

Professor Myiti Sengstacke-Rice - BIO

Myiti Sengstacke-Rice Ma.Ed is the President and CEO of the Chicago Defender Charities which produces the 90 year-old Bud Billiken Parade and Festival. She is also the Founder and Publisher of Bronzeville Life, a lifestyle publication inspired by the historic arts, culture, news and politics of the rich historical community and Chicago land. She is the author of *Chicago Defender*, a volume in the “Images of America Series” published by Arcadia Publishing. The book captures its sweeping imprint on twentieth century African American culture and American History. She is also a contributing author to *Building the Black Metropolis: African American Entrepreneurship in Chicago (New Black Studies Series)*.

Sengstacke-Rice carved out a unique voice as a living link to the years of Chicago’s history, which her father, grandfather and great granduncle helped make possible. Her father is renowned photographer, Bobby Sengstacke; her grandfather, John H. Sengstacke is the late publisher of the *Chicago Defender* and prominent civil rights advocate and critical negotiator for the White House. Finally, her great granduncle was Robert Sengstacke Abbott, the founding publisher of the *Chicago Defender* and the Bud Billiken Parade.

Following the footsteps of Abbott and her grandfather, Sengstacke-Rice attended Hampton University in Virginia. Growing up around media and publishing Myiti also had a passion for journalism beginning her career as a reporter for the *Chicago Defender* after attending her undergraduate studies at Hampton. She later became Associate Editor of the *Chicago Defender*. Sengstacke-Rice has been featured in several magazine publications and television appearances such as Black Enterprise, Essence, Wall Street Journal, New York Times and CNN to name a few.

Sengstacke-Rice also cultivated her own career in history, media and print by becoming the founding editor-in-chief of the award-winning magazine *UPTOWN* out of New York City in 2003. She later returned to Chicago to assist with organizing her family archives with the University of Chicago, *Mapping the Stacks* archival team. She taught Africana Studies and Literature for City Colleges for 5 years giving her a platform to share her family’s critical contribution to the history of media, culture, politics and how it connects to American and African American History and Literature.

Myiti Sengstacke-Rice has a Masters in Education in Inner City Studies from Northeastern Illinois University and will acquire her Doctorate in 2020 in Educational Leadership from Governors State University in Illinois.