

2008

Honorary Degree Citation: Warner Saunders

Governors State University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://opus.govst.edu/commencements>

Recommended Citation

Governors State University, "Honorary Degree Citation: Warner Saunders" (2008). *Commencements*. Paper 124.
<http://opus.govst.edu/commencements/124>

This Citation is brought to you for free and open access by the Commencement at OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in Commencements by an authorized administrator of OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. For more information, please contact opus@govst.edu.

Granted 2008

Warner Saunders

Warner Saunders began his career as a teacher and continues his work in education as a journalist. He has dedicated his life to the dissemination of enlightening and accurate information.

He is best known for his outstanding career as a journalist working for many years at WBBM-TV and for the past 27 years at NBC-5.

It is Warner Saunders to whom Chicagoland homes turn to learn the truth about the day's events, the major stories that shape our lives, and the vignettes that add character to them.

It is Warner Saunders to whom we turn to understand the human dimension of disasters both far away and close to home, from tsunamis in Indonesia, to hurricanes in New Orleans, to tornadoes in our own community.

It was Warner Saunders to whom we turned to share the elation of victory, from the Bears in '85, to six NBA championships for the Bulls, and most recently and gloriously, to the White Sox in '05.

Mr. Saunders' career on Chicago television includes numerous highlights: 19 Emmys for news, sports, documentaries, children's programs, talk shows, and community meetings. He received the Illinois Broadcasters Association Public Service Award, the prestigious Gabriel Award, and the Hull House Jane Adams Award for his commitment and service to the Chicago community.

It is this service that drove Mr. Saunders to make documentaries exposing the complex realities faced by high school dropouts, the paths chosen by the leaders of Chicago street gangs, and the historic release of Nelson Mandela from a South African prison, as well as an award-winning series on Negro League baseball players.

Mr. Saunders' job as an educator stems from more than his work as a journalist. He was first a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools, a youth worker, and Boys' Club Executive Director. He has since taught at the National College of Education, Malcolm X College, Northeastern Illinois University, and Indiana University Northwest. It should not surprise anyone that he has been voted teacher of the year several times.

Mr. Saunders exemplifies the importance of truth, accurate information, and educational opportunity in both how he has conducted his career and how he lives his life. His dedication to education and expanding access to it for everyone has been a focus of his life from his years spent as an educator both in the classroom as a teacher and in our living rooms on the nightly news. If, as Philip Graham has said, "journalism is the first, rough draft of history," then Warner Saunders is the voice of history for Chicagoland.

The Board of Trustees is proud to award Warner Saunders the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, and to welcome him to our community of involved and engaged scholars, educators, and students.