



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

301 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW | SUITE 1508 | WASHINGTON, DC 20001
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Walter Lanier Class of 2028

Current Employer:

Progressive Baptist Church/Great Lakes Urban Empowerment Center

Professional Background:

Walter Lanier is a visionary attorney, educator, and executive leader with experience in higher education, healthcare, law, and public service.

As President and CEO of the Great Lakes Urban Empowerment Center (GLUE), he advances racial equity, mental health, and civic leadership. He also chairs the board of Milwaukee Health Services, Inc., guiding governance reform and strategic planning. At Milwaukee Area Technical College, he launched the Men of Color Initiative, the Student Resource Center, the Food Pantry, and the college's first Counseling and Psychological Services Department. He is also the founder of Lanier Law Offices and provides counsel in civil rights, nonprofit leadership, and systems change. Lanier played a lead role in launching the BLEST Hub at Marquette University's CURTO, which maps and connects ecosystem efforts for boys and men of color in Southeastern Wisconsin. Across all his work, he brings innovation, equity, and collaborative leadership.



Major Accomplishments:

Lanier has led transformative efforts advancing equity, education, and wellness. At Milwaukee Area Technical College, he founded the Men of Color Initiative, Student Resource Center, MATC Food Pantry, and the college's first Counseling and Psychological Services Department. These initiatives removed barriers and improved student success. He co-created the BLEST Hub at Marquette University's CURTO,

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mapping programs that support boys and men of color in Southeastern Wisconsin. As Chair of Milwaukee Health Services, Inc., he is leading governance reform and strategic planning. As President and CEO of the Great Lakes Urban Empowerment Center (GLUE), he connects nonprofit, civic, and academic partners to advance racial equity and mental health. Through Lanier Law Offices, he offers legal and strategic guidance in civil rights and nonprofit leadership. His work centers on systems change, collaboration, and impact.

Previous Service to ASALH:

I am currently serving my second term on the Executive Committee. Recently appointed Chair of the Governance Committee, I've led efforts to strengthen governance policies and procedures—improving the sequencing of elections and streamlining policy review. I've worked to cultivate new relationships that broaden our reach and deepen our institutional network. I also believe I've added value by helping frame the narrative of who we are, where we are on our organizational journey, and the deep substance that drives our mission.

What I Hope to Accomplish as an Executive Council Member of ASALH:

I aim to strengthen the policies, processes, and communication strategies that increase transparency, enhance accountability, and clarify the impact of our work. My goal is to create systems that reflect the fluid nature of governance while empowering individuals and institutions to engage more effectively. I plan to expand membership from Milwaukee and Southeastern Wisconsin, ensuring that both local energy and institutional leadership are fully represented. A major priority is laying the groundwork for a dedicated Milwaukee branch—rooted in equity, community voice, and long-term sustainability. Through this work, I hope to build infrastructure that is inclusive, transparent, and aligned with our shared mission of justice and empowerment. By fostering collaboration and strengthening operational clarity, we can deepen trust, scale impact, and ensure this work reaches future generations.

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