

Eighth Annual Facing Race Ambassador Awards celebrate Minnesota racial equity leaders

Written by
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The Saint Paul Foundation will honor five anti-racism advocates at the eighth annual Facing Race Ambassador Awards on April 7 at the Crown Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel, 11 Kellogg Blvd. East.



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The Facing Race Ambassador Awards program was created in 2007 to recognize anti-racism leaders and promote the need for productive community-wide conversations about race.

"Reducing racial disparities is one of the critical challenges facing Minnesota," said Carleen Rhodes, president and CEO of The Saint Paul Foundation. "We are committed to this cause and honored to celebrate the hard work and dedication of individuals fighting for racial equity."

This year's celebration will honor two racial justice advocates with Ambassador Awards – Justin Terrell, Justice4All program manager for TakeAction Minnesota and Jada Sherrie Mitchell, a Tartan High School senior and community youth leadership council member in Oakdale. Mitchell is the youngest individual to receive an Ambassador Award.

"Jada and Justin have demonstrated tremendous leadership in addressing disparities in education and employment," said Rhodes. "We are honored to recognize the accomplishments of these courageous community leaders."

Three additional individuals will receive honorable mention recognition for their efforts to end racial disparities in Minnesota. They are Jennifer Godinez, Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, Bukata Hayes, Greater Mankato Diversity Council and Dr. Cecilia Martinez, Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy.

The awards celebration also features a keynote address by photographer Wing Young Huie whose award-winning work has included "The University Avenue Project" and "Looking for Asian America."

A reception with appetizers begins at 6 p.m., followed by the one-hour program and awards ceremony. Tickets are free but seating is limited. RSVP at www.saintpaulfoundation.org or call (651) 325-4265.

The St. Paul Foundation is the state's largest community foundation. The Facing Race Ambassador Awards, celebrates individuals working to create racially equitable communities.