



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
 Marcus Branch of Portland (right) presents Portland Observer Publisher Mark Washington with a personalized copy of Detroit journalist Al Allen's book "We're Standing By." Branch met with Allen, a longtime TV anchor and reporter, at the National Association of Black Journalists Convention in Detroit where the book was signed, last month.

## Honored by Fellow Journalist Book shares experiences of black anchor

Say "Al Allen" in Metro Detroit, and people smile, thinking of the cheerful reporter who greeted them through their TV screens every morning... broadcasting live from frigid freeway overpasses, crime scenes, celebrations, and just about anywhere.

Al Allen's iconic voice and face on the Fox 2 Morning Show, as well as evening and radio newscasts before that, provided big city news in a hard news town for 50 years.

He delivered firsthand accounts of history-in-the-making events, including Detroit's 1975 riot and the funeral procession for Rosa Parks in Washington, DC.

"We're standing by," Al said countless times into his microphone, telling his producers back at the station that he and his cameraperson were ready to go on live TV before millions of viewers.

Now, in this unique memoir, Al

reports on his own life, sharing his story with his trademark, tell-it-like-it-is style that's rooted in old school journalistic integrity.

With each chapter reading like one of his fast-paced news reports, *We're Standing By* offers an exclusive peek through the human lens of this iconic newsman. It reveals how he saw things, while covering big city murders and mayhem, superstars and scandals, or breaking news events. He even shares some behind-the-scenes bloopers.

Al also reveals that there's much more than the man with the microphone; he's a devoted husband and family man, father, and grandfather. And with courage and a commitment to mentoring, Al continues to help blaze new trails for African Americans and people of color in the news industry.

The book was recently shared with Portland Observer publisher Mark Washington.

*We're Standing By* will make you laugh and cry, as you speed through the legendary life story of this Motor City icon.



NFL Pro Bowler Michael Bennett (center) and Grammy award-winning artist Maclamore (left) team up with editor Jesse Hagopian (right) to purchase copies of the book he co-edited "Teaching for Black Lives" for free distribution to middle and high school teachers in the Pacific Northwest.

## Writings to Humanize Education 'Teaching for Black Lives' a handbook for caring

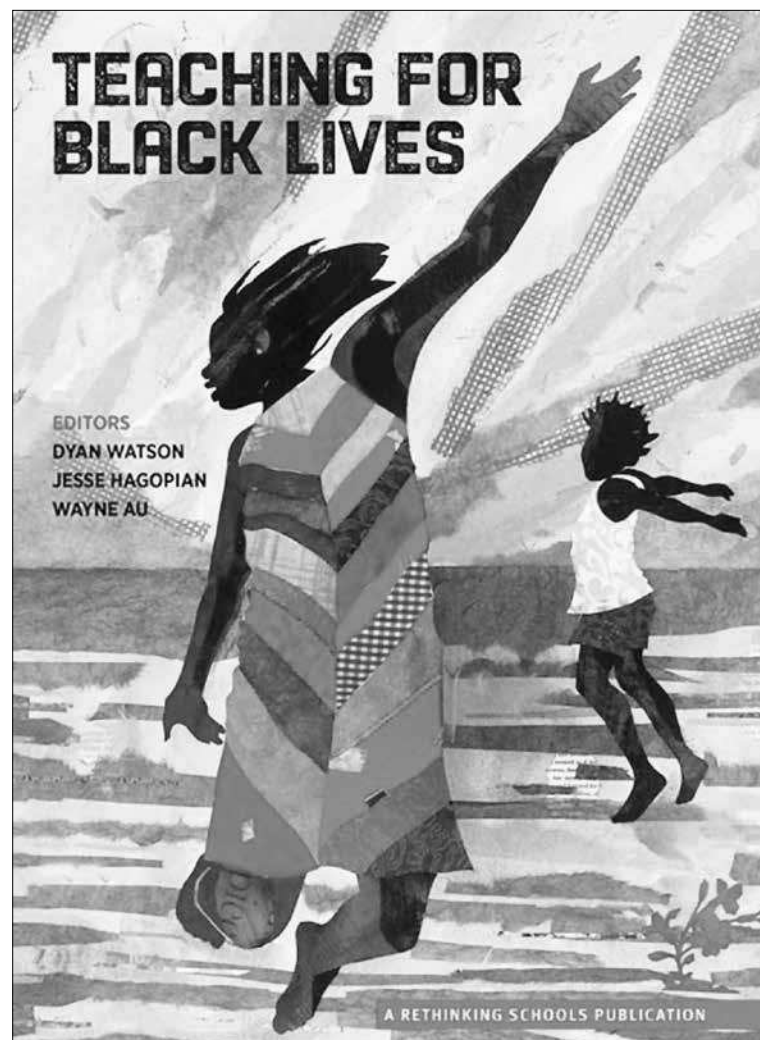
Three-time NFL Pro Bowler Michael Bennett and Grammy award-winning artist Macklemore have teamed up to purchase and distribute copies of a new, widely-acclaimed book, "Teaching for Black Lives" to middle and high school social studies and language arts teachers in the Pacific Northwest.

The book is a collection of writings meant to aid educators and humanize blacks in curriculum, teaching, and policy, while also connecting lessons to young people's lives.

Professor Dyan Watson, a teacher in education at Lewis & Clark's Graduate School of Education and Counseling, is one of the book's three editors.

"I have two black sons. For me, this collection is about their survival, and the survival of children like them throughout the United States," said Watson. "Teaching for Black Lives is a handbook for all educators, students, and families who truly care about blackness and the intersections of learning, teaching, and race."

Watson began her professional career as a GED instructor for young mothers in Portland and then taught social studies at Sunset High School in Beaverton. There she developed and taught the first African American history course, and helped create and



implement a school-within-a-school program for freshmen and sophomores.

"This is the book I wish I had coming up in school, but it never existed," said NFL'er Bennett. "Now we have the opportunity to educate thousands of youth about the black history that was too often missing from my schooling—from the building of the White House, to the role of black youth in social movements, to organizing for restorative justice today."

"Teaching for Black Lives" arose from a Black Lives Matter at School movement in which thousands of teachers have focused lessons on conversations surrounding black history and

identity, restorative justice, and institutional racism.

"With everything from history, to poetry, to visual art, these lessons will help educators affirm the lives of their Black students and create deeper dialogue in our schools about the struggles and contributions of Black people that all students need to learn," said Macklemore.

The book demonstrates how teachers can connect curriculum to young people's lives and explore how classrooms and schools can be set up either to reproduce racism or challenge it. It has received critical acclaim from educators, activists, and publications around the country.

## CLASSIFIED/BIDS

**United Way** is hiring an **administrative coordinator** to support its Early Learning Team.

Bilingual skills in Spanish/English are required. This is a full-time, non-exempt position, working primarily out of the Early Learning office in Aloha but also United Way's Portland office. Hiring range: \$34,347-\$41,217, DOE. To review the competencies required and to apply: [www.unitedway-pdx.org/about/careers](http://www.unitedway-pdx.org/about/careers) by 10/19/18.

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