Marlene Owens-Rankin

COLLEGE: College of Social Work

DEGREE: BS Social Welfare, ’61

CAREER: Managing director of the Jesse Owens Foundation

NOTABLE: Marlene Owens-Rankin has continued her father’s legacy of community involvement by emerging as one of the Chicago area’s most noted activists and philanthropists. Since 1990, she’s been Managing Director of the Jesse Owens Foundation, which has the goal of helping children realize their potential through education, athletic achievement, and development in the arts. More than 500 young people have benefited from the Foundation’s work. Owens-Rankin, who also holds a master’s degree from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago, has won the Phenomenal Woman Award in Philanthropy from Chicago’s Black Women’s Expo and was named one of 100 Women Making a Difference by Today’s Chicago Woman.