

NAMING THE OFFICE FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION
THE TAMARA D. GRIGSBY OFFICE FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The Dane County community recently lost a strong, forward-thinking leader and gifted champion with the death of Tamara D. Grigsby.

A graduate of James Madison Memorial High School, she received her bachelor's degree from Howard University and earned a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Tamara D. Grigsby was committed—from a young age—at crafting solutions to our community and nation's most challenging problems.

Informed by her grounding in social work, Ms. Grigsby served in the State of Wisconsin Legislature from 2005 to 2013 representing the 18th assembly district in Milwaukee. Ms. Grigsby represented the 18th Assembly District with passion and vigor, serving as Chair of the State Children and Families Committee. Her advocacy for her neighbors and community was unwavering. She was known as a voice of strength and commitment to fairness for all of Wisconsin's residents, especially our children.

Later she was the Parent and Community Engagement Manager for Milwaukee Public Schools. In each role, the cornerstone of her work was racial equity, inclusion and fairness for all.

Tamara D. Grigsby had worked most recently as the appointed Director of the new Dane County Office for Equity and Inclusion. Prior to that, Ms. Grigsby worked as the Community Outreach Coordinator for County Executive Parisi. She was instrumental in developing a series of county public policy initiatives in 2015 known as "Access to Opportunity." She co-led the Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative, facilitating critical dialogues around equity and policy with county staff. She provided a critical voice to the Criminal Justice Council – Racial Disparities Sub-Committee. Her vision and strength will be sorely missed.

Ms. Grigsby inspired countless staff, community leaders, and residents to strive for greater equity and fairness. Ms. Grigsby lead by example, always ready to move the conversation from philosophy to action that positively impacts our residents. Her ability to create equitable policy was driven by a core belief in equity and fairness for all as an achievable goal.

Ms. Grigsby believed in service. She extolled the virtue of caring for the underdog, comforting those in need, and public service. Her kindness, sense of humor, strength, and graciousness enriched those fortunate enough to know and work with her.

To honor Tamara D. Grigsby's impact on our community, as well as the State of Wisconsin, and in appreciation of her decades of service to the State and Dane County, the Office for Equity and Inclusion shall be named in honor of our native daughter. The Tamara D. Grigsby Office for Equity and Inclusion shall champion equity and fairness for all.