

Dr. Michael Shannon*

During his time at University City High School, Michael Shannon joined the Biology Club, performed in the senior play “Brigadoon” and ran for Student Council President. He aspired to become a doctor even though medicine was not accessible to most African Americans.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Washington University and a medical degree from Duke University. His pediatric residency at Children’s Hospital Boston deepened his passion for children’s care and the impact of toxin-related health issues.

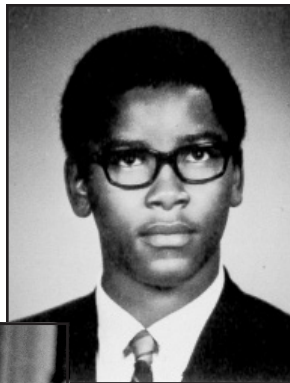
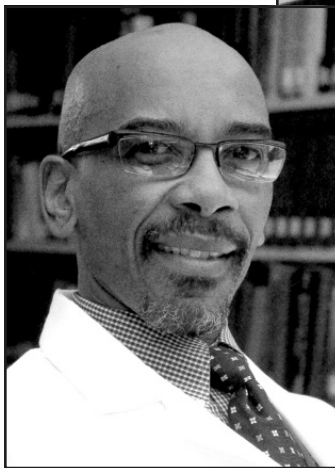
He was the first African American full Pediatrics professor at Harvard

Medical School, breaking barriers for future generations. He also held the distinction of being the initial African American division chief at Children’s Hospital Boston, serving as chief in emergency medicine and clinical pharmacology. He treated children affected by toxins, including lead paint and medication overdoses. With more than 50 peer-reviewed articles, he established himself as a premier pediatric toxicologist. He advocated worldwide for child protection from environmental hazards.

Shannon discovered deep satisfaction in dance, showcasing both strength and grace. Renowned as “The Dancing Doctor,” he performed annually in “Black Nativity” and assumed the role of Drosselmeyer in “Urban Nutcracker.”

Several prestigious awards bear his name. The Michael Shannon Award from the American Pediatric Association recognizes outstanding abstracts. The Michael Shannon Humanitarian Award by the American Academy of Pediatrics honors clinical care and mentoring in pediatric emergency medicine. The Michael Shannon Dance Champion Award celebrates Boston’s dance community contributors over 60.

*Posthumous



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Class of 1970