

Ron Isley Initiative at Harris-Stowe State University



R. Whittington
FOUNDATION

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Ron Isley (center) met with friend and university supporter Mrs. Ira DeWitt, CEO of Notifi Music Group (center left), on the campus of Harris-Stowe State University. Joining them from left are Harris-Stowe President Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack; Business Marketing major and SGA vice president, Senior Jazmine Bonner and Rickey Whittington of The Rickey Whittington Foundation.

Ron Isley Biography



Ronald Isley was born on May 21, 1941 in Cincinnati, Ohio. His love of music was encouraged at an early age by his father, a professional vocalist, and his mother, a church pianist who also provided musical accompaniment for him and his brothers at their early performances. Isley currently resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

For over 50 years, he has been the lead singer of one of the most influential groups in popular music, The Isley Brothers. Throughout his career, he has continued giving the same encouragement that his father gave him and his brothers by teaching and encouraging other artists.

Always a cutting edge innovator, in 2001 he created a new persona for the new millennium, “Mr. Biggs.”

(imdb.com)

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“Legend to Leader” Gala

In honor of his accomplishments and his passion for his community, Ron Isley will use his gift to provide a legacy for generations to come. Through the “Legend to Leader” Gala, Mr. Isley will launch The Ron Isley Initiative at Harris-Stowe State University in Fall 2017.

The Ron Isley Initiative annual “Legend to Leader” Gala will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2017 at the Peabody Opera House in downtown St. Louis. Ron Isley and Friends will host a dinner and concert with proceeds providing full -ride scholarships to two first-year Harris-Stowe students each year.





**The number of scholarships and amounts awarded will vary depending on other financial aid. The purpose of the Ron Isley Scholarship is to provide total coverage of academic expenses including tuition, fees, room and board.*

Ron Isley Scholarship

The Ron Isley Initiative Fund will provide scholarships and mentoring to Ron Isley Scholars each year. The first renewable Ron Isley Scholarship will be awarded in Fall 2017 and provide four years of full-ride financial aid coverage for first-year Harris-Stowe State University students who demonstrate academic excellence and financial need.

- The Ron Isley Scholarships will financially support graduating seniors from a St. Louis area high school who will attend Harris-Stowe State University in St. Louis, Missouri.
- Each Ron Isley Scholar will participate in a mentoring student success program designed for the cohort.

For more information, please contact:
Director of Admissions
Loretta McDonald
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Ron Isley Initiative Funding

Funding for the Ron Isley Initiative will be acquired from sponsorships and donations through the “Legend to Leader” Gala

- An annual Gala where all proceeds will support the Ron Isley Fund at Harris-Stowe State University.
- R. Whittington Foundation will coordinate support from individuals, corporations and foundations. Harris-Stowe State University will provide administrative support for the Ron Isley Initiative and the Ron Isley Scholarship Fund at Harris-Stowe State University.

Rickey Whittington Foundation



The R. Whittington Foundation is a resource for the region, dedicated to positively impacting the lives of those underserved, overlooked and disenfranchised.

Rickey Whittington is the Founder of the Foundation and knows firsthand the heart break of growing up in a neighborhood ravaged by poverty, drugs and lack of opportunity, yet overcoming it all! Serving the St. Louis community for 15 years, Rickey Whittington has devoted his time, talents and personal resources to ensure that people in hopeless circumstances receive opportunities to excel.

A quiet storm in our community, Rickey's passion to serve has resulted in over 21 full-time college scholarships being awarded to at risk students worth over \$2.6 million, over 30,000 toys distributed through the Foundation's Christmas Toy Drive and over 5,000 families being fed during the Thanksgiving holiday. The Foundation has partnered with local and national leaders, celebrities and corporations to create an employment program, internship program and mentorship program all geared to improving the quality of life for at risk youth. He is the Co-Founder of the annual Black and White

Ball in partnership with Lindenwood University and Nelly.

Recently, he has created an initiative with Ron Isley and Harris-Stowe State University to send more at risk students to college. In the spring of 2017 the Foundation will host a Family and Friends weekend hosted by Steve Harvey and other celebrity's to raise awareness and funds to eliminate the barriers to success for our young people. Rickey knows the future of our world rests in the hearts and minds of our young people. Therefore he is committed to unlocking their potential and thereby their future. What lies within this man are the values that this country was built upon; being raised by a grandmother that instilled in him courage, hard work and compassion. He doesn't want to be noticed or recognized – he is an unsung hero, yet when often asked, "Why do you do this?" he simply responds... "It is the right thing to do."

The R. Whittington Foundation is dedicated to the growth of today's youth and communities. Our goal is to guide them to become productive, prosperous and positive assets to the community.

The R. Whittington Foundation is accomplishing their goals by eliminating some of the challenges that are in the communities such as; poverty, poor education opportunities, community employment and education barriers.

Programs the Foundation offers:

- Employment Education
- Internship Program
- Scholarship
- Mentorship Program
- Holiday Turkey Drive and Giveaway
- Holiday Toy Drive and Giveaway
- Donating laptop computers and iPads

Harris-Stowe State University

Harris-Stowe State University (HSSU), located in midtown St. Louis, is a fully accredited four-year institution that offers 31 majors, minors and certificate programs in Education, Business, and Arts & Sciences.

In 2014, HSSU ranked No. 1 in the state of Missouri and No. 47 in the nation in granting degrees in Mathematics/Statistics to African Americans according to the Missouri Department of Higher Education and *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*, a news magazine that has ranked institutions conferring the most degrees to minority students for the past 30 years. Harris-Stowe also ranked No. 28 among the 2016 Top HBCUs in the country according to Niche.com, an online content provider of reviews and insight on more than 1,100 colleges nationwide.

The University, which has origins dating back to 1857, offers the most affordable bachelor's degree in the state of Missouri.

Harris-Stowe celebrates 160 years in 2017.



HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY

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