

Contact: John Nash

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY – PROPOSED NAMING

Action Requested: Consider recommending to the Board approval of the University's request to name the Iowa State University Black Cultural Center the "George Jackson Cultural Center" in honor of the late Dr. George Jackson.

Executive Summary: Iowa State University requests that the Property and Facilities Committee recommend to the Board that the Iowa State University Black Cultural Center be named the "George Jackson Cultural Center" in honor of the late Dr. George Jackson.

Dr. Jackson was passionate about students' rights and helping them reach their highest potential in education. He began his career at Iowa State University as the director of Multicultural Student Affairs (formerly known as Minority Student Affairs) in 1978, and later become the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs. During his time in these positions, he worked closely with Admissions and Financial Aid to significantly increase the number of underrepresented students on campus.

As the underrepresented student population increased, Dr. Jackson's efforts moved to retention where he secured the assistant dean position in the Graduate College in 1994. He continued to advocate for students, soliciting state funding to support academic programs to recruit underrepresented graduate students, now known as the Graduate Minority Assistantship Program (GMAP) of which he was the founder.

Dr. Jackson was heavily involved in Iowa State's TRIO (Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Student Support Services) programs, beginning with Student Support Services. The TRIO programs were originally established by the federal government in 1965 to ensure equal educational opportunity for all Americans, regardless of race, ethnic background or economic circumstances. In 1995, Dr. Jackson became the first director of Iowa State's Ronald E. McNair Program, also part of TRIO, which encourages low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented undergraduates to pursue graduate studies. He wrote the first successfully-funded proposal to assist students in getting into graduate school and earn a PhD. Over the course of 20 years, the program has served nearly 300 students. Both Student Support Services and the Ronald E. McNair program continue to thrive on campus today.

During the same time, Dr. Jackson was actively involved nationally with federal TRIO programs as a member of the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) and the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MAEOPP), becoming the president of MAEOPP in 1979. He also served as President of the Ames Chapter of the NAACP.

In 1996, Dr. Jackson was inducted into the Iowa African American Hall of Fame, recognizing his outstanding achievements with respect to enhancing the quality of life for all Iowans.

Dr. Jackson donated to the Black Cultural Center Fund, the Minority-Disadvantaged Student Aid Fund, and the Iowa State University Fund for Excellence. His unwavering commitment and financial support reflected his devotion to underrepresented students and the programs that continue to support those students.

Though Dr. Jackson retired after 31 years of longstanding and distinguished service as the dean of the Graduate College and professor of the College of Human Sciences in 2009, his name

continues to be well known on campus as he was beloved by many. He was a mentor to countless students, particularly in the black community.

On July 3, 2016, Dr. Jackson passed peacefully in Sunrise, Florida at the age of 75. He is survived by his wife, Clemmye, who received her Ph.D. in Professional Studies in Education at Iowa State University in 1984. In conjunction with his memorial on campus on November 12, the University would like to commemorate his service with the naming of the Black Cultural Center.

The University is grateful for Dr. Jackson's contributions to Iowa State University, especially its students, and respectfully requests Board approval for naming the Iowa State University Black Cultural Center in his honor.