

# Michael Fagin lauded by Association of Black Psychologists, governor

## Contributions to students of color

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Fagin received an award and plaque Nov. 18 as one of the association's "Community Allies in Mental Health." He and other awardees also were recognized the same day in a proclamation by [Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty](#).

The association said Fagin's "wisdom and strength has given others comfort, dignity and hope." It added: "We are forever grateful for your sacrifices and compassion."

The governor's proclamation cites the "significant contributions" of Fagin and other honorees for "the impact of their contributions to the entire Minnesota community."

As dean of [Institutional Diversity](#), Fagin mentors, encourages and empowers students of color at Minnesota State Mankato. He is the embodiment of diversity at the University, having championed the cause since he became the first director of the University's Minorities Groups Studies Center in 1970.

In 1991 Fagin was named associate vice president for cultural diversity, and in 2004 President Richard Davenport named him dean of Institutional Diversity and special assistant for Multicultural Relations. Last year Davenport named him to the University Cabinet, a select group of vice presidents and special assistants who advise the president on university policy.

Fagin was born in Detroit, attended black public schools and was a member of his high school baseball, basketball and cross-country teams. He attended [Dillard University](#) in New Orleans, then transferred to Wayne State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree.

In the late 1960s he took off-site classes from then-Mankato State College, earning a special certification in deaf education. Later he earned a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Minnesota State Mankato, and a doctorate in educational psychology from the [University of Minnesota](#).

He is one of the founders of Mankato's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, and the driving force behind the nationally renowned [Pan African Conference](#).

Fagin was nominated for the Association of Black Psychologists' award by Willie Garrett, a Minnesota State Mankato alumnus.

The Minnesota Association of Black Psychologists promotes African psychology, seeks to affect social change, and develops programs to solve problems of Black communities and other ethnic groups. Its national parent organization encourages other organizations to make a positive impact on the mental health of the national Black community through planning, programs, services, training and advocacy.

Minnesota State Mankato is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, which comprises 32 state universities and community and technical colleges serving Minnesota's higher education needs. The system serves 240,000 students per year in credit-based courses, and an additional 130,000 students in non-credit courses.