

Outstanding students win U of Minnesota Leadership and Service Award

Written by

Thursday, 28 May 2009 14:20



Jasmine Omorogbe

Ernest Comer III

Wobo Bekwelem

Jasmine Omorogbe of North Minneapolis, Ernest Comer III of St. Paul and Wobo Bekwelem of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, have received a prestigious University of Minnesota 2009 President's Student Leadership and Service Award.

This award is presented to approximately one-half of one percent of the student body for their exceptional leadership and service to the University of Minnesota and the surrounding community. Only 46 students on the 50,000-student Twin Cities campus receive this award this year.

A junior honors student majoring in communication studies, Omorogbe is active in community service. She is a member of the Black Student Union, the vice president of Voices Merging, a lead student ambassador for the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence, a Community Engagement Scholar Program participant, a Students Today, Leaders Forever Pay It Forward Tour participant, a Student Ambassador for the College of Liberal Arts, and a Peer Advisor in the Career & Community Learning Center.

She is also Vice President of Voices Merging, a student organization dedicated to the urban arts, a member of Impact Christian Outreach group, the Black Student Union, an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Scholarship recipient, Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity (SEED) Award recipient, a two-time time "MCAE Ambassador of the Year" Award recipient, Zeta Phi Beta Scholarship recipient, a volunteer preschool teacher, an INROADS (Professional Development Program) Intern, and a four-time Dean's List Scholar.

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Comer III, son of Ernest Comer Jr. and Sharon Comer of St. Paul, is a senior majoring in communication studies with a minor in African and African American studies. He is President of Poised Revolutionaries Interested in Saving Media (PRISM), an organization for students of color in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

He organized several networking events that connected J-School students with professionals in the communications fields.

He is Founder of "Make It Stop," a student organization aimed at bringing community groups and the police departments together to fight violent crime.

Ernest is a member of the U of M Black Student Union and won General Member of the Year Award for his work on a Historical Restoration Project that outlined the history of the formation of the U of M African American Studies Department and the Black Student Union.

Ernest also writes a blog for the "Your Voices" section of the Minneapolis Star-Tribune, and is a volunteer at Ames Elementary School.

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Bekwelem, a first-year master's degree student in Public Health, is the International Student Representative to the U of M Student Health Advisory Committee. This past fall, he was a co-organizer in the U of M's drive that broke the Guinness Book of World Record for the most flu shots taken.

Bekwelem is also a Member of the UDS Advisory Committee and the National Public Health Film Festival Committee, a Mentor for Arlington High School students interested in health care professions and a Volunteer Community Health Worker at the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic.