

America's Next Leader...Right Now!



Brandon A. Jessup exemplifies the power and commitment of young adult leadership. A captivating and inspirational speaker, dedicated activist and community leader, Jessup is highly regarded as an advocate for human rights and equal representation for all people. He is an experienced, nationally recognized leader who edifies servant leadership principles. For the last five years, he has been on the forefront of the civil rights movement, currently serving as advisor for the NAACP Michigan State Conference Youth and College Division, guiding more than 15 youth councils and college chapters across the state of Michigan.

Having spent most of his career advocating for human rights and equal representation of all people, Jessup sees today's young leaders as pivotal in moving America forward. He believes progressive policies and practices for America's next industry and economy must be made reality today, not tomorrow. Education reform, juvenile and young adult justice, and equal opportunity for people of all ethnic backgrounds and nationalities are issues Jessup sees as the key to the future of a better America.

Jessup has the unique gift, skill set and background to work across, organize and recruit in a variety of communities. He demonstrated this in his leadership and development of the incredibly diverse One United Michigan coalition as their Regional Outreach Coordinator, and as President of the Youth and College Division of the Michigan State Conference NAACP. During the 2006 election cycle, Brandon was instrumental in the outreach and empowerment efforts of Michigan's minority and young voters, securing a record turnout of Michigan's young voters.

Prior to assuming these roles, Jessup served three consecutive terms as President of Eastern Michigan University's NAACP Chapter. As Jessup lead the chapter to becoming one of the university's most influential student organizations, they were awarded two, 3rd place National NAACP College Chapter of the Year honors. Preservation, mentoring of minorities and student representation on all levels of university decision making were primary objectives for the EMU chapter, leading to various mobilization efforts in support of Affirmative Action, a Student Bill of Rights and a University Campus Creed identifying the values of the EMU community. In 2005, Jessup was the recipient of NAACP Region 3, Roy Wilkins Man of the Year award for his efforts as an advocate for equality and justice for all Americans.

Jessup is a member of the NAACP Resolutions Committee; Leadership Committee of the Michigan Voice coalition; Young Democrats of America Committee Representative and Columnist with Michigan FRONTPage. He has served as College Coordinator and Executive Board Member of the Michigan Young Democrats; Founder and Chairperson Eastern Michigan University Campus Creed Task Force and EMU Head Delegate, Association of Michigan Universities.

New Orleans-born Jessup was raised in Detroit, Michigan where he graduated from Bishop Borgess Catholic High School. In 2005, Jessup received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information Systems and Labor Studies. He is president and founder of NorthStar Innovation, a premier IT services and business solutions organization.

Activities and Appearances

- "Fulfilling the Dream: the young African American leadership in America"
Guest Speaker, Black History Month Closing Ceremony Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI, February 2007
- "Moving Michigan Forward: Post Proposal 2"
Keynote speaker, University of Michigan School of Social Work Fall Commencement, Ann Arbor, MI, December 2006
- "ARISE: The Battle over Affirmative Action", Featured and Interviewed
Firelight Media, 2006, Producer: Laurens Grant
- "Proposal 2: Preferential Treatment or Equal Opportunity?"
Panelist, Town Hall hosted by Michigan NAACP and Radio One, Detroit, MI, October 2006
- "The Hope of Michigan"
Guest speaker, Michigan Democratic Convention, Detroit, MI, August 2006
- Detroit NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner, Presenter, Freedom and Justice Award, April 2006
- "Re-Affirming Our Action: The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative"
Presenter, United States Student Association Legislative Conference, Washington D.C., March 2006
- "Why Affirmative Action? Myths vs. Facts"
Presenter, Martin Luther King Day Luncheon, Olivet College, Olivet, MI, January 2006
- "What is the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative?" Panelist
OnPoint with Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, January 2006
- "70 years of the Youth and College Division, Old School vs New School"
Panelist, NAACP National Convention, Milwaukee, WI, July 2005
- "City Highlights", Panelist, Comcast Local Television, January 2005
- "EMU Student News", Panelist, EMUTV, March 2005