



NEWS

MIAMI ALLIANCE OF BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATORS HONORS OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS

CONTACT: India George
305-995-1334
district1@dadeschools.net

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF DR. STEVE GALLON III

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The Miami Alliance of Black School Educators (MABSE) honored several of Miami's finest and legendary educators at its Inaugural Legacy of Excellence in Education: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow Awards Dinner and Celebration on Thursday, September 6, 2018 at NOMI's Restaurant in North Miami.

MABSE, an affiliate of the National Alliance of Black School Educators, is dedicated to improving the education of all students, yet is specifically sensitive to the needs and interests of Black students and communities. The organization carries out its mission of advocacy through its professional and community network of educators, parents, students, and business and community stakeholders.

The inaugural event is the vision and brainchild of District 1 School Board Member and MABSE's new President, Dr. Steve Gallon III, a life-long educator. An audience of nearly 200 gathered to pay homage and tribute to retired and present educators. They were saluted by Miami Gardens Mayor Oliver Gilbert and newly elected State Sen. Jason Pizzo. Honorees included:

- more -

- Dr. Solomon Stinson, Former School Board Chair and Retired Deputy Superintendent
- Dr. Geneva Woodard, Retired Associate Superintendent
- Ms. Johnnie Perry Batist, Retired Teacher
- Ms. Valtena Brown, Deputy Superintendent, Chief Operating Officer
- Dr. Derrick McKoy, President of Dade Association of School Administrators and M-DCPS Principal at MAST Academy
- Bernadette Toussaint Pierre, President of Association of Haitian Educator of Dade and M-DCPS Teacher at Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School
- Ms. Cisely Scott, Principal of Olinda Elementary, and 2017 M-DCPS Assistant Principal of the Year
- Mr. Derrick Negron, Principal of Carol City Middle and 2018 M-DCPS Assistant Principal of the Year
- Ms. Tawana Akins, Curriculum Coach, Community Activist, and 2018 NEA Award Winner for Social Justice

The event, which also served as a membership drive, provided an opportunity for Black educators to come together, celebrate each other, and build and strengthen bridges between generations.

"My success, starting out as a teacher, is due to countless educators who mentored and supported me to rise through the ranks and serve as principal, district administrator, Superintendent, and now School Board member," Gallon said. "As educators, we need to be proud of who we are and what our journey and legacies represent. We need to understand where we came from and the people who sacrificed and broke down barriers to help us get there."

Gallon, who became the first and only Black educator in Miami to start as a teacher and rise to the level of Superintendent in 2008, says he is indebted to many of the people that were honored.

The evening ended with City of Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum congratulating the honorees and discussing the value and respect deserving of public educators. Gillum also shared his journey to becoming the first of his siblings to graduate from high school and college and the role that education has played in shaping his life.

For more information about MABSE, please visit <https://mabse.org/>.

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