

Community Perspectives on Effective Partnerships

Rev. Dr. Alex Gee, CEO/Founder
Center for Black Excellence & Culture
Madison WI

2024 FALL
ADRC
MEETING

**Black Joy, Black Innovation,
Black Wealth
Black Wellness**



700 Black Influencers

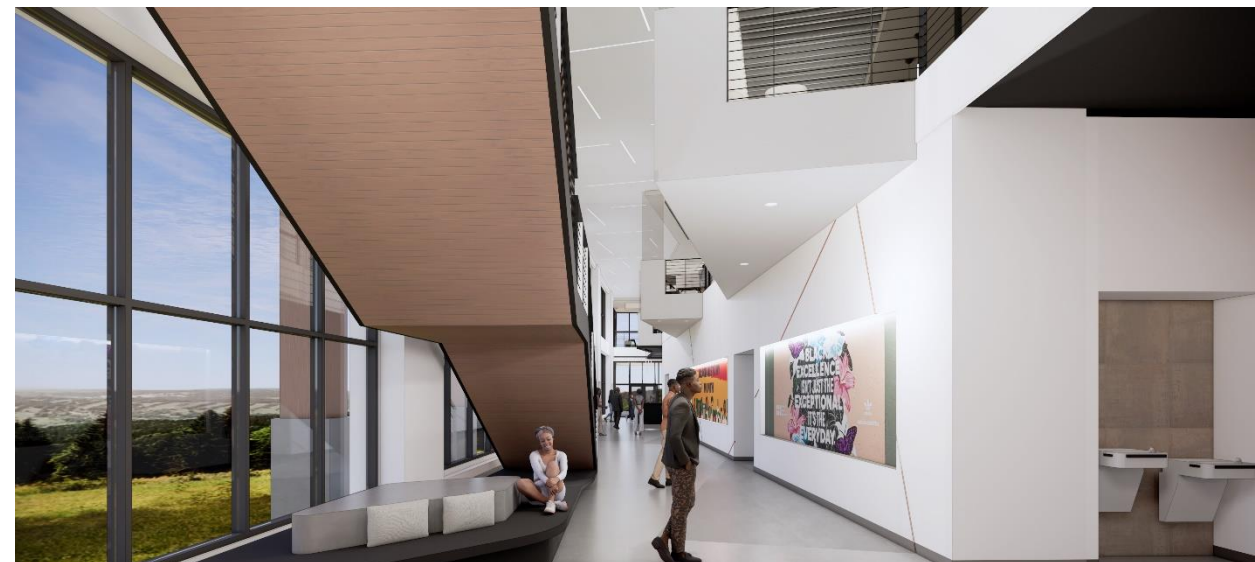


C THE N T E R

FOR BLACK EXCELLENCE AND CULTURE



2024 **FALL**
ADRC
MEETING



[Virtual Tour](#)

C THE **NT** **E** **R**
FOR BLACK EXCELLENCE AND CULTURE



HON. FRANCES
HUNTLEY-COOPER



EMILIE SONGOLO



DR. E WHITMIRE



DR. CHRISTY
CLARK-PUJARA



KIRBIE MACK



COACH MARISA
MOSELEY



DR. CORINDA
RAINEY-MOORE



LILADA GEE



MARION BROWN



DR. FREIDA HIGH
W. TESFAGIORGIS



DR. GLORIA
LADSON-BILLINGS



DR. JASMINE
ZAPATA



VANESSA MCDOWELL



MICHELLE BEHNKE



DANA PELLEBON
CHARLESTON



DR. LINDA VAKUNTA



ANNIK DUPATY
SARGEANT



DR. EARLISE WARD



Verline Gee, center, and children Lilada and Alexander await Sunday's UW- Madison graduation. —State Journal photo by L. Roger Turner

It took time, but mom will graduate

By Roger A. Gribble
Education reporter

Verline Gee is one of those rare people who comes along every now and then who makes you sit up and take notice.

Attention is focused on her now because she will graduate Sunday from UW-Madison with majors in social work and Afro-American studies — the first in her family to get a college degree.

Her two children, Alexander and Lilada, both UW-Madison students, her husband and other relatives, the people she loves, will be watching with pride Sunday.

"I'm breaking the mold," said Mrs. Gee, 45, of 1708 Fisher St. She enrolled at UW-Madison in 1971 after passing a high school diploma equivalency exam. Her two children have shared classes with each other and her son has been in two of her classes. All talk with enthusiasm about the benefits of a college education.

than school," she said. "I felt I was cheating the kids because I wasn't giving them mothering enough. I was taking 18-20 credits a semester to finish early and I burned out. I dropped out for what was to be two weeks and it turned into 10 years."

Although she had some good-paying jobs after those three years, she recalled, "I wasn't satisfied with the kinds of jobs I was getting. Then one day the kids came to me and said, 'Why not go back to school?'"

"Something just lit up and I got excited about it. I was accepted back in on probation because I had a low grade-point average because I was taking so many credits. I had to work really hard to bring my grade point average to 2.0 (a C), the minimum in Letters and Science."

Since enrolling again in 1983 she has been in school continuously. Last semester she had slightly better than a B-plus average.

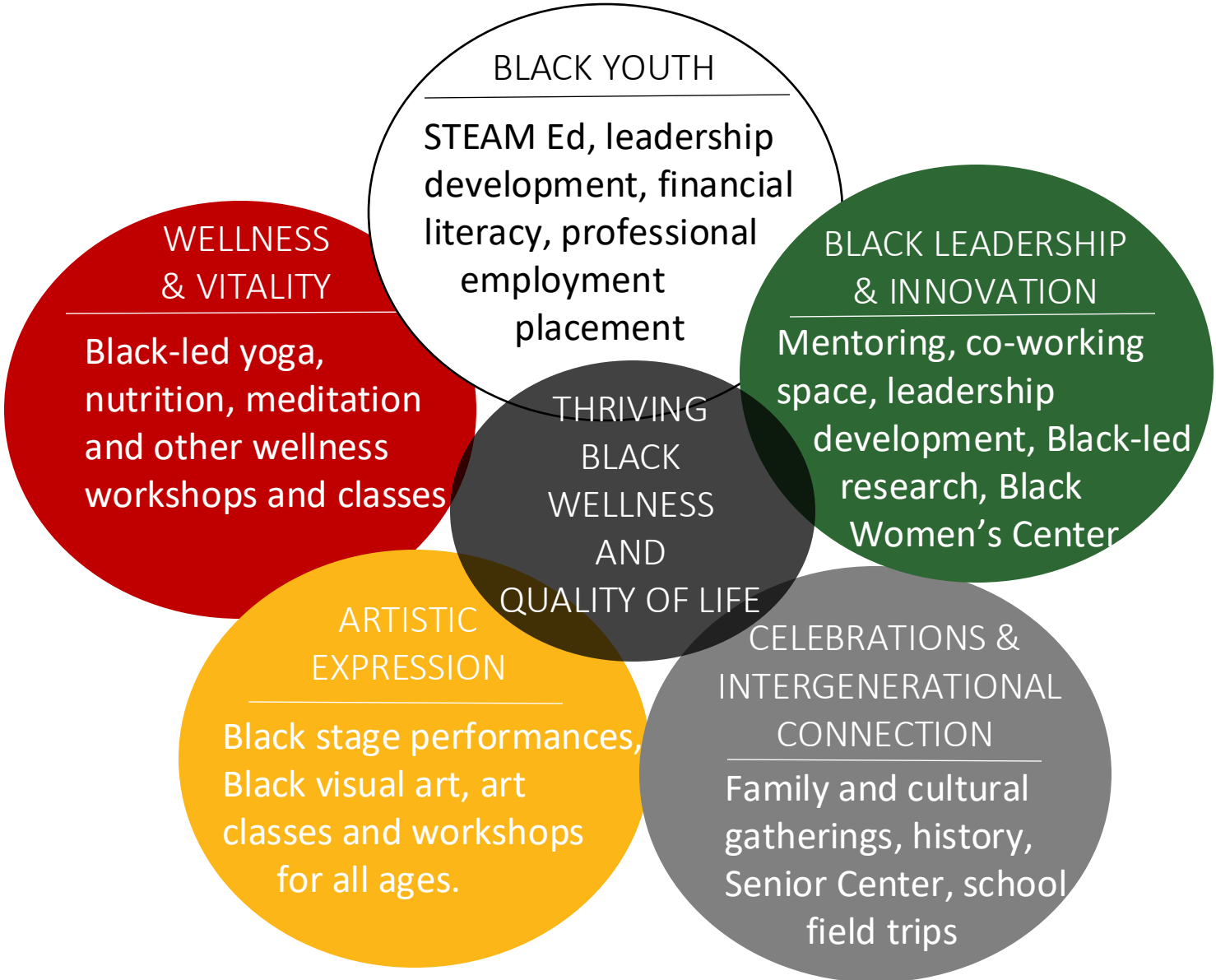
"The kids are grown up now and they really help me, even to anticipating my needs," she said. "My son and I had two classes together and we just took an exam together. It's really great studying together for the same courses. . . . We all plan to take courses together in the fall."

Mrs. Gee fits her studies in around a full-time job, and both children have used part-time jobs to pay for half of their education.

Mrs. Gee said, "I know I've taken 10 years off my age by going back to school. I identify myself as a college student, not a working person. It has helped me understand the problems my children face, and they can help me. We tell each other which professors to stay away from and which ones to seek."

Alexander said of his mother's accomplishments: "I think it's great. I'm real proud of To pick up after 12 years and come back sh the power of the will and the mind."

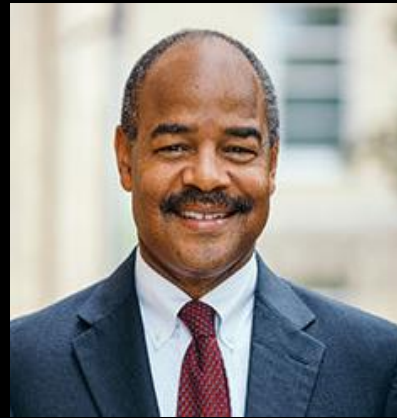




SENIORS AND INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTION

- Center for Black Elders and Excellence
 - Volunteer engagement for greater sense of purpose
 - Provide mentorship to Black youth
 - Health screenings
 - Capture genealogy and individual/family histories
 - Social activities & Space for Cultural Celebrations
 - Enrichment classes & Lecture Series
 - Senior Black Field Trips and Travel
 - Nutrition & Nutrition
- Social and cultural connection to decrease isolation

BLACK-LED RESEARCH & SOLUTIONS



Capital Campaign

300 Black donors kicked off the campaign

\$5,000,000 and higher

State of Wisconsin

\$1,000,000 - \$4,999,999

American Family Insurance
Dreams Foundation
Ascendium
Sen. Tammy Baldwin earmark
Summit Credit Union
TruStage Foundation
Rep. Mark Pocan earmark

\$250,000 - \$999,999

Dane County
Oscar Rennebohm Foundation, Inc.
Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation
W. Jerome Frautschi Foundation
Dave & Terri Beck-Engel
Comer Family Foundation
Bill & Jan DeAtley
Mary Burke
Bankers' Bank
City of Madison
Lau & Bea Christensen
BMO Harris Bank
Evjue Foundation
Madison Gas & Electric Foundation
Green Bay Packers Foundation

\$100,000 - \$249,000

National Guardian Life Insurance Company
TDS Telecom
Baker Tilly US, LLP
Madison Community Foundation
Jack & Sarah Salzwedel
Marla & Larry Frank
M3 Insurance
Betty Harris Custer & Corkey Custer
Jim & Jessica Yehle
Mike & Karin Victorson
Mary Ellyn & Joe Sensenbrenner
Dan & Patti Rashke TASC Family Foundation
UW Health
Peter Tropman & Virginia Graves
Exact Sciences
Kevin & Sheila Conroy
Delta Dental of Wisconsin
Nick & Kristin Jackson
Human Family Unity Foundation
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