

Bio-Dawn M. Jones

Dawn M. Jones is a community activist and is recognized for her contribution to the South Bend Community for the past 20 years serving in various capacities including working for United States Congressman, Tim Roemer. She has been an advocate for underprivileged students for the past 30 years. As Executive Director of the YMCA Urban Youth Services, she has developed programming which introduced students to the building industry as well as post-secondary education. The graduation rate of students participating in her programs has been recognized as 99% successful. She has been advocating for public education as she continues to serve as school board member for South Bend Community School Corporation. She is currently in her fourth 4 year term. She was board president for two years, vice-president for two years and secretary for three years. As a school board member she assisted with the development of a "virtual" career academy which provided avenues for students to obtain their Certified Nursing Assistant license, Chef's certification, and beautician license and much more as well as dual credits fostering partnerships with local colleges such as Vogue Beauty School, Ivy Tech, University of Notre Dame and Indiana University South Bend. She has also been a strong supporter of the Magnet Academies which have a proven success record since their inception beginning 2001.

She also worked with Manchester College cultivating middle school students to receive scholarships to attend the 4 year college through the Hawthorne Program. A program designed through a partnership between the Urban League of St. Joseph County, the Urban League of Fort Wayne, and LaCasa de Amistad of South Bend.

She is not afraid to speak out on serious issues such as the over representation of African American students in and out of school suspension as well as an under representation of African American students in Advance placement and honors classes. She continues to support plans which encourage cultural competency training in public schools as well as promote opportunities for minority students to seek careers in education. Her passion is to ensure that every student obtains equal opportunities to improve and enhance their academics ultimately improving their quality of life.