

2020 Vikings of Distinction and North Star

Renee R. Franklin, MS - Omaha, NE
Class of 1989

Renee Franklin has served as the inaugural Executive Director of the Elementary Learning Centers at the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties since 2010. Among her many accomplishments in her non-profit and educational career are transforming a financially and organizationally struggling agency into an award-winning provider of social services, helping launch the Learning Community Center in both North and South Omaha, and developing and implementing educational solutions for children in poverty across 11 school districts in Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

Larry L. Lundquist - Elkhorn, NE
Class of 1966

Larry Lundquist is co-founder and now sole owner and president of Lund-Ross Constructors. His long career in construction engineering and management has resulted in numerous awards, among which are the American Institute of Architects Award, Associated Builders and Contractors National Excellence Award, National Safety Council Awards, and Project of the Year Award. Larry has also devoted time, energy, and dollars to address community needs through organization such as Girls, Inc., Siena Francis House, Open Door Mission, Children's Square, and One World Community Health.

Cliff Brunt – Oklahoma City, OK
Class of 1992

Cliff Brunt is an Associated Press sports reporter, covering the Oklahoma City Thunder, Oklahoma State University, and University of Oklahoma athletics. He has covered a wide range of events, including the NCAA Men's Final Four, NCAA Women's Final Four, and the Super Bowl. The 2020 Olympics in Tokyo will be his third coverage of this international event. His community involvement includes providing Thanksgiving meals for families, coaching youth football, funding a journalism scholarship for an Omaha North High minority student, and facilitating Pen & Ink, an OPS program to steer students to writing.

Lester L. Carter, Jr., R.Ph. – St. Francis, WI
Class of 1949

A pharmacist and herbologist, Lester Carter began his career after serving in the US Navy. He has been making and providing natural products and formulas since working for a Rexall drug store in Omaha and continuing with his opening of the Carter Drug Store (now Hyatt-Carter Herbal Shoppe) in Milwaukee in 1968. The only African American-owned drugstore in Milwaukee, it is known for its healing remedies and is a hub for those seeking natural remedies based on sound science. In 2018, a street was named after Dr. Carter in honor of his positive impact on the Milwaukee community.

Llana M. Jones Smith – Omaha, NE
Class of 1966

Llana Jones Smith is a certified medical assistant who has long served her community, not only in a medical capacity but also in theater, music, and other areas. Her community service includes involvement with the Hope Center and serving as Youth Director at Salem Baptist Church. Her theater work includes helping churches develop drama departments, serving as Drama Director for Salem Baptist Church, and writing plays that have been performed in Omaha, Kansas City, LA, and Atlanta. She has also served as a teacher at the National Gospel Music Workshop of America.

Roderick H. "Rick" Davis, North Star
Class of 1963

Rick Davis was President, founder, and owner of Davis Insurance and Bonds, as well as co-founder and Director of Skytech, Inc. His outstanding work earned him invitations to the Governor's Conference on Economic Development in 1984 and to the White House Conference on Small Business in 1986. He served as Director of the Omaha Airport Authority (1987-1988) and was a life-long member of the NAACP. At Omaha North High, he was a standout athlete, lettering in three sports, and is remembered as one of North High's legendary football "Four Norsemen." Mr. Davis passed away in 1988.