

Milton MCDANIEL

Southern Illinois Trailblazer and Community Builder



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024
11:00am - NOON

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:

LET THE HEALING CONTINUE

IVEY & TARVIN @ JALC CONFERENCE CENTER

Free & Open to the Public!

BIOGRAPHY

In 1967, Mr. Milton McDaniel became the first African American railroad fireman and engineer north of the Ohio River (including Illinois Central Railroad -Carbondale) and began his 50-year long career. Carbondale was a different place then. "It was a struggle but I wanted to let other young men know that no matter what they wanted to do in life, don't let nothing turn you around," said McDaniel. Despite the prejudice, discrimination, disrespect and the challenges of his job as well as the hardships that come with them, Mr. McDaniel rose above them. He never lost sight of his college and career goals. After he retired, he and his wife, Corene McDaniel, co-founded the African American Museum of Southern Illinois in Carbondale to highlight Southern Illinois' Black heritage; bringing cultural awareness, carefully preserving black history, engaging young minds and celebrating the achievements of outstanding black citizens and other Americans working to advance cultural education, racial justice and equity. Mr. McDaniel was inducted into the Illinois Labor Hall of Fame and December 2nd was made Milton McDaniel Sr. Day in Carbondale, IL.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Diversity & Inclusion Office, Room C214, 618-985-2828, Ext. 8586

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