

The Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences

LOU STOKES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FELLOWS



Congressman Lou Stokes with the Stokes Fellows at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences.



Kahlil Gross of Stone Mountain, Georgia, earned his undergraduate degree in communications from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University in 1993. He currently is a training consultant for the non-profit division of

D&E Group in Morrow, Georgia, where his work involves preparing community members for home ownership, promoting financial fitness, and encouraging community involvement. Gross is a founding member of Atlanta Urban League Young Professionals.



India Pierce Lee graduated in 1994 with a management degree from Myers University in Cleveland, where she resides. Lee is the senior program director at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) office for Cleveland and northeast Ohio. She served as director of Cleveland's Empowerment Zone and executive director of the Mt. Pleasant Now Community Development Corporation.



Alvin Lindsey, who earned his undergraduate degree in political science from Atlanta's Morris Brown College in 1991, is a grants writer and program leader for the Fort Valley State University Community Development

Corporation in Fort Valley, Georgia, where he lives. Lindsey served as director of Community Investments for United Way of Metro Atlanta, and has extensive experience in grants and programming.



Paula McCoy, of Winston-Salem, NC, received an undergraduate degree in English education, and a master's degree in education administration and supervision from North

Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro. She is a program officer in the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) office in Winston-Salem, and has experience in teaching, community activism, non-profit organizations and neighborhood associations.



Everett Miles, Jr., who spent 32 years with IBM in global product management, lives in Raleigh, North Carolina and is on his second career, serving

as executive director of the Eagle Village Community Development Corporation in Durham, North Carolina. He received an undergraduate degree in business administration from Virginia Union University in Richmond in 1962, a master's in business administration and economics from North Carolina Central University in Durham in 1975, and a master's-level certificate in project management from George Washington University in 1997. Miles served as a long-time volunteer for Sertoma International, and is extensively involved in community and civic endeavors, including serving on the board of the Durham Affordable Housing Coalition.



Busara Sauda received an undergraduate degree in social work from Louisiana's Grambling State University in 2002, and received the Dean's Award for Outstanding

Social Work Student, 2001-02. While attending school, Sauda was involved in homelessness, racial tolerance, ethnic awareness, youth camp, HIV/AIDS prevention, domestic violence and mental health initiatives. Sauda will be relocating to Cleveland from Sea-Tac, Washington.



Maria J. Thompson is vice president of business development and marketing for the Georgia Affordable Housing Corporation, a community development financial institution located in Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to joining GAHC, Thompson was

the vice president for community reinvestment for Cuyahoga Savings Association, director of the non-profit Hillcrest Housing, and taught mortgage finance-related courses at Cuyahoga Community College. Thompson earned her undergraduate degree in business administration from Cleveland State University in Ohio and she completed Bank Compliance School. Thompson, who lives Lawrenceville, Georgia is a member of the Kaleidoscope 40/40 organization, a recognition awarded to outstanding professionals for their record of community activism.



Magda Gomez of Cleveland, Ohio, earned her undergraduate degree in communications from

Cleveland's John Carroll University in 1998. She is a community organizer for the Ohio City Near West Development Corporation, and recently was assigned responsibility for a new senior-citizen, affordable and market-rate independent-living apartment project to be built in Ohio City.



Lisa Miller, who resides in Euclid Ohio, obtained an undergraduate degree in social work from Ursuline College, Cleveland, Ohio in 2000. She is currently a home visitor in the Early Head Start Program at Crossroads Adolescent, Children and Family Services.



Stephanie Stedmire-Walls, who resides in East Cleveland, Ohio, earned her undergraduate degree in social work from the Cleveland campus of Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, in 2001. She works in preventive education at the Center for

Families and Children and is an educational assistant in the Evenstart Program for the East Cleveland Board of Education.

