



## **Alfonso Studesville**

The recipient of the Fifteenth Annual Rev. J.C. Wright Human Rights Award is Alfonso Studesville. Mr. Studesville is a life-long resident of the Madison area and has served the community in many capacities. As a young person Mr. Studesville participated in civil rights demonstrations through his participation with Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He was also a member of the Madison NAACP's Junior Chapter and served on the Education Committee. He is a former employee of the South Madison Neighborhood Center now the Boys and Girls Club on Taft Street. There he served the community in the following as a Small Group Leader, Coordinator of the Summer Employment Program and as the Community Outreach Worker for Lincoln Middle School. You can find his portrait included in the Mural on the wall of Gymnasium at the Club.

Mr. Studesville's career began as a teacher in the Madison School District and after obtaining a Master's degree, Mr. Studesville became the first Black Counselor at Madison East High School before leaving to work for the Madison Area Technical College (MATC) now the Madison College. Mr. Studesville has been a profoundly positive mentor for thousands of young adults and high schools students under his care. He has worked to motivate them to achieve their goals and to develop a commitment to living productive lives as well as giving back to their community.

As a well connected grassroots person, Mr. Studesville has been able to create networks of mentors and role models for his students. At Madison College (MATC) he has served as the Black Student Union Advisor, a Minority Recruiter, a Diversity Class Instructor and as a member of the Human Resources Diversity Team.

Mr. Studesville has been instrumental in grassroots organizing as well as willing to work with others to create organizations that empowers others, for example, He is one of the founding members of the Madison's 100 Black Men Chapter. Another example is that he also helped found the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute, a teaching center for middle and high school students. In addition to many grassroots, Mr. Studesville has served as a mentor to students at the James C. Wright Middle School.

Mr. Studesville's nominator used these words to describe him..."In sum, Al is a big man with a big voice. His caring about and concerns for others, especially for the youth and disenfranchised, are ever present in his priorities and actions. Like Rev. Wright, Al has dedicated his life and his skills to serving others."