The Professional Development Program provides wraparound support for Black students pursuing their Master’s of Social Work at UW-Milwaukee. This wraparound support includes providing substantial tuition scholarships, matching students with mentors who are all Black licensed mental health professionals with years of experience and providing professional growth opportunities such as networking, workshops, and participating in community activities. MESF takes a hands-on and individualized approach to the professional development of its scholars which sets it apart from other programs supporting students.

MESF Executive Director Dr. Stacey Jones describes the programming. “We have been blessed with an amazing group of advisors, mentors and scholars who are all committed to one common goal—healing the Black community in Milwaukee through providing mental health services.” “I think that everyone agrees that we need more Black therapists and there is no quick fix to this problem as it takes years to educate and train people to do this work. MESF is investing in the next generation of Black mental health therapists.” To date, all MESF’s scholars have received their MSW on time and are now working in the mental health field.

Mayor Cavalier Johnson with members of the Mary Ellen Strong Foundation (MESF). Pictured (left to right) MESF Scholar Shyterria Sparkman, MSW; MESF Board Member Dr. Myrana Pumphrey; MESF Scholar Jasmine Seymore, MSW; MESF Board Chair Carolyn Wright; Mayor Cavalier Johnson; MESF Scholar Carrie Robinson, MSW; MESF Advisory Board Member Dr. Yvonne Bell-Gooden and MESF Executive Director Dr. Stacey Jones. Photo by Sims Strong Studios

Mary Ellen Strong Foundation Supports Black Graduate Students

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Milwaukee Public Schools hosted its annual Senior Send-off on Friday, June 17, at Rufus King International High School. The event helps students celebrate the end of high school and the start of new adventures in college and career. Class of 2022 graduates attended to enjoy food, music, games, and great prizes for a dorm room or apartment.

A number of graduates were nominated for “Senior of the Year” honors, recognizing their persistence in overcoming obstacles to exhibit exceptional achievement. Many MPS students have faced significant challenges in their lives and are now on their way to college with multiple scholarships.

Congratulations to Jaden Bandy on being named Senior of the Year! Bandy was valedictorian at Milwaukee Marshall High School and will attend Milwaukee School of Engineering in fall.

During the event, students also received information about supports available in MPS College and Career Centers this summer. For hours and more information, visit the MPS College and Career Center page. Check out our Summer Workshop Series, find summer work on your future college campus, and to see what else the College and Career Centers have to offer this summer!

MPS Celebrates Valedictorians & Salutatorians

Congratulations to all MPS valedictorians and salutatorians! As we celebrate graduation, MPS wants to recognize its highest-achieving students. We are especially proud of the young women and men who have excelled and attained the highest grades in their class.

MPS Senior Send-Off Helps Students Take Next Steps

MPS Class of 2022 Valedictorians

Cari Ann Thompson
Elizabeth Nieves
Dulce Medina
Wahida Osman
Andy Vue
Jose Ramirez
Jada Williams
Pavelak, Devon A
Angel Madruga Rodriguez
Shaquana Arnold
Lily Sadlar
Gabrielle Acevedo
Elle Rae Baltravsky
Ruby Carman-Frank
Lola Crowley
Findsy Grabant

Jonathan Edwards
Samuel Elko
Alexander Gramajo
Renee Harris
Cassidy Katrin Pettigrew
Meg Klander
Felix Koch
Peyton Koch
Dasha Lafford
Alicia Lezama
Benjamin Lobes
Elizabeth Literski
Costello Mylott
Mariana Reed
Stella Richards
Milo Tasman
Christina Vargas
Maegan Wozniak
Kennedy Young
Lillian Zippers
Sincerely Whitey Smith
Tee Mou Hser
Jaden Bandy
Soren Ditzenberger
Katherine Villanueva
Nou Vang
Aaianae Bowle
Jasmine Morris
Angel Bernabe
Malek Abu-Shawish
Elliott Barta
Nolan Burger
Diego De Haan
Dylan Duffy

Special congratulations to Milwaukee Courier owner and CEO Dr. Jerrel W. Jones, who received an honorary doctoral degree in recognition of his contributions to society and to the well-being of our fellow citizens that reflect the Franciscan values to which Stritch is dedicated.

CONGRATULATIONS STRITCH CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATES!

Your Stritch education has prepared you to transform the communities where you live, work, serve and lead. We are proud of your accomplishments and look forward to your continued success.

CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY
www.stritch.edu
On Sunday, May 15, 2022, Jerrel Jones received his Honorary Doctorate in Humanities from Cardinal Stritch University. This honor was bestowed due to his work as a media pioneer and lifelong service to the Black community.

Jerrel Jones was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His business accomplishments include (but are not limited to) The Milwaukee Courier (1964-present) and WNOV (1972-present). Given his strong presence in the Black community over the last six decades, he has played a major role in shaping politics and culture. WNOV was one of the first radio stations in the world to give airplay to Marvin Gaye’s album “What’s Going On” as well as thousands of other Black artists (especially during the rise of Rap/Hip-Hop) who were not able to break into mainstream markets. He was active in the civil rights movement from the onset and has been instrumental in political campaigns from local offices to the presidency for decades.

Although he had to abandon his goal of completing college due to the demands of running multiple businesses and raising a family, education has always been of the utmost importance to him. He and his wife of 63 years Earnestine have five children all of whom graduated from prestigious schools. In addition to his business and personal accomplishments, he has also held international titles for Chess and a Black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

At 82, he continues to consult and remains an important figure in the community.

Jones accredits his success to having strong role models such as serial entrepreneurs S.B. Fuller and Jones’ mother Dr. Mary Ellen Strong (pictured above). He was also mentored by Dr. Carlton Goodlet early into his publishing career.
“Congratulations Mr. Jones! I’ve known you most of my life, you and my dad playing chess together and making business moves throughout Milwaukee. Communications by song and print are important parts of keeping our community informed. Shout out to Mr. Jones for your years of being a vehicle of communication these many years. Peace be with you.”

– Speech, Arrested Development
MPS Celebrates
Valedictorians
and Salutatorians

Continued from page 3
Angela Gordon
Marlen Monar-Gomez
Gus Pointer Mace
Alexandra Rapp
Emily Roemer
Ariah Ross
Magdelyn Rowley Lange
Alexander Valenzuela Casquez
Cassandra Vivieros
Zeno Wilson
Richard Zarling
Saulia Venos Puente
Damarrion Scott
Supranee Yang
Samanta Russo Allen
Lanya Sims

MPS Class of 2022 Salutatorians

Shakira Dawson
Leo Burdick
Sparrow Horstyk
Yazaira Lopez
Jayna Hogan-White
Lilliana Rubio
Raydon Rodriguez-Mendez
Yeddi Bonfil-Moranchel
Lizet Rojas Martinez
Shilz, Gita
Angie Torres Ayala
Mousa Qatoum
Sebastian Robinson
Alderwoman Milele A. Cogg
Senator Lena Taylor
Spencer Coggs City of Milwaukee
Treasurer
Joy Bramble
Kerri Watkins
Sandra Stewart
Bernie Foster
Marcia Wayer
Brenda Andrews
Will Martin
Cynthia Luckett
Martha Love
Mae Bolden

Congratulations
2022 Graduates and Special Recognition To
Dr. Jerrel W. Jones

Mayor Cavalier Johnson
Gerard Randall
Congresswoman Gwen Moore
Carole Geary
Dorothy Leavell
John Smith
Dr. Amelia Ashley-Ward
Marcus Mays
Mr. & Mrs. Roemel Brown
Sandra Robinson
Faith Colas
Tiffany Maclain
Mr. & Mrs. Robby Robinson
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Pratt
Dr. Sharon Barnes
Ben Barnes
Alderwoman Milele A. Cogg
Spencer Coggs City of Milwaukee
Treasurer
Joy Bramble
Kerri Watkins
Sandra Stewart
Bernie Foster
Marcia Wayer
Brenda Andrews
Will Martin
Cynthia Luckett
Martha Love
Mae Bolden
Kathleen Hoh
Mark Wade
Anna Hodges
David Bowen
Brian McKaig
Ann McCullah
Dr. Yvonne Bell-Gooden
Cassandra Lanier
Dr. Khyana Pumphrey
The Jones Families
The McGinnis Family
The Solakian Family
County Executive David Crowley

250 E Wisconsin Ave. STE 950
Milwaukee, WI 52202-5818
(414) 297-1140

June 15, 2022
Dr. Jerrel Jones
In Care of Cardinal Stritch University
6801 N Yates Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53217

Dear Mr. Jerrel Jones,

It is with great honor that I congratulate you on being awarded recipient of a 2022 honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Cardinal Stritch University. I cannot think of a more deserving candidate than you to be acknowledged for such an award. You were an inspiration to the many Cardinal Stritch students in attendance who heard you speak.

Mr. Jones you are a trailblazer not only in the Milwaukee African American Community but in African-American culture across the United States. You were the first Black owner of a newspaper and radio station in the United States. You founded the ultra-inspirational and ultra-influential medias: The Milwaukee Courier (1964-present) and WNOV (1972-present). You were one of the first to give airplay to Marvin Gaye’s album “What’s Going On,” as well as thousands of other Black artists who were not able to break into mainstream markets. You were essential in giving Rap and Hip-Hop early radio time before America accepted it as popular music. You were active in the civil rights movement from the onset and have been instrumental in political campaigns from local offices to the presidency for decades. Your contributions to media were widely influential for over 60 years across many areas and cultures.

Most importantly you understand the necessity of African Americans having a reliable and consistent news service. Not only did you design your company for sustainability, but you also trained many African American professionals to have a voice in media companies across the country. You understood the importance of having a voice for the people. I understand you had to give up on attending college because of time restraints of running two successful businesses. However, your time and experience in the industry is worth countless degrees and I am happy that you are finally getting the formal recognition of all the knowledge you shared.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District, I would like to again congratulate you on being awarded the 2022 honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Cardinal Stritch University.

Sincerely,

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress
Newspaper Publishers
(The Black Press of America)

Congratulates

2022 Graduates
and Our NNPA member

Dr. Jerrel Jones

for Receiving His Honorary Doctorate Degree
in Humane Letters