



SAMUEL GRESHAM, JR.

Acting Executive Director
Common Cause Ohio

BIOGRAPHY

Mr. Gresham is a native of Greenwood, Mississippi, migrated to Chicago, Illinois where he was educated during his formative years. He attended the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and received a bachelor's in Urban and Regional Planning in 1974. Additionally, he attended the Johnson Graduate School of Management of Cornell University and the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, for advanced training.

Mr. Gresham went to the Columbus Urban League in June of 1985 from Housing Urban Development (HUD), where he served as Chief of Single Family Loan Management. While at HUD, he received the agencies second highest award, the "Certificate of Merit" in 1984, and four special achievement awards.

Mr. Gresham's extensive background involves skills in television. He had the honor of producing the first Black Talk Show in the history of television, as well as the first Black Soap Opera in television history. Additionally, he played minor league baseball for the Chicago White Sox's.

During 1994, as President & Chief Executive Officer of the Columbus Urban League, Inc., he completed the construction of a new headquarters building at a cost of \$2.3 million dollars; equipped with the latest state of the art computer system. In 1995, the League obtained a \$1.1 million dollar grant from HUD for drug prevention in public housing. In 1999, the Columbus Urban League, Inc., was selected in a national competition for a \$3.1 million dollar grant from the US Department of Labor for the welfare to work program.

Mr. Gresham came to Common Cause in the late summer of 2005 from the Columbus Urban League as Director of Outreach for Fair Elections. After working in close consultation with the national office and the CC/OH advisory board for several months, Gresham has been made acting Executive Director. Hiring Mr. Gresham is part of CC/OH's revitalization and effort to be a more valuable player in the effort to advance meaningful reform and is reflective of the long-term vision for Common Cause in Ohio.

Civic Involvement Include:

1988 – 1984, Member of the Board of Directors, Columbus State Community College

1986 – 1988, Member of the Board of Directors, Girl Scouts of Central Ohio

1989 – 1991, Member of the Board of Directors, Jobs for Ohio Grads

1997, Founding Member of the Columbus Relations Commission, City of Columbus

1996 – 2000, Co-Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Ohio's BEST

1999 – 2002, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Franklin County Commission Housing Advisory Commission

2003, Chairman for the Accountability Committee for Special Projects, Columbus Public Schools;

Honors and Awards

1982, Special Achievement, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Columbus OH

1984, Certificate Merit (HUD Second Highest Award), Dept. of Housing & Urban Development, Washington, DC

1989, The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award, Columbus State Community College

1993, Golden Ruler Award, Columbus Public Schools

1993, Special Alumni Recognition, University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois

1994, Jack Resler Award, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai-Brith-Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana - Regional Advisory Board

1998, Community Service Award, Nation of Islam

1999, Liberty Bell Award, Columbus Bar Association

2000, The Presidents Award, NAACP Columbus Branch

Who's Who in Black Columbus 2002 – 2003 Edition Commemorative Cover Appreciation

2002, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award, Columbus Education Association

2006 Julius Nyerere Humanitarian Prize African Weekender Maziane