and professional development of those young men, helping them become valuable members of the community.

Damond Boatwright is Regional President for SSM Health. He oversees three SSM Health hospitals in Wisconsin. Damond has helped to lead the rebranding of St. Mary's to SSM. He serves on the boards of Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) and the Wisconsin Chapter of American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). He also is a man whose priorities are his faith and his family. In his spare time he enjoys competition in various sports contests.

Martin Lakes, Jackie Johnson, Aaron Hicks, Jerome I. Jones, Anthony Cooper, Mini Cooper, Caliph Muab'El and others formed the **Focused Interruption Coalition** to interrupt patterns of violence in Madison, especially among African American men. Led by local community activists, the coalition worked with Boys and Girls Clubs CEO Michael Johnson, Mayor Alders Matt Phair and M...

Cheeks and Mayor Paul Soglin on a 15-point plan to make systemic changes and reduce violence. E...

just another plan — Soglin allocated, and the Common Council approved, \$400,000 in the 2017 City of Madison budget to begin implementation of the plan. Talking and planning is one thing ... when you check signed, though – that's real influence.

Lisa Peyton-Caire is Assistant Vice President, Diversity, Inclusion and Wellness at Summit Credit Union, and an educator, writer, women's health advocate, non-profit and change agent. Her driving focus is in all that she does to empower and expand opportunity and access to children, adults, families and communities; and to build strong communities where all members are positioned to thrive.

Lisa Peyton-Caire is the founding director of The Foundation for Black Women's Wellness, a Wisconsin-based non-profit organization committed to eliminating health disparities and other barriers impacting the lives of African-American women and girls. Spurred by her mother's untimely death from breast cancer disease in 2006, Peyton-Caire established Black Women's Wellness Day in 2008, an annual health event that aims to inform, inspire, and empower women and girls of African descent to build and sustain wellness-centered lives.

Dr. Shelton Goode is the first-ever Director of Diversity, Inclusion at Oshkosh Corporation. He has held executive Diversity positions for companies with budgets ranging from \$500 million to \$20 billion. Dr. Goode earned his doctorate in public administration from the University of Alabama. He is a decorated Air Force veteran and an accomplished author who has won numerous awards but the one that sticks out is being awarded the HR Trailblazer award in 2005 and the National Association of African Americans in Human Resources award. Dr. Goode has helped Oshkosh Corporation bring its programs right into the communities of color in the Fox Valley.

Corinda Rainey-Moore is a Community Outreach and Enrichment Coordinator at the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families and a key advocate in the community for breaking stigmas associated with mental health issues. The Chicago native believes in the health of all women in her community, and is committed to reducing health disparities among African American women.

Rainey-Moore is a graduate of UW-Madison where she earned her bachelor's degree in communications. She has two master's degrees, one from UW-Whitewater in Corporate Communications and one from the University of Southern New Hampshire in Community Mental Health with an emphasis on Dual Diagnosis. Rainey-Moore serves on many boards such as the Board of National Alliance on Mental Health and the Suicide Prevention Task Force on the Board of Safe Communities. Her participation in the planning committee for The Black Women's Wellness Foundation's Black Women's Wellness Day allows hundreds of African American women to receive education and information on pertinent health topics.

Jasmine Johnson serves as the Chair of the Board of One Million Black Women, an organization that seeks to embrace diversity, cultivate new leaders, and increase the cultural diversity in leadership, board, and advisory positions with effective collaboration across the profit, non-profit, and government sectors. She's also the founder of 29Eleven Events, which brings interactive cause marketing initiatives to urban areas through individuals and bridge volunteerism in a non-traditional manner to bring impact and drive results that give hope and a future. She is also a cofounder of 29Eleven with her young son Jeremiah, who has already started his own philanthropic mark generating nearly \$5,000 to support a family shelter through his Jeremiah's T.O.Y.S. Drive. In other words, Jasmine's influence is already spreading to the next generation.

Shelia Stubbs represents Madison's south side on the Dane County Board of Supervisors, where she is also second vice chair, the African-American woman to serve in that role. She takes a "less talk, more action" approach and has led the way in County Board leadership to address racial disparities, including the creation of a community restorative court and a staff team created to ensure that every government decision is made through the lens of equity. She serves on many boards and committees, and has held leadership positions with the NAACP at the local and state level. She also founded Women of Excellence Ministries.

Norman D. Davis was hired by Paul Soglin as the new City of Madison Department of Civil Rights Director this summer. Davis has over 17 years of experience in civil rights and affirmative action, serving the City of Madison from 2001 and the Department of Civil Rights since its inception in 2006. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Davis most recently served as the Division Manager of the Affirmative Action Division and also spent several years working for the State of Wisconsin.

field.

Harold Rayford is the founder, CEO and president of 1800 Days, a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating the educational achievement gap. He is the Pastor of The Faith Place Church in Sun Prairie and has been a member of the assembly his entire life following in the footsteps of his father in the Gospel model in ministry, the Honorable Bishop Richard E. Young, Sr. Bishop Rayford is also President of the African American Council of Churches of Greater Madison as Chairman of the Minnesota, Wisconsin, Dakotas District Council (MWDC) of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. He is also an accomplished musician, songwriter, a winner of a Dove Award and two Stella Awards as a gospel jazz saxophonist.

Who's influential in your world? Want to nominate someone for next year? Let us know [by email](#) or on [Facebook](#)!

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