

I have known Jose Manuel Evans as a friend and colleague for over 15 years.

He has a combination of qualities, characteristics, and activities few central Indiana Hoosiers have.

There are several adjectives which describe Jose:

- husband (married to Tara for 17 years)
- marriage partner (supports Tara who is in her 4th year of her PhD program studies at iSU)
- father (4 sons: Malcolm, Tayshaun, Landon, Langston)
- visionary
- businessman
- community-minded, yet globally conscious and active
- author (2 books):
 - *Emperor Penguin*
 - *Fear of a Back Republican*
- co-author of the academic paper:
 - “‘They Say that We are Prone to Violence, but It’s Home Sweet Home’: The Praxis of Hip Hop, Self-Actualization, and Democratic Education for Addressing the Roots of Violence” published in the 2015 global-oriented and peer-reviewed *International Journal for Cross-disciplinary Subjects in Education*
 - <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/The-Praxis-of-Hip-Hop-Levels-of-Human-Power-Self-actualization-and-Democratic-Education-for-Addressing-the-Roots-of-Violence-1.pdf>
- world-class speaker on education
 - Israel (Tel Aviv: 2010)
 - Puerto Rico (Caguas: 2012)
 - England (London: 2013)
 - South Africa (Pretoria: 2014 and 2018)
- politician
 - 2 term City-County Councillor (2008-2016)
- education leader
 - on the evening of November 20, 2015, Jose and the Black and Latino Policy Institute (B&LPI) brought in University of Oregon Prof. Edward Olivos to speak to a large group of about 100 attendees during a Town Hall on parent-teacher relationships
 - http://indianapolis.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=a13c739f-9847-11e5-8170-f04da2064c47
 - <http://in.chalkbeat.org/2015/11/20/expert-a-lot-of-school-efforts-to-involve-parents-are-bogus/#.VmNICrgrJeU>
- mentor
- intelligent
 - street smart
 - grew up in his single mother's household in Haughville with 3 siblings
 - book smart
 - BA: University of Indianapolis, MBA: Indiana Wesleyan
- community and education activist
 - in 2017, Jose/B&LPI was instrumental in helping IUPUI School of Education receive a \$2.75 million 5-year federal grant to prepare K-12 teachers to work with multi-lingual learners
- social entrepreneur:
 - on October 20 of 2018, Jose/B&LPI produced the nation’s first Black and Latino Book Fair right here in Indianapolis. This one day event was held at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore in the Fashion Mall at Keystone

- concerned citizen
 - over 15 letters to editor, opinion pieces, or education series inspired by Jose have been published in the *Indianapolis Star*, *Indianapolis Recorder*, and *NUVO*. Some of the topics were:
 - urban education
 - education policy
 - parental empowerment
 - genuine alternative schools
 - student and youth voice
 - democratic education
 - township school dropouts
 - education and hip hop culture
 - the more significant piece was Jose's column in the March 25, 2005 *Recorder* "Misleading graduation rates hurt black children" which influenced the acclaimed May 2005 *Indianapolis Star* 8-day "Left Behind" series on IPS and state graduation rates.

In 2003, then Indiana governor Frank O'Bannon made Jose Evans the director of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males. He knew Jose's main concern was education in his local African American community.

Later in 2004, Jose co-founded the Black and Latino Policy Institute, of which he is currently president.

Just think, Jose the visionary, looking decades ahead of his time, co-founded (right here in Indianapolis), one of America's most important and unique establishments, an institute for both Black and Latino people. There are Black organizations and there are Latino organizations, and in many instances they come together to solve mutual problems; nonetheless, there are no high-level organizations consistently representing the interests of both Black and Latino communities as is the case with the Black & Latino Policy Institute.

Jose is a member of 100 Black Men of Indianapolis and the service-oriented Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

He is also the Indiana state director for the Black Conservative Federation.

In early November of 2019, a representative of B&LPI was brought to Rotterdam, NL to present during a conference on the de-radicalization Muslim youth. B&LPI has sent representatives to present or participate in education conferences or meetings: Sao Paulo (2007), Vancouver (2008), and Seoul (2009).

In conclusion, read his latest book. Appreciate for yourself that what makes Jose Evans stand out among the other possible IJB's 40 Influential People nominees is his vision for America and his international experiences--influencing both thinkers and doers here and around the world.

John Harris Loflin
johnharrisloflin@yahoo.com
 317.998.1339