

Jones helps launch of Black archive

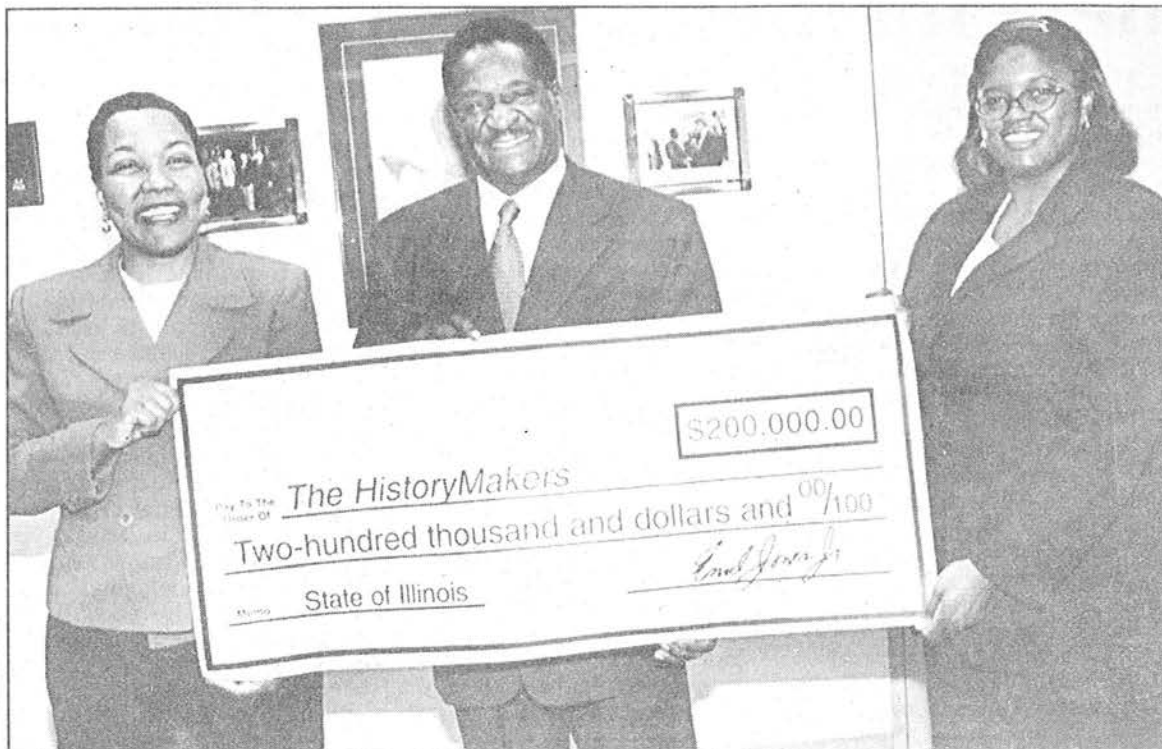
Illinois State Rep. Emil Jones has proven himself a leader once again. Recently, he proved instrumental in assisting the HistoryMakers in securing significant funding from the State of Illinois.

The HistoryMakers is a unique, multimedia initiative. Its founder, Julieanna L. Richardson says "Our goal is to show that African American history is American history. Our initiative is designed to do for the African American community what Spielberg and the Shoah Foundation have done so ably for the Jewish community and holocaust survivors. This involves gathering first person narratives and putting

these narratives on-line. The richness and depth of the African American experience offers a wealth of potential for the development of this wonderful resource. Our first step in this process is to do a substantial number of interviews between now and the end of the year in the following categories:"

ArtMakers, BusinessMakers, EducationMakers, LawMakers, MediaMakers, EntertainmentMakers, MedicalMakers, PoliticalMakers, MusicMakers, SportsMakers and ScienceMakers.

"This will give us a significant start for an archive of interviews that will eventually number in the



Rep. Emil Jones (center) presents a \$200,000 check to (left) Julieanna Richardson, president and founder of The HistoryMakers and Crystal Foster (right).

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thousands," says Richardson.

The HistoryMakers is finding ready acceptance in the media and educational publishing world. So far, The HistoryMakers series is airing weekly on WBBM-AM every Tuesday at the following times: 3:40 a.m., 9:50 a.m., 2:40 p.m., 6:40 p.m. 11:50 p.m. and is featured on the WBBM-Newsradio 780 web site at wbbm780.com. In addition, educational internet publishers such as Edventions and

Lightspan.com are using the content to appeal to a multicultural audience of students and teachers alike.

The \$200,000 State of Illinois grant will enable The HistoryMakers to develop a fully working web site. The prototype site can now be found at www.thehistorymakers.com. It will also result in the creation of a unique two-volume videotape set of the personal stories of Illinois PoliticalMakers.

"Their work in document-

ing the stories of Illinois politicians will go a long way toward creating the archive that I have always dreamed of. Other states have created important collections and initiatives dedicated to the African American experience. It is now time for Illinois, a state where African Americans have contributed so much, to put its name on the map and The HistoryMakers initiative is an important step in that direction," says Leader Jones.

Leader Jones is the first African American to serve as Senate Minority Leader of the Illinois Senate. He has

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- ◆ Approximately 60% to 65 % of people with Diabetes have **High Blood Pressure**.
- ◆ Diabetes is the leading cause of **Kidney Disease**.
- ◆ Diabetes is the leading cause of new cases of **Blindness** in adults 20 to 74 years old.
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founder of The HistoryMakers and Crystal Foster (right).

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Leader Jones is the first African -American to serve as Senate Minority Leader of the Illinois Senate. He has served in the Illinois Senate for over 17 years, during which time he has demonstrated a strong commitment to education. It was through his efforts that legislation passed requiring a credit of holocaust history and African American History to be taught in the Illinois Public School systems.

The HistoryMakers is an Illinois not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization located in Chicago's South Loop at 1900 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60616.

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