

**TOP MINORITY ACHIEVERS HONORED; \$5.2 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 71 YOUTH**  
at Center for Leadership Development's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Minority Achievers Awards and Scholarship Gala  
*presented by Title Sponsor Citizens Energy Group*



**INDIANAPOLIS, IN**– The Executive Director of the White River State Park Development Commission and a Partner at Ice Miller LLP along with 15 additional award recipients were honored at the Center for Leadership Development's (CLD) 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Minority Achievers Awards and Scholarship Gala on Thursday, March 21 at the Indiana Convention Center's Sagamore Ballroom.

The event also focused on CLD's higher education institutions and community partners who introduced the 2019 class of "CLD Scholars". Since 2004, CLD has been in partnership with various colleges and universities throughout the state of Indiana that see the value of CLD's programming. CLD's educational scholarship sponsors help make education accessible, affordable, and achievable for CLD participants and their families. **At the 2019 Achievers Gala, \$5,253,552 (\$5.2 million) was leveraged to support 71 students.** Over \$28 million in scholarships have been awarded to CLD students in total. **Citizens Energy Group** served as the Title sponsor.

**Top honors were bestowed upon:**

**2019 Accomplished Achievement Award –  
Lacy Johnson, Partner, Ice Miller LLP**

Lacy Johnson is a Partner at Ice Miller LLP where he primarily focuses on public affairs services. In addition to Partner, he also serves as a co-chair to the Public Affairs and Gaming Group. Johnson has a long history of putting his resources into supporting Indianapolis and has helped increase minority participation in business and the community by providing invaluable counsel and support to many deserving Indianapolis organizations. He has received numerous awards including a Sagamore of the Wabash, Indiana Super Lawyer, Golden Laurel Award and The Best Lawyers in America (Gaming Law) among others. Lacy graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Purdue University and Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law.

**2019 Mme. C. J. Walker (Outstanding Woman of the Year) Award –**

**Carolene Mays-Medley, Executive Director, White River State Park Development Commission**

Carolene Mays-Medley is the Executive Director of the White River State Park Development Commission, America’s only urban cultural State park, and is comprised of 250-acres located in the heart of downtown Indianapolis. Mays-Medley is the former Vice-Chairman/Commissioner of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, Indiana State Representative, Newspaper and Magazine Publisher and Television Talk Show Host. Carolene was honored with a Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Mike Pence in 2016 and has been featured in numerous publications such as Indianapolis Monthly Magazine and Indianapolis Business Journal. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Management at Indiana State University and is a candidate for a Masters of Jurisprudence from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law.

**2019 S. Henry Bundles, Jr. Award for Service to the Center for Leadership Development –**

**Steve Jones, (CLD Alumnus of 1981), Director, Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies and Dean for Professional Development, Wabash College**

Named in honor of CLD’s founder to recognize special, unique individuals who have made significant investments of resources (time, talent, and treasure) to help assure CLD’s existence, strength, sustainability, and growth, Steve Jones exemplifies the purpose of this honor. Jones, the Dean for Professional Development at Wabash College, is heavily involved in serving as an advocate and champion for the youth of Indianapolis.

**2019 Distinguished Alumni Award –**

**James Johnson II, (CLD Alumnus of 1998), Production Supervisor, Lowes Companies**

James is a CLD Alumnus ('98) and graduate of Arsenal Technical High School ('01). He served 4 years in the Indiana National Guard before graduating from Ball State University ('08). James comes from a family of CLD alumni, and has demonstrated his many servant-leadership traits by facilitating over 348 hours since 2014 for CLD’s Self-Discovery, Project MR., Business Orientation Project, Jr. Self-Discovery and Imani Book Club programs. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated and active within Central Lodge #1 (PHA) of Indianapolis. James is currently a Production Supervisor for Lowe's Companies, and an independent business owner as well. When he is not working in the community he spends his free time with his 3 children, James III, Jasmine and Jayla.

**Twelve additional awards were presented to select individuals for achievement in categories: Arts & Entertainment, Business & Industry, Communications/PR/Advertising, Education, K-12 and Postsecondary, Entrepreneurship, Financial Services, Professions, Public & Community Service, Science & Technical Disciplines, “Up & Coming” Achiever, and the Directors Award.**

**The 2019 Awards recipients are as follows (in order of presentation):**

<b>Achievement in Arts &amp; Entertainment</b>	Derrick Carter <i>The Art in Carter</i>
<b>Achievement in Business &amp; Industry</b>	Maria Wiley <i>Indianapolis Airport Authority</i>
<b>Achievement in Communications/PR/Advertising</b>	Tamara Winfrey Harris <i>Central Indiana Community Foundation</i>
<b>Achievement in Education, K-12</b>	Roy Dobbs <i>Pike Preparatory Academy</i>
<b>Achievement in Education, Postsecondary</b>	Dr. Marsha McGriff <i>Indiana University</i>
<b>Achievement in Entrepreneurship</b>	Nikki Blaine <i>Nikki Blaine Couture</i>
<b>Achievement in Financial Services</b>	Andrea McGordon <i>The National Bank of Indianapolis</i>

<b>Achievement in Professions</b>	Dr. Monet Bowling <i>Hendricks Regional Hospital</i>
<b>Achievement in Public &amp; Community Service</b>	Crystal Babb <i>FedEx Services</i>
<b>Achievement in Science &amp; Technical Disciplines</b>	Cicely Hart <i>Duke Energy</i>
<b>“Up and Coming” Achiever</b>	LaDarius Calvin <i>Starfish Initiative</i>
<b>CLD Distinguished Alumni</b>	James Johnson II, (CLD Alumnus of 1998) <i>Lowe's Companies</i>
<b>Director’s Award</b>	Wayne Burris <i>Roche Diagnostics Corporation</i>
<b>S. Henry Bundles Award for Service to the Center for Leadership Development</b>	Steven L. Jones (CLD Alumnus of 1981) <i>Wabash College</i>
<b>Mme. C.J. Walker (Outstanding Woman of the Year) Award</b>	Carolene Mays-Medley <i>White River State Park Development Commission</i>
<b>Accomplished Achievement Award</b>	Lacy Johnson <i>Ice Miller LLP</i>

Support for the **Minority Achievers Awards and Scholarship Gala** was graciously provided by: Ball State University, **Citizens Energy Group**, Eastern Star Church, Eli Lilly and Company, Eskenazi Health, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Stimulus, LLC, Strada Education Network and more...



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**About Center for Leadership Development**

CLD is a non-profit organization with the mission to foster the advancement of minority youth in Central Indiana as future professional, business and community leaders by providing experiences that encourage personal development and educational attainment. CLD inspires and develops Central Indiana youth to realize their highest human potential so they are empowered to live rich, purposeful lives and make meaningful contributions to their families and to our community.

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