



Dean Hill

Halle Jones Capers

Dean Hill was one of my very first mentors. He first took an interest in me during my freshman year at The University of Akron. Dr. Hill was instrumental in our chartering the University chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers in 1986. I was its first president. Dr. Hill was involved in other organizations aimed at increasing the number of minority students majoring in and graduating in the fields of engineering at the University, including the Minorities in the Mainstream which hosted the Mayor's Recognition Dinner each year. Mayor Don Plusquellic attended this event each year for more than twenty years to recognize high achieving Akron area

minority students and to encourage them to consider a career in engineering. On a personal note, Dr. Hill was instrumental in helping me decide to change my major from electrical engineering to civil engineering. Our friendship continued long into my adulthood as he and Jeanne followed my career path. I visited their retirement home in Scottsdale, Arizona, and they would visit me when they would return to Akron. I proudly keep the signed structures textbook Louis gave to me.