



Valencia L. Agnew, 53, of Grand Rapids

Eugene Browning Medical Service Award
Winner

Owner, Adolescent and Family Behavioral
Health Services

Inspiration: "I am inspired every day by clients who are willing to face their struggles and challenges, head on, even when there is stigma, even when they feel helpless and hopeless. They show up in session after session trusting me to help them in their journey. It makes me want to do better and provide them with the best. I am inspired by my faith and relationship with God; when things get tough, I know that I am following my calling and purpose. In addition, my mother has been my inspiration as long as I can remember. She helped others tirelessly. She gave her time, money, cooking, prayers, encouragement, and other resources to most anyone who needed help even if she did not know them."

Life Lesson: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue. We have the ability to speak words of life to others that cause them to change their focus. And if we change someone's focus, we can change their direction. Sometimes, people just need to have someone speak life so that there is hope. Someone focused can accomplish most anything."

Challenge: "Stigma is one of the biggest challenges, while things are better, it still stands in the way of people getting available help. The other challenge is a lack of knowledge about treatment options available. I wish I had more opportunities to educate people who self-injure and people who have emotional dysregulation as well as those who treat them and those who love and support them."

2018 GIANTS AWARD WINNERS TO BE HONORED AS LEADERS IN GRAND RAPIDS

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By Bryce Airgood bairgood@mlive.com

GRAND RAPIDS, MI - Grand Rapids Community College will honor and celebrate influential leaders in the African American community at its annual Giants Awards program.

The event is 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at DeVos Place's Steelcase Ballroom, 303 Monroe Ave. NW.

While the Giant Among Giants Award winner remains a closely-held secret until that night, 11 people are among others who will be honored this year.

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2018/01/2018_giants_award_winners_to_b.html