

**PAVING** THE WAY  
FOR **FUTURE**  
**GENERATIONS**

*Stories of African  
Americans Who Were  
Firsts at Grand Valley*

October 24, 2018

## Paul I. Phillips

First African American  
Board of Control Member  
(1976)

## George Bondon

First African American  
Male Police Officer  
(1971-1980)



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## Carmen Strazisar

First African American  
Female Police Officer  
1988-1998

## Ron Gates

First African American  
Great Laker (before Louie)  
(1981)

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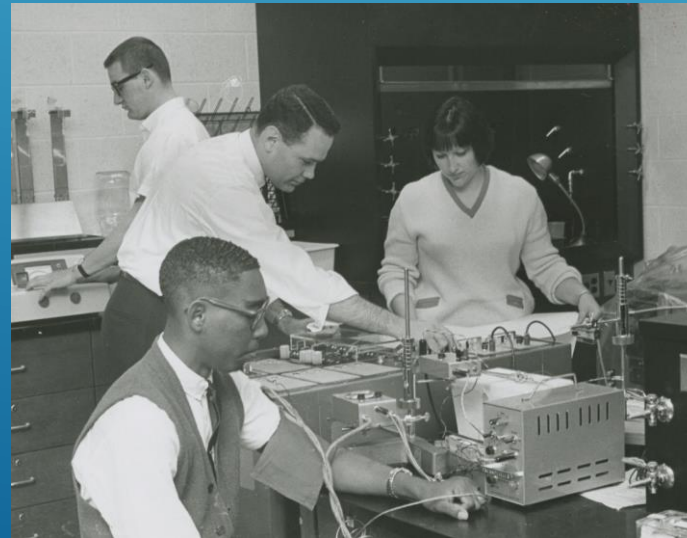
## Leona Spencer

First African American Alumni Association  
Distinguished Alumni Recipient  
(1987)

## Earl Harper

First African American Alumni  
Association Outstanding Educator  
Recipient  
(1993)

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## Earl Harper

First African American Assistant Dean  
College of Arts and Sciences  
(1971)

## Don Williams

First African American  
Dean of Minority Affairs  
(1985-2001)

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## Charles McMillian

Director of Minority Affairs  
(1974-1981)

## Bert Price

First African American  
Dean/Administrator of  
Student Services  
(1974-1977)

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## William Hardy

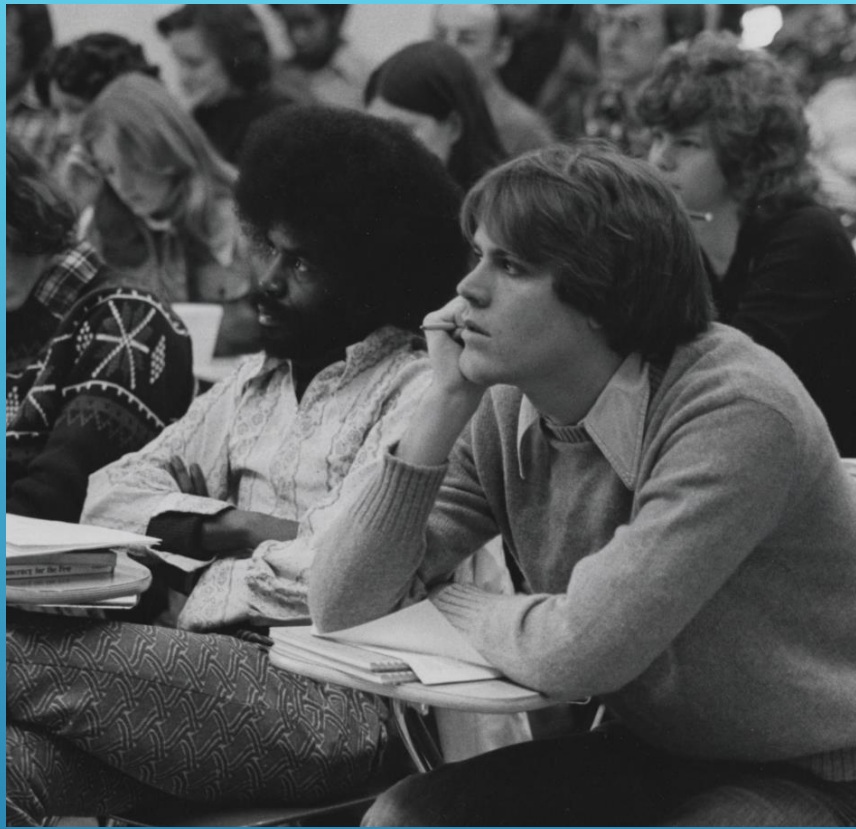
First African American Assistant  
Football Coach  
(1974-1977)

## Dante James

First African American Senior  
Producer-Director at WGVC-TV  
(1977-1982)

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## Betty Burton Groce

First African American  
Female Foundation Member  
1996-Present

## William Pickard

First African American  
Male Foundation Member  
1982-1984



## Joan Shepard/Annie Jacobs

First African American  
Female Students  
(1963-1967)

## James Moore

First African American Male  
Student  
(1963-1967)



## Carmen Strazisar

First African American  
Female Hall of Fame Member  
(1994)

## Danny Poole/Robert Eubanks

First African American Male  
Hall of Fame Members  
(1989)





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## Anna Rufus

First African American  
Female Athlete  
(1970-1972)

## Danny Poole

First African American  
Male Athlete  
(1967-1971)



## Julianne Vanden Wyngaard

First African American Female  
Professor  
(1967-Present)

## Curtis Jones

First African American Male  
Professor  
(1967-2000)



## Bert Price

First African American to serve as Executive Assistant to the President  
(1978-1979)

## Dr. Julius Franks

First African American  
Founding Community Member of  
Grand Valley State College  
(1960)



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# Annie Jacobs

Responsible for coining the Laker  
nickname  
(1965)

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