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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2021



Celebrating Black History During A Pandemic



RACISM

Committed to serving our community

Froedtert Health is committed to valuing and celebrating the wealth of diversity reflected in patients, their families, staff and communities. We are committed to being an inclusive and culturally competent organization that provides exceptional care to everyone.

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Froedtert

Vice President Kamala Harris

By Ana Martinez-Ortiz

Elections, by default are historical, they mark a changing of the guard and the possibility of improvement. The American presidential election of 2020 signified something more than a new leader in chief, it signified progress on the road to an equitable country.

Vice President Kamala Harris is the first Black and Asian American per-

certificate as a former senator.

Since then, Harris has committed to fighting the coronavirus pandemic. This includes addressing issues related to vaccine distribution, schools, housing and employment. Part of these efforts include the American Rescue Plan; which Harris has been promoting.

"Families and businesses need our help, now. That's why @POTUS and I are calling on Congress to pass the

"... I received my second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine during a visit to @NIH. When it becomes available to you, don't wait – get vaccinated. It's safe, easy, and it saves lives,"

son to be vice president, she's also the first woman to hold the second highest position in the United States. Her political career began nearly 20 years ago, and it's been ripe with progress since the start.

Harris was the first African American woman district attorney in San Francisco, the first African American attorney general in California, the first African American senator in California and the second African American woman in the senate.

Harris, who originally campaigned for the Democratic bid before dropping out, became President Joe Biden's running mate in August. Following a tumultuous election in November 2020, Harris officially became vice president earlier this year on Jan. 20, 2021.

According to a BBC interview with Barbara Perry, the director of presidential studies at the University of Virginia's Miller Centre, historically the vice president's role wasn't that big. They were seen as the backup in case something happened to the president, but over the years that has changed, and vice presidents have taken on a more active role.

Harris for her part, swore in three new senators shortly after being sworn into her new office herself. She also had to read her own resignation

American Rescue plan, which: -Gets people vaccinated -Provides resources so that schools can safely reopen -Gets economic relief to individuals -Helps small businesses," Harris tweeted from the official vice president account.

In subsequent tweets, Harris has urged Congress to act on the American Rescue plan and set it in motion.

Additionally, Harris received the COVID-19 vaccine and shared a photo of her receiving her second dose.

"Today, I received my second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine during a visit to @NIH. When it becomes available to you, don't wait – get vaccinated. It's safe, easy, and it saves lives," Harris tweeted on Jan. 26.

Over the past few weeks, she's spoken with elected officials around the globe including Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron. According to the White House, Harris and Macron spoke about strengthening the ties between France and the United States, climate change and efforts to support democracy. For Harris and for all Americans, this is only the beginning. And while it may be too soon to know what her legacy will look like, one thing's for certain: it is a legacy that will never be forgotten.



Celebrating *Black History* by Documenting the *Black Present*

By Lolly Bowean

In her more than 50 years of working at The Chicago Crusader newspaper, Dorothy Leavell can vividly remember the pulsating energy of the newsroom as reporters covered the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s visit to Marquette Park in 1966.

She can instantly recall the rush of excitement in the office from reporters writing about the 1963 March on Washington, and years later the National Black Political Convention in Gary, Indiana. She clearly remembers overseeing the coverage of the mayoral campaign of Harold Washington and his eventual election.

Leavell can even remember lesser

Leavell was an administrator at The Crusader in the 1960s. She replaced her husband, Balm L. Leavell, as publisher in 1968 when he died.

As the country turns its attention toward the past to celebrate Black history this month, for many African American journalists and storytellers,

he said.

"When my granduncle started The Chicago Defender, one reason he did it is because the mainstream media published so little about African Americans," Sengstacke said.

"Our people did more than commit crimes, live and die. Many African

Sengstacke said, the coverage shapes what we now know about the period. That's a role the Black press—and Black reporters, writers and storytellers—still play, he said. "Even though the mainstream media is covering African American issues more, there are still stories and news and information in the African American community going uncovered," he said. "The Black press fills that void."

Sengstacke is no longer with The Defender newspaper staff. Instead he and his family run the organization's foundation, The Chicago Defender Charities, which, among other things, helps train younger journalists to go into newsrooms and cover the Black community with authority, balance

"I am walking history," she said. "I can recall so many instances that went on to become big, big deals. We tried to give those events blanket coverage at a time when our resources were even more scarce than now."



Dorothy R. Leavell



Lolly Bowean



W.D. Floyd



Marc Sengstacke

known historical events the paper covered, like the electric chair execution of James Dukes, a Black man convicted of killing a police officer. The Crusader used Dukes' legal case to push for abolishing the death penalty.

"I am walking history," she said. "I can recall so many instances that went on to become big, big deals. We tried to give those events blanket coverage at a time when our resources were even more scarce than now. People volunteered and would call and give us on the scene accounts.

"Looking back, it's history. At the time, we were doing our job of pushing for better conditions, better housing, better jobs for Blacks," said Leavell.

honoring Black history has meant documenting the Black present and the Black presence.

For Leavell, that has meant covering the daily lives, the events, the issues and occurrences relevant to Black people, even as most of the community remained neglected and overlooked by other media outlets.

Similarly, the founders of The Chicago Defender didn't create the paper to make history or even with a mission of recording history for Black people, said Marc Sengstacke, who is a grandnephew of the paper's creator and longtime publisher Robert Sengstacke Abbott. The Defender staff wanted to draw attention to Black life in the moment and push for justice and equality—a better future,

American newspapers were founded and flourished for that same reason: they gave us stories (about us), we couldn't see anywhere else."

Throughout the 1900s, The Defender wrote about job insecurity, unfair wages, rampant discrimination, and especially the violent racial terrorism enacted upon African Americans living in the South. The writers, editors and publisher used the news pages to advocate for a mass Black exodus from the South to Chicago.

The newspaper documented the experiences of African Americans who migrated here and is credited for spurring the Great Migration. The paper's coverage not only informed the community at the time,

and nuance.

A major goal of Field's Media and Storytelling portfolio is to support voices from Chicago's communities that are too often overlooked. Field is especially focused on African, Latinx, Asian, Arab and Native American voices that provide balanced perspectives and nuanced views from residents that don't get their stories told.

For photojournalist and portrait photographer W.D. Floyd, the historical journey of Black people in Chicago informs all of his work, he said.

In many ways, it's easier to look backward—history allows us to criticize without personally offending and to romanticize without account-

Continued on page 15

Black History is *Everyone's* History

This Black History Month is far different than any in my lifetime. The road so many traveled to get us where we are today was not easy, and last month, we saw just how much farther we have to go and how difficult the road ahead will be.

In the words of my dear friend, John Lewis, "We may not have chosen the time, but the time has chosen us."

Just weeks ago, my colleagues and I witnessed firsthand the racism and bigotry that still runs throughout our county as a mob of domestic terrorists invaded the Capitol waving Confederate flags, wearing Camp Auschwitz shirts, and even hung a noose outside the building – all to keep a racist in the Office of the President who was openly undermining our democracy.

The resurgence of racism and bigotry in our country incited by elected political leaders must be stopped.

These same political leaders have openly disrupted both our voting and civil rights and are yearning for a return to the Jim Crow era. Make no mistake about it, white nationalism has no place in America and will not

like Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and GEORGIA!

We will not allow Donald Trump and his insurrectionist cronies to erode the immense progress we have made – the progress that brought

ism in Officer Eugene Goodman and the countless officers who put their lives on the line to protect the Capitol from racist, radical insurgents. We must honor their sacrifices, and all those who came before them as we confront the hardships we face today and on the road ahead. It allows us to see how far we have come, but yet how far we have to go to achieve true equality.

My friends, our road to recovery is long – and that journey often typifies the struggle and strife that the Black community has and continues to endure, especially during a global health pandemic. But I have faith that we can do it, and we will do it together.

Please visit [gwenmooreforcongress.com](https://www.gwenmooreforcongress.com) for information, and share your opinions with me on [Facebook.com/GwenMooreforCongress/](https://www.facebook.com/GwenMooreforCongress/), [@GwenforCongress](https://twitter.com/GwenforCongress) on Twitter, and [@gwenmooreforcongress](https://www.instagram.com/gwenmooreforcongress) on Instagram.

"We may not have chosen the time, but the time has chosen us."

be tolerated.

It was not until 1965, with the passage of the Voting Rights Act, that many more black men and women were allowed to vote. However, America has made huge strides in spite of other barriers like producing a photo ID to vote, the closing polling sites in black areas and other egregious behavior to take away the franchise. Black voters continue to press forward and are largely credited for delivering the election in swing states

us the first woman of color serving as Vice President and the first Black man serving two terms as our President. This same progress that created the opportunity for a single Black mother, from humble beginnings, to represent you and the great state of Wisconsin in Congress.

My mentor, Vel Phillips, once asked, "What did you do today that was good?"

Even on the darkest day in the history of our nation, we saw hero-

Join Rep. Gwen Moore

in Celebrating

Black History Month

FEBRUARY

2021

N Vel R. Phillips Av



The Definition of Serial Entrepreneur

Dr. Mary Ellen Strong was born in Indiana in 1921. Her family migrated North from New Orleans and would eventually settle in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She began her career as an entrepreneur out of necessity due to limited economic opportunities for Blacks in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin business roots: Her first business was the Negro Business Directory in Wisconsin published in

1949. In addition to publishing the directory, she launched the Milwaukee Defender newspaper in 1956 which at that time was Wisconsin's only Black weekly newspaper. During those years, she also ran an employment agency.

Relocation to Chicago: After the loss of a local election, she moved to Chicago in the 1960's and began working for the Chicago Courier, a



Dr. Mary Ellen Strong

weekly newspaper founded by S.B. Fuller, a self-made Black millionaire who became a mentor to Strong. Strong's fierce work ethic and talent as a saleswoman enabled her to quickly rise in rank and she became the marketing director for the newspaper and was honored as Businesswoman of the Year by the Chicago Chamber of Commerce.

Strong took her marketing experience and launched her own marketing company called The Welcome New Neighbor Service. The company did door-to-door sampling in African American neighborhoods throughout the United States. Strong's compa-

Continued on page 14

MESF Mary Ellen Strong Foundation

Strong Spirit Strong Mind Strong Community

Promoting Mental Health in the
Black Community



Providing Resources



Supporting Students



Healing the Healers

HELP US HELP OTHERS
DONATE TODAY
MARYELLENSTRONG.ORG

Mary Ellen Strong Foundation a 501(c)(3) charitable organization

Governor Tony Evers and Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes On the Importance of Black History Month

Black History Month provides us with an opportunity to recognize the tremendous contributions Black Wisconsinites have made and continue to make across our state and our country. From music and the



Gov. Tony Evers

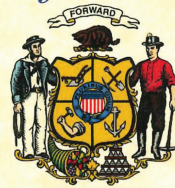


Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes

arts to scientific achievements to movements for social justice and civil rights, Black people have fundamentally shaped American culture and society—and we recognize and celebrate Black history as American history.

As we reflect on these contributions and celebrate the Black leaders of the past, we must also celebrate those currently fighting to achieve justice and equity in our state and to shape our future. We know we have a long way to go to live up to our nation's promises of justice and opportunity for all, and our administration will continue to do everything in our power to create a state where all Black kids and families, workers and business owners, artists and innovators, and leaders can thrive.

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; celebrated nationwide since 1976, Black History Month was borne out of the efforts of historian Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland to research and promote Black achievement in the early 1900s, as well as the subsequent, nationwide call for racial equality that defined the civil rights movement of the 1960s; and

WHEREAS; Black History Month encourages us to celebrate the countless scientific, artistic, economic, entrepreneurial, and intellectual contributions of Black Americans in our communities, and to recognize the collective struggle for full citizenship, equity, inclusion, and justice that Black Americans have endured throughout our nation's history; and

WHEREAS; this year's Black History Month theme is "The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity," aiming to explore and honor the Black family – and its many different definitions, variations, and complexities – as a foundational institution of African American life; and

WHEREAS; this Black History Month, while we reject the notion of the Black experience as monolithic, we acknowledge that the Black family has long been misunderstood, misrepresented, and disrespected, and we affirm our commitment to meaningful action to support Black families and communities throughout Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; as we reflect on our collective past, and on the events of the past year, in particular, as violence against Black lives took national focus, we must lay bare that the crimes and struggles of our ancestors cannot be separated from our country's modern history and that many of the injustices and inequities that Black Americans have historically endured have remained deeply entrenched in our country's culture and institutions; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin celebrates and encourages Black excellence, condemns infringements upon the personal autonomy and constitutional rights of Black Wisconsinites and Black Americans, continues to demand justice, equity, and accountability for Black lives in our state and country, and honors the important work being done in our communities to create a more inclusive, equitable, and just state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim February 2021 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.



By the Governor:

Douglas La Follette
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the
Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to
be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the
City of Madison this 27th day of
January 2021.

Tony Evers
TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

Everyone Can Help Crush COVID

By Marlaina Jackson, MPA

*Interim Commissioner,
Milwaukee Health Department*

The pandemic has filled the past year with inconvenience, challenges, and tragedy. Everyone is looking for better days ahead.

We can move forward together, and all of us can help reach that goal. The precautions we have heard about still make sense; wear a mask when outside your home, avoid groups of people, and, when you are away from home, keep at least six feet apart from others.

If we are finally going to put an end

to the pandemic – and crush COVID here in Milwaukee – scientists and public health professionals say we need to get as many people as possible vaccinated. So far, in Milwaukee, the response has been strong. The supply of the vaccine here has not kept up with demand. But that's changing, and efforts are underway to reach everyone, particularly people who are skeptical about being vaccinated.

It is important that we listen to our neighbors. The distrust and fear that some people express are honest sentiments. Deliberative dialogue can go a long way to bridge differences of

opinion.

The Milwaukee Health Department wants people here to have the best information available so that each person can make an informed decision about getting the vaccine. A good place to start is the Health Department's website at Milwaukee.gov/coronavirus, or the Department's MKEHealth social media channels. Additionally, anyone can telephone for information at (844) 684-1064.

COVID exposed some long-standing health disparities here and around the country. One can look at infection trends, testing data, or vaccination rates and see Indigenous,

Latinx, Black and African American communities have not been served sufficiently. As the Milwaukee Health Department declared in 2019, racism is a public health issue, and this pandemic plainly shows that change must occur.

Right now we need to take every reasonable step to crush COVID. We want fewer people infected with the virus, and, in turn, fewer people hospitalized and fewer people dying.

COVID has hurt us in many ways. It has impacted schools and jobs and families. It is safe to say we all want the pandemic to end. And, to reach that goal we all have a part to play.

Wash Your Hands



Wear Your Mask



Watch Your Distance



Our **HISTORY** is important
and so is our **FUTURE**.

Crushing Covid **TOGETHER**
is key to moving forward.

Learn more about vaccine safety, eligibility, sign up for alerts,
and schedule your vaccination appointment on our website.

If you do not have internet access, please call (414) 286-6800. Appointments are limited based on supplies.



EVEN AFTER GETTING THE VACCINE - REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

wear your mask + wash your hands + watch your distance



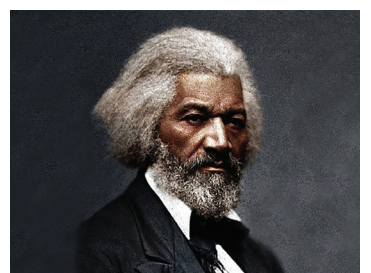
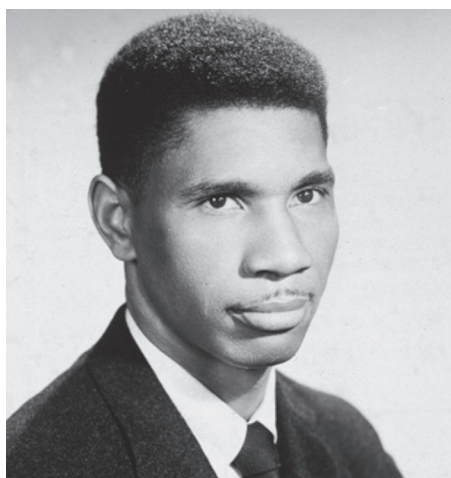
milwaukee.gov/covidvax

#MKECares #StaySafeMKE #CrushCovidMKE



**CITY OF MILWAUKEE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF OUR HISTORY MAKERS



UWM Announces Retirement of Vice Chancellor Joan Prince

By University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Dr. Joan Prince, the vice chancellor of Global Inclusion and Engagement at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a nationally renowned advocate for equity, is retiring after more than two decades of distinguished service at her alma mater.

Her retirement is effective Monday, March 1. Appointed vice chancellor in 2000, Prince has been a tireless supporter for the inclusion of all students, faculty and staff in driving UWM's dual access and research missions. Her influence stretches far beyond southeastern Wisconsin.

In 2012, President Barack Obama nominated Prince as an alternate representative to the 67th General

Assembly of the United Nations, with the honorary rank of ambassador. She also served as a member of the 2013 United States delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women.

More recently, Prince served on the civic nonpartisan board of the host committee for the 2020 Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee. The Network Journal selected Prince as one its 25 Influential Black Women in Business for 2020, and she has been a fixture on the Milwaukee Business Journal's Power Brokers list.

Prince's ties to UWM run deep as a four-time graduate. She arrived at UWM at age 16 as a freshman and earned bachelor's degrees in general studies and medical technology, a master's degree in clinical laboratory sciences, and a doctorate in urban



Dr. Joan Prince

education with a focus on STEM education.

"Dr. Joan Prince has served this university extraordinarily well for

20 years as the vice chancellor for Global Inclusion and Engagement. She is an effective administrator,

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WE WANT YOU TO MAKE HISTORY!

You dream of starting a business, teaching in a Milwaukee classroom or providing health care to your community. Those dreams are within reach, and we want to help you get there.

At UWM, you'll find support from a host of programs, including:

Black Student Cultural Center

African Diaspora Council

Department of African and African Diaspora Studies

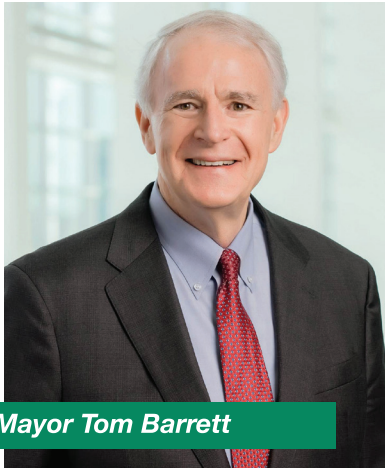
Connect with us at undergraduateadmissions@uwm.edu
or 414-229-2222.

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
UWMILWAUKEE



Mayor Tom Barrett's Statement on Black History Month

February is Black History Month, a time to honor African American change makers, educate ourselves on often untold events and find wisdom from the lessons of our past. We know that there are many details



Mayor Tom Barrett

of our nation's history that are far too often neglected or pushed to the wayside, rich history that changes the way we see our present.

Some exciting changes are coming to prominent areas of the city to help us remember and honor Black history. The area of Old World Third Street, as it spans from West McKinley Avenue to West Wisconsin Ave, will be renamed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive so that we may honor Dr. King's legacy in pursuit of a more just future on one of the most prominent streets in downtown Milwaukee.

In addition, the Milwaukee Fire Department's headquarters will soon be named after Alonzo Robinson, both Milwaukee's and Wisconsin's first African American architect. Alonzo was the designer in charge of the headquarters during its completion in 1961. He has an expansive portfolio of work that spans across the city, which includes homes, religious buildings and community centers.

One month is far too short to celebrate the many stories of Black accomplishment and achievement in our nation's history. Black history is American history, and we should celebrate it every day. I challenge the residents of this city to continue learning about the less told and

often forgotten stories from our past well beyond this month. Let us keep

rewriting our notions of the past by including all voices and perspectives

in order to build a more just, a more equitable and a brighter future.

Office of the Mayor

CITY OF MILWAUKEE



Proclamation

Whereas: The City of Milwaukee proudly joins the Milwaukee Courier and community members in celebrating Black History Month during the month of February 2021; and,

WHEREAS, Black History Month unites communities across the world to celebrate African American's achievements and contributions; and,

WHEREAS, Black History Month recognizes the invaluable contributions of African Americans to our country's history and educates community members on their contributions; and,

WHEREAS, Black History Month raises awareness surrounding the centuries of oppression of African Americans and encourages individuals to reflect and act on the continued struggle for racial justice in America; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Milwaukee joins community members and individuals throughout the world in celebrating Black History Month;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOM BARRETT, Mayor of the City of Milwaukee, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2021, to be

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

throughout the City of Milwaukee.



Tom Barrett
TOM BARRETT
Mayor

BREAKING BARRIERS: OUR ANCESTORS' DREAMS

THE COUNTY'S FIRST BLACK
CHAIRWOMAN & 1ST VICE CHAIR



CHAIRWOMAN
MARCELIA NICHOLSON
DISTRICT 5
2016-PRESENT
CHAIRWOMAN, COUNTY BOARD

THE COUNTY'S FIRST BLACK
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
DAVID
CROWLEY
2020-PRESENT



SUPERVISOR
SEQUANNA TAYLOR
DISTRICT 2
2016-PRESENT
1ST VICE CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD



SUPERVISOR
WILLIE JOHNSON, JR.
DISTRICT 13
2000-PRESENT
VICE CHAIR, FINANCE &
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS



SUPERVISOR
FELESIA A. MARTIN
DISTRICT 7
2018-PRESENT
CHAIR, ECONOMIC &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



SUPERVISOR
RUSSELL ANTONIO
GOODWIN, SR.
DISTRICT 18
2020-PRESENT

SHOULDERS OF THE GREAT ONES WE STAND ON



SUPERVISOR
ISAAC N.
COGGS
DISTRICT 6
1964-1968



SUPERVISOR
CALVIN C.
MOODY
DISTRICTS 2,6
1964-1972



SUPERVISOR
CLINTON E.
ROSE
DISTRICT 1
1968-1977



SUPERVISOR
TERRANCE L.
PITTS
DISTRICT 7
1972-1994



SUPERVISOR
BERNICE K.
ROSE
DISTRICT 1
1977-1992



SUPERVISOR
ELIZABETH M.
COGGS
DISTRICT 10
1988-2010



SUPERVISOR
NATHANIEL J.
STAMPLEY
DISTRICT 1
1992-1996



SUPERVISOR
LEE
HOLLOWAY
DISTRICT 5
1992-2012



SUPERVISOR
TERRANCE J.
HERRON
DISTRICT 2
1993-2000



SUPERVISOR
MICHAEL
MAYO, SR.
DISTRICT 7
1994-2018



SUPERVISOR
JAMES G.
WHITE
DISTRICT 1
1996-2008



SUPERVISOR
JOSEPH L.
DAVIS, SR.
DISTRICT 2
2000-2003



SUPERVISOR
TONI M.
CLARK
DISTRICT 2
2003-2010



SUPERVISOR
JOHNNY L.
THOMAS
DISTRICT 18
2008-2012



SUPERVISOR
NIKIYA Q.
HARRIS DODD
DISTRICT 2
2010-2012



SUPERVISOR
EYON
BIDDLE, SR.
DISTRICT 10
2011-2012



SUPERVISOR
DAVID
BOWEN
DISTRICT 10
2012-2014



SUPERVISOR
RUSSELL W.
STAMPER, II
DISTRICT 5
2012-2014



SUPERVISOR
KHALIF J.
RAINEY
DISTRICT 2
2013-2016



SUPERVISOR
MARTIN
WEDDLE
DISTRICT 5
2014-2016



SUPERVISOR
SUPREME MOORE
OMOKUNDE
DISTRICT 10
2015-2020

Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett is Becoming A Household Name

By Ana Martinez-Ortiz

When the coronavirus pandemic began, people were told that it would take a while for there to be a vaccine. Several months ago, the world listened with bated breath at the announcement that there was not one vaccine but two vaccine available for distribution: the Pfizer and the Moderna vaccine.

One of the main reasons the Moderna vaccine exists is in large part to immunologist Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, a research fellow and scientific lead at the National Institute of Health and a Black woman. Corbett was the co-lead on the coronavirus vaccine team.

Corbett was born and raised in North Carolina. She attended the University of Maryland Baltimore as a Meyerhoff Scholar, according to CBS News. The scholar program mentors minorities and women interested in science.

According to ABC News, Corbett



Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett

spent her summers in laboratories, aiding in research and deepening her own knowledge on the subject. After finishing her undergraduate, Corbett began studying virus infections as a research assistant while earning her doctorate at University North Carolina Chapel Hill.

In 2014, she joined the National Institute of Health's vaccine research

center as a postdoctoral fellow.

When news of the coronavirus first became public, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told the team to prepare, and Corbett – armed with six years' worth of research and work – was ready for the challenges that laid ahead, ABC News reported.

Ten months later, the Moderna vaccine was ready to be distributed. Corbett's work on the vaccine is especially significant given the historical mistreatment of Blacks by the medical community. The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment and Henrietta Lacks are prime examples of the medical's fields maltreatment of Black Americans.

The years of mistreatment in the forms of misdiagnosis for example has led to a lack of trust between many in the Black community and medical professionals. For some, this has manifested itself in a hesitancy to receive the vaccine.

In an interview with CBS News, Corbett said she didn't realize the impact her visibility would have. As it is, her visibility has proved to be a significant gamechanger.

According to Nature, a scientific journal, Corbett has been giving scientific talks since she was 20. In an interview with the publication, Corbett explained that she presents on the topics that people need to know. She tries to make it understandable and she always leaves rooms for questions.

She added that she is working on educating people on the development of the vaccine to ease people's doubts. Vaccines could play a role when it comes to equalizing health disparities, Corbett said in the Nature interview.

Corbett's work is no small achievement, and while it could be considered the highlight of her career, all signs indicate that this won't be the last time Corbett becomes a household name.

HONORING
BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

MILWAUKEE AREA **Technical College**
Transforming Lives, Industry & Community

matc.edu

Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley

Celebrates 2021 Black History Month

"Each February we get to celebrate the proud history and contributions that Black Americans have made



David Crowley

here in Milwaukee County and across the nation. We honor generations of people who have enriched our society, pay homage to the giants of the past who fought to realize the promise of this country and recognize the amazing potential of the future through the work of current generations of leaders who continue to transform our communities through activism, service, and leadership.

"As we honor Black History Month, we recognize that there is still work to do towards making Milwaukee County a more equitable place for everyone. Justice and access to

equal opportunity are undercut by generations of the systemic racism that pervades our institutions at every level of government. While we celebrate, Milwaukee County is also pushing forward with our strategic plan to achieve racial equity and make our county the healthiest in the state of Wisconsin.

"Our shared vision for the future is bold, but we've already made great progress in transforming the County and taking the first steps toward achieving equity. Today, County leadership is more reflective of the residents we serve, for the first time nearly two-thirds of County department leaders are Black, and over half of them are women. We're helping shape the state, and even national, discourse on an equitable response to the pandemic with our COVID-19 dashboard which was one of the first in the country to explicitly track data by race – and the data continues to drive how we channel resources to fight the pandemic. We're bridging the gap on health disparities by pivoting to a No Wrong Door model of customer services to break down silos and create easier access to quality care. And, we're investing in equity by channeling millions of

federal dollars in COVID-19 relief to the most vulnerable and underserved communities in Milwaukee County.

"This Black History Month, we recommit to our vision of achieving racial equity and making our county the healthiest in the state. To do so, we draw the inspiration to think big and the courage to be bold from the legacy of those who came before

us and worked to push us toward progress. I look forward to honoring those legacies this month, and every month, as Milwaukee County continues to rise to the challenge this moment calls of us. Guided by our vision of the future and our reverence for the achievements of the past we will keep moving forwards to a future of equity and justice for all."

Retirement of Vice Chancellor Joan Prince

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strategic thinker, problem solver and mentor to many," Chancellor Mark Mone said. "As a rare and special four-time Panther alumna, for this campus, community, state and country, Joan has served admirably, and we will miss her."

Prince worked with five chancellors during her tenure. Part of her responsibilities include serving as the university's chief inclusion officer. She has

"To be able to say at the end of the day that if nothing else, these students were able to accomplish some of their life goals," Prince said, "that's what I really love to hear."

led many important campus-wide initiatives, including the establishment of the first curriculum for anti-bias training, which begins this semester, and formation of a program dedicated to advancing historically underrepresented students and first-generation students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

Outside of UWM, Prince's resume includes leadership in positions such as president of Tempo International, the global women's networking organization. Prince also served as a board member and governance chair of The Council on Foundations, the international foundation membership association, and a board chair of the Urban Libraries Council.

Prince's service to hometown civic organizations includes tenures on

the boards of trustees of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and the Milwaukee Public Library. She served as chair of the board of the library system that she first used at age 9. Prince will leave behind a legacy as someone who cared for all people and tried her best to help make life and outcomes positive for

everyone she encountered, whether at her office in Chapman Hall or at the U.N. building in New York. "Personally, Joan has been

a dear and valued colleague and her mentorship and our friendship will continue as she transitions to the next phase of activities that we call 'retirement,'" Mone said. "I suspect that she may be even busier!"

Prince takes pride in the lasting relationships that she has built with many former students. She recalled a recent phone conversation with a woman she first met at age 15, when the woman met Prince in her office and told her that she wanted to become a doctor. Today, that woman has finished her residency rotation as a medical student.

"To be able to say at the end of the day that if nothing else, these students were able to accomplish some of their life goals," Prince said, "that's what I really love to hear."

Serial Entrepreneur

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ny held major contracts with Sears, Purex, Kelloggs, Kimberly Clark and Proctor and Gamble.

In 1980 she combined her marketing expertise with her publishing background to create Black Family Magazine. The focus of the magazine was to encourage the preservation of the Black family unit. She refused to accept cigarette and liquor advertisements and focused content on issues impacting the deterioration of the Black family in the United States. The magazine was published until 1985.

Atlanta: In the eighties in addition to her businesses, she also became an ordained minister. After publishing

Black Family Magazine, she became a sought after guest speaker for churches, conferences and on Christian television programs often speaking about women and family issues. In the nineties she returned to her publishing roots with the Atlanta Courier Journal newspaper and began her own spice company called Gugi's Global Foods. She worked as a pastoral advisor and continued to run her spice company until her death in 2012.

Her legacy lives on through the Mary Ellen Strong Foundation. For more information: <https://maryellen-strongfoundation.org/>

Why I'm encouraging my community to get the COVID-19 vaccine

By Gwen Lea,
RN, Coordinator, Sickie Cell Clinic

As far back as I can remember, I wanted to be a pediatric nurse. My mom died when I was 10 years old, and I distinctly remember that was when I had the first thought that I

underserved when it comes to health care. I felt this even as a young nurse. I know many African Americans have a long history of mistrust when it comes to the medical community. So I take my role as a nurse who is also African American very seriously. Through direct patient care,

continues to be my hope that if more African Americans are seen getting the vaccine, it will encourage others to do the same.

Being a nurse, I trust the science and I know these companies have been making vaccines for years. Those who know me well — my family, friends and the families I care for — know that I would not have gotten the vaccine if I didn't think it was

safe. And I know sharing my experience has made a difference — the families I care for every day have told me so. Many of the parents of the patients I see have said they will likely get the vaccine when it becomes available because of the example I set. They are able to see in person that I got vaccinated and that I am doing well. It is my hope my single decision will have an impact on many.



wanted to be a nurse. After that, there was no other choice. I have now been a pediatric nurse for more than 35 years.

When I got my start at Children's Wisconsin, some of my first patients were children with sickle cell disease. Caring for kids with this disease quickly became a passion. So, when a position opened up in the Sickie Cell Clinic, I was eager to apply. That was more than 20 years ago.

I love this group of patients in particular for a few reasons. This is a group of children you get the opportunity to follow closely until they become adults. But it's not just the kids. Sickle cell can also be a very stressful disease for parents and caregivers. I have always felt if I don't help take care of the needs of the parent, then the needs of the child will not be met. And education is a key part of that. I love to educate and I know it makes a difference.

As you likely know, sickle cell disease predominantly affects African Americans. As a nurse who is also African American, I felt I had a unique opportunity to help this population get better health care through education and advocacy. I believe the African American community is

advocacy, education and setting an example, I know I have a special role to play in helping heal those historical wounds and making sure our community gets the care it needs.

Much like sickle cell disease, COVID-19 has affected African Americans in disproportionate numbers. There are many reasons for this, but I think mistrust plays a big role. I know there is a lot of hesitancy in African American communities to get the COVID-19 vaccine and that played a big role in my decision to get vaccinated. In fact, I was the first person at Children's Wisconsin to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and I did not hesitate to do so. I feel great — a sense of relief — and I didn't experience any significant side-effects. After the second dose, my arm was pretty uncomfortable for a couple of days, but nothing that kept me from carrying on my daily activities.

I truly believe COVID-19 will only go away if the majority of our community gets vaccinated. For that to happen, there needs to be more education in the African American community. Because this population is more hesitant and less trusting, I felt I could do my small part by getting the vaccine and showing that it's safe. It was and

Celebrating *Black History* by Documenting the *Black Present*

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ability. But while the majority celebrate a Black past, Floyd says his mission is to photograph Black people in their everyday lives—without a catalyst news event as reason to snap images.

“For so long, Black people haven't had the agency to control how we were viewed in front of the lens,” he said. “Photography was used as a propaganda tool—it was weaponized to hurt us. Then, when Black folks were able to photograph themselves, it came with the (baggage) of the politics of respectability because we felt we had to prove we could look and act like White people.”

So, for Floyd, he concentrates on taking street portraits—images of African Americans living in their everyday moments, which reflects the tradition of James Van Der Zee, Jamel Shabazz and Dawoud Bey. And when Floyd is teaching his younger charges at his West Side photojournalism camp for 360 Nation, he tells them to ask their subjects if they can take their photo before shooting. That way, the subjects can have authority in the process and help determine how they want to be documented.

“The question that gets raised is ‘what's the point of photographing them?’,” he said, about outsiders who sometimes probe his work that doesn't center celebrities, politicians or even the wealthy. “But I know we are worthy. I know that there are great historical implications in making images of Black people in our spaces

that, one day, may not even still be here. I know the photographs we make today ... there will be greater significance for them later.”

Likewise, Leavell said when helping to decide what her newsroom will focus on and where it will direct its attention, she thinks about the present moment and what it will mean for the future—as generations look back on the history being made today.

“If it ever gets to the point where our story is being told widely and accurately by the mainstream media, and that puts me out of business, I'm not going to be mad,” she said. “But I can't see that happening soon. Only the Black press has been consistent in telling our stories. We need a Black voice to put word on paper about what's happening in our community.”

About media and storytelling

Lolly Bowean manages the Media & Storytelling portfolio. The goals of the Field Foundation's Media & Storytelling program, a partnership with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Democracy Fund, are to: create more just and inclusive narratives about Chicago that foster policy change; amplify the voices and impact of African, Latinx, Asian, Arab and Native American journalists, media makers and storytellers in the local media landscape; and support more reporting and storytelling by traditional and alternative journalism platforms about the root causes of the city's inequities.

Thank you for leading the fight against COVID-19

As a nurse at Children's Wisconsin for more than 35 years — including 20 caring for kids with sickle cell disease — Gwen Lea, RN, has touched the lives of countless families in the African American community. But even considering all her years of service, being the first at Children's Wisconsin to get the COVID-19 vaccine may be the most impactful thing she's done. Knowing COVID-19 has affected African Americans much more than others, Gwen led by example and encourages her family, friends and community to get the vaccine.

Visit [Milwaukee.gov/covidvax](https://milwaukee.gov/covidvax) to see if you are currently eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.



Kids deserve the best.

childrenswi.org

