

Javon Dobbs, B.A., 2013

Javon Dobbs is a communications officer at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan. In this role, he supports the foundation's efforts to promote thriving children, working families and equitable communities.

As a member of the communications team, he is responsible for collaborating with internal and external stakeholders to design, plan and implement strategic communications campaigns and projects. Dobbs oversees strategic communications for WKKF's signature efforts: Racial Equity 2030, Community Leadership Network, Global Fellows Network; and communications strategy for Mission Driven Investment and the Investments Office.

Previously, Dobbs served as a communications manager, analyst and policy & communications intern at the Kellogg Foundation. Prior to joining the foundation, he was a program assistant with the Michigan Campus Compact Program and a Thurgood Marshall fellow with the School of Public Affairs and Administration, both at Western Michigan University.

Additionally, Dobbs serves in many volunteer and community service leadership roles, including as a board member with Inner City Youth for Change in Kalamazoo, Michigan; an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; and was previously a Big mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

Dobbs received a bachelor's degree in journalism & Spanish and a master's degree in public administration with a concentration in nonprofit leadership and administration from Western Michigan University. He also holds an advanced social media strategy certificate from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University and a certificate of ministry from the Radiant School of Ministry in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Jerome Espy, B.A., 1989

Jerome is a seasoned communications professional with over three decades of experience in public relations, media strategy, corporate communications, and social engagement. A proud graduate of Western Michigan University, he has consistently demonstrated his ability to elevate brand visibility and reputation through strategic communication efforts.

Jerome's diverse career began in radio at WIDR, and then ventured into television, and print, including roles in newsroom leadership in New Orleans and Detroit. His expertise in enterprise storytelling, breaking news coverage, and investigative journalism laid a strong foundation for his success.

Transitioning from the newsroom to the boardroom, Jerome took on leadership roles in healthcare communications at the Detroit Medical Center and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, where he served as a vice president and media liaison. As Vice President of Communications at Comcast Midwest Division, Jerome was instrumental in crafting public relations strategies across five states, garnering high-profile media placements and enhancing brand presence.

As President of Nfinit Integrated Communications, Jerome provides strategic communication counsel to small and medium-sized businesses, significantly enhancing their public profiles. Also, he currently serves as the Senior Director of Public Relations at United Way for Southeastern Michigan, overseeing corporate and partner advocacy communication efforts for Michigan's largest United Way.

Committed to his community, Jerome is a board member of the Detroit MOTTEP Foundation, advocating for organ and tissue donation, and remains active in mentoring initiatives. He resides in Ypsilanti, Michigan, where he continues to make a lasting impact in the field of public relations and beyond.