

Jerry Saunders Bio-Sketch

Jerry Saunders is President and Chief Executive Officer of APDS (Africentric Personal Development Shop, Inc.), which is a family and community development agency headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. Prior to joining APDS in April 1997, Saunders served ten years as Executive Director of the Eldon W. Ward YMCA Branch of Central Ohio.

Saunders has more than 25 years of youth and community development. During these years, he has designed programs to enhance the educational development of youth, developed mentoring programs matching students with adults, and conducted workshops and seminars for leadership development. He has engineered community development initiatives for urban neighborhoods and produced successful collaborations between the business, education and civic organizations.

Saunders is owner of UCAN Networks, a public relations and community development consulting firm. He serves as a Commissioner of the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, Chairman of After-School All-Stars Columbus Board of Trustees, Chairman of the 100 Black Men of Central Ohio, Vice President of African Community Organizations, Chairman of Compassionate Communications-Central Ohio, and member of the Urban Crime Advisory Committee. Saunders serves as a member of the Black Anti-Defamation Council, Board of Directors for the 100 Black Men of America, Inc., Board of Trustees for Mid Ohio Stranger Abduction Alert (AMBER Alert), and Board of Trustees for the Livingston Avenue Collaborative for Community Development. He is a member of the Flintridge Missionary Baptist Church.

In 1999, Saunders served as Co-Chair of the 'Building a Better Columbus Committee' which he spearheaded the passage of eight Capital Improvement Bond Issues for \$590.9 million, representing the largest bond package in the city's history.

The Oberlin College graduate is also the recipient of numerous community awards and citations, including the Columbus Public Schools Golden Ruler Award, Who's Who in Black Central Ohio, 100 Black Men of Central Ohio 2002 Mentor of the Year, Columbus Urban League Award of Excellence, and City Year of Columbus Moccasin Award for community service.

At APDS, Saunders provides leadership for the 501©3 non-profit social service agency founded in 1988 by Dr. Richard Moriba Kelsey and Dr. Barbara Kelsey. APDS has 19 staff members that provide programs designed to prevent, treat, and eliminate substance abuse and family violence, and nurture and encourage youth to understand the importance of personal development with a strong emphasis on academic achievement. APDS is Central Ohio's preeminent personal, family, and community development agency specializing in customized Africentric based education, prevention, and treatment strategies.