

To: Representative Omokunde
From: Scholar Strategy Network Madison-Milwaukee
Re: Action Items to Collaborate with scholars concerned about Black Rights & Issues in Wisconsin
Date: June 23, 2021

On June 10, 2021, scholars in the state of Wisconsin with expertise in areas ranging from low-income Black women, incarceration of Blacks in Wisconsin, the election of Black and Brown elected officials, to the mental health and well-being of Black and Brown men and boys met with local politicians and their staff. This event was organized by the Scholars Strategy Madison-Milwaukee chapter. A staffer from Representative Moore Omokunde and Representative Samba Baldeh were present. The purpose of the meeting was to learn how our areas of expertise can be utilized in policy making and policy goals of local and state elected officials. We are also interested in collaborations between Wisconsin scholars and politicians. Below are a list of action plans we would like you to consider as we move forward.

- Scholars in Wisconsin are interested in elected officials calling upon their expertise with the goal of using our research to create or support meaningful and progressive change to Black people in the state.
- Deprivatize the Consolidated Core Automation Programs Data. These data are important for scholars to access to show existing racial inequality so that we can propose interventions to reduce racial inequality. The cost of accessing the entire dataset is \$10-\$15,000 annually which is not affordable to university professors. *We are asking elected officials to advocate that the state of Wisconsin take control of the CCAP rather than have a private firm holding these data.*
- Scholars in Wisconsin are interested in recommending students with expertise in statistical methods or expertise in issues relevant to Black communities in the state to serve as interns for politicians working on issues to improve the lives of Blacks in the state.
- Local politicians would like to build relationships with scholars and aid in building relationships between scholars and community members. Representative Baldeh and Representative Omokunde's office expressed interest in such efforts.

A list of scholars attending this meeting are below with their areas of expertise.

John Eason, UW-Madison (incarceration, racial equality)
Weneka Jones, Marquette University (mental health of Black youth)
Frank King, UW-Platteville (youth in juvenile detention & Hip Hop pedagogy; dispelling myths of critical race theory)
Monique Liston (research and evaluation, public health, education, racism)
Gladys Mitchell-Walthour UW-Milwaukee (Black women SNAP and WIC beneficiaries)
Paru Shah, UW-Milwaukee (Black and Brown elected officials, public health & racism)
Alphonso Simpson, UW-Osh Kosh (retention of Black students and recruitment of high school students to college)

Alvin Thomas, UW-Madison (Black men and boys)