



## 2020 Community Leader Award in Education



### James R. Heck, III

Jim, who retired in the 1990's, is a highly respected teacher and moderator of cross cultural conflicts. His work to desegregate the Buffalo Public Schools created unprecedented educational and social opportunities for students of all backgrounds. The impact of his work is still felt to this day.

Jim was named the Director of Quality Integrated Education in 1972, and it was with dignity, grace, and tenacity that he led the District through the tumultuous initial days of mandatory bussing. Led by his faith and the teachings of Dr. King, he regularly used his skills to build bridges in our community. In 1986, he was similarly tasked with investigating the racial disparities in discipline and suspension rates within the Buffalo Public Schools, and once again he used his skills to create equitable treatment for all students. Since his retirement, Jim has remained active in our community, giving his time and leadership to organizations that work towards increasing opportunities for the underserved and underrepresented.

For his work to create equity, opportunity, and inclusion for all students, the NFJC is proud to recognize James R. Heck III with the 2020 Community Leader Award in Education.