

Lester publishes book on social justice

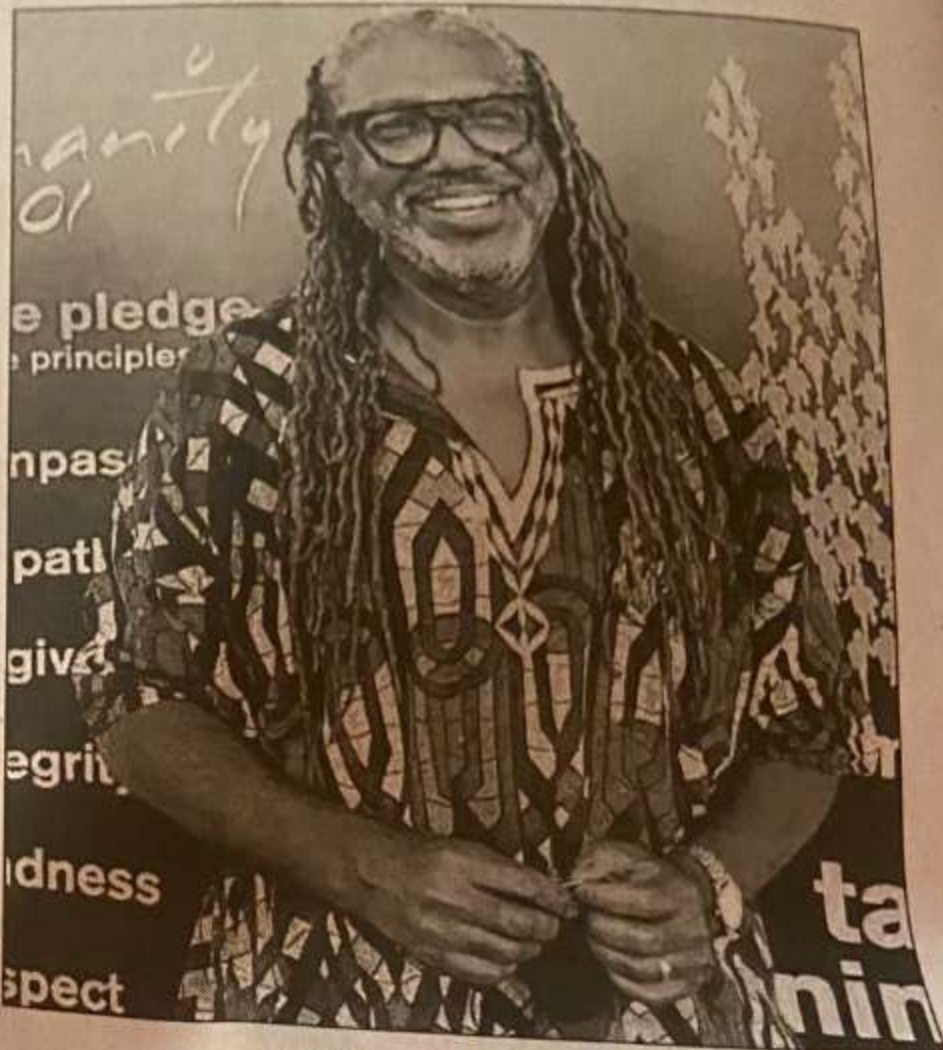
Jefferson native Dr. Neal A. Lester has recently released his latest book, *Social Justice in Action: Models for Campus and Community*. The book is a collection of essays and reflections which “showcase practical approaches to diversity, equity, and inclusion: ways to build community, earn trust, tell unheard stories, and develop solutions to problems.”

“This volume has been a long time coming and so much about the world has changed since work on it began four years ago—mainly George Floyd’s murder and the global pandemic,” Lester said.

Lester is Foundation Professor of English and Founding Director of the

multiple award-winning Project Humanities initiative at Arizona State University. With expertise in African American literature and culture, he has authored or edited eight books and myriad essays and chapters on topics ranging from the race and gender politics of hair, Black masculinities, and African American folklore, to Toni Morrison’s children’s books. In addition to his publications on *ntozake shange*, Alice Walker, Sapphire, and Zora Neale Hurston, Lester has done pioneering work on the Nword, having created and taught the first college course on the Nword in the US.

Lester is a 1977 graduate of Jefferson High School.



DR. NEAL LESTER