

ACHIEVING ACADEMIC EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE FOR BLACK BOYS



Spring Convocation

A Gathering of Leaders

Baltimore Marriott Inn at Camden Yards

110 S. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

Thursday, April 20, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



SCAN ME



About AAEEBB

Achieving Academic Equity and Excellence for Black Boys (AAEEBB) is an initiative dedicated to developing and implementing a set of evidence-based recommendations and strategies to improve the educational experiences and outcomes for Black boys in Maryland's schools. The initiative focuses on three key areas:


1. Social-Emotional and Behavioral Supports
2. Recruiting and Training Skilled Competent Teachers and Administrators
3. Curricula and Instruction

Currently, there are 14 pilot schools, throughout the State of Maryland, that are part of this initiative. Pilot schools meet regularly with the AAEEBB Advisory Council for support and ideas. Pilot schools are responsible for the implementation of recommendations found in the report developed by the Task Force on Achieving Academic Equity and Excellence for Black Boys. Pilot schools participate in professional development opportunities, book studies, and speaker series that support the implementation of AAEEBB programming within their schools.





Convocation Purpose and Learning Outcomes



Purpose: All 455 black boys (along with their chaperones and sponsors) who are currently participating in the Maryland State Department of Education's Achieving Academic Equity and Excellence for Black Boys (AAEEBB) pilot program will gather to celebrate their accomplishments and plan for future success in school and beyond.



Learning Outcomes: By the end of the event, participants will be able to:

1. understand their agency in creating their own success;
2. set goals for continued growth;
3. identify effective social-emotional learning strategies; and
4. celebrate the importance of collective achievement as Black boys.





Order of Program

Master of Ceremonies: Jason D. Ray, J.D., Advisory Council Member

Times	Activities
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Arrival/Sign-in/Preliminaries/Continental Breakfast
9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Greetings/The Occasion Keynote Address: Pastor Juan Wilder
	Student Voice Presentation
10:15 am - 10:30 a.m.	Snacks/Break/Transition to Breakout Rooms
10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Grade-Level (Elementary, Middle, and High) Breakout Sessions* <i>Students will engage in grade-level appropriate enrichment and social-emotional learning activities targeted to Black boys and facilitated by Black male educators. Activities will include goal setting, positive affirmations, mindfulness, creative expression, and more.</i>
12:15 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Break/Transition to Lunch
12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Buffet Lunch/Encore Student Voice Presentation
1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Morgan State University National Pan-Hellenic Council Fraternities Presentation
	Closing Keynote: Dr. Daryl C. Howard
	Dismissal



*Breakout Sessions Overview

Times	Elementary 1	Elementary 2	Middle 1	Middle 2	High
10:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Mr. Eugene Banks <i>Young Black Scholar Workshop</i>	Mr. Ken Patterson <i>Black Excellence: From Being Examples to Setting Examples</i>	Mr. Benjamin Ballah <i>Know Thyself</i>	Mr. Timothy Jones <i>Searching 4:Love, Joy, Peace, & Hope</i>	Mr. Kenneth Smith <i>Visionaries: Black Boys and the Promise of 21st Century Leadership</i>
11:25 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Mr. Ken Patterson <i>Black Excellence: From Being Examples to Setting Examples</i>	Mr. Eugene Banks <i>Young Black Scholar Workshop</i>	Mr. Timothy Jones <i>Searching 4:Love, Joy, Peace, & Hope</i>	Mr. Benjamin Ballah <i>Know Thyself</i>	





Breakout Session Descriptions

Session Title: Young Black Scholar Workshop

Session Description: The Young Black Scholar Workshop is a program that inspires scholars to dream big and realize the power they have within. The program consists of reading and discussing the book *Young Black Boy*, positive affirmations, and goal setting. The Young Black Scholar Workshop is a GAME CHANGER!

Facilitator Name: Mr. Eugene Banks



Facilitator Bio: Eugene Banks was born and raised in Washington DC. He attended undergrad at the illustrious North Carolina A&T State University where he obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management and also became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated. He later received his Masters in Education at the RELAY School of Education. He is currently a 4th Grade Math and Science Teacher at Ketcham Elementary in SE Washington DC. He is also the Co-Founder of a nonprofit organization called *Competitive By Nature*. His passion lies in God, spending time with his family, fitness, serving the community, education, and uplifting the next generation.

Session Title: Black Excellence: From Being Examples to Setting Examples

Session Description: "Black Excellence: From Being Examples to Setting Examples" is a 40-minute session that aims to empower young black boys in elementary school settings to embrace their unique talents and strengths, and to become positive examples and leaders in their schools and communities. Through guided visualization exercises, group discussions, and practical strategies, participants will increase their awareness of the impact of negative stereotypes and learn how to reframe them to promote Black Excellence. This session encourages participants to celebrate diversity, build self-confidence, and develop a growth mindset for academic and personal success. Join us in this inspiring and empowering session to promote Black Excellence and encourage the next generation of black leaders.

Facilitator Name: Mr. Ken Patterson

Facilitator Bio: Ken Patterson is a Principal, EdLeadership Coach, PhD Student & Speaker. He is passionate about matters related to equity and inspiring collective action among leaders in K-12 Education, and has launched *Lead, Build, Inspire, Inc.* as a pathway for change. Has served as a teacher, grant coordinator, speaker, pastor, assistant principal, and currently serves as the Principal of Seven Oaks Elementary School in the Anne Arundel County Public Schools System.





Breakout Session Descriptions (Cont.)

Session Title: Know Thyself

Session Description: Socrates once said that “To know thyself is the beginning of wisdom.” In this workshop, students will gain this wisdom through the power of spoken word poetry. By being empowered to identify their emotions, clarify their beliefs, and share their voice, students will not only develop social emotional learning, but they will also begin to see themselves as worthy and able of showing up authentically and confidently in any space.

Facilitator Name: Mr. Benjamin Ballah

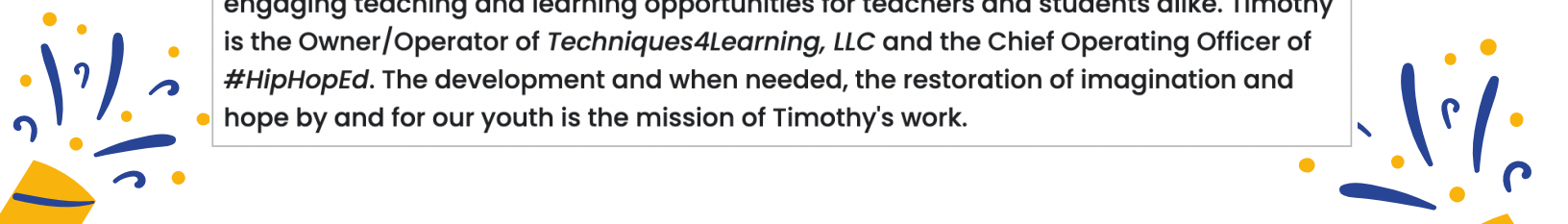
Facilitator Bio: Benjamin is a poet and urban education professional based in Baltimore City. He graduated with a degree in English Literature and an Honors Citation from UMBC, where he was also inducted as a Sherman STEM Teacher Scholar. He has also spent several years passionately serving in ministry leadership and has had the privilege of mentoring and developing student leaders from various universities across the greater Baltimore area.

Session Title: Searching 4:Love, Joy, Peace, and Hope

Session Description: How can we deal with the social and emotional well being of our young black male students without taking the time to allow them to examine some key emotions (love, joy, and peace) that lead to an optimistic perspective (hope) about themselves and their futures? This activity will challenge and allow the students to reflect on their initial thoughts about these emotions and state of mind, and examine if and where they are present within the music and media they consume that informs and influences their world view. We will imagine and begin to create the spaces where our love, joy, peace, and hope are found in a way that is culturally acceptable to the young black male students.

Facilitator Name: Mr. Timothy Jones

Facilitator Bio: Timothy is an innovative educator that utilizes elements of youth development, hip hop culture/pedagogy, and effective teaching practices to create engaging teaching and learning opportunities for teachers and students alike. Timothy is the Owner/Operator of *Techniques4Learning, LLC* and the Chief Operating Officer of *#HipHopEd*. The development and when needed, the restoration of imagination and hope by and for our youth is the mission of Timothy's work.






Breakout Session Descriptions (Cont.)

Session Title: Visionaries: Black Boys and the Promise of 21st Century Leadership

Session Description: While many people have an idea of what they think leadership is, most people don't think of themselves as leaders. In this workshop, participants will be asked to identify and reflect on the leadership qualities that they themselves possess. They will delve into their cultural heritage and evaluate how their leadership qualities can be used to help transform society in positive and beneficial ways.

Facilitator Name: Mr. Kenneth Smith

Facilitator Bio: Kenneth M. Smith is a National Board Certified Teacher and Montgomery County's *Washington Post* Teacher of the Year for 2018. As a lead teacher in Montgomery County Maryland's Public School system, he has taught several courses under the Social Studies umbrella, including United States Government, AP US History, and African-American Studies. Currently, he teaches Introduction to Sociology and a course that he designed for the county called Hip-hop History and Culture. He is a strong advocate for teacher leadership outside of the classroom as well. He serves on the leadership team for the BOND (Building our Network of Diversity) Project which is an initiative focused on increasing the hiring, development, and retention of male educators of color. He is also on the executive committee for the Minority Scholars Program (MSP), a youth-driven, social justice initiative designed to address the opportunity gaps that exist within the educational system. He's dedicated to building the capacity of educators to be reflective, culturally responsive practitioners and social justice advocates for traditionally marginalized learners. Currently, MSP is partnering with the NEA to train students to lead professional development for teachers on how to engage their students on issues dealing with racial injustice in the classroom.





Speaker Bios

Pastor Juan M. Wilder, Sr.

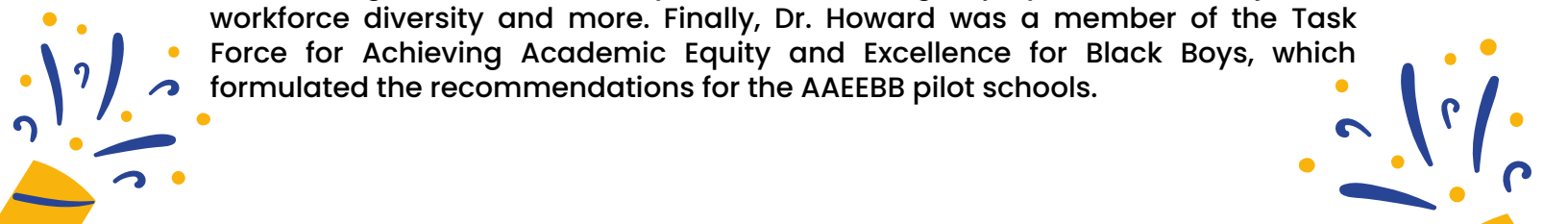
Juan Wilder is Senior Pastor of Impact One Church in Capitol Heights, Maryland and one of today's most dynamic leaders. Pastor Juan promotes unity, transformative change, and "love in action"—a foregoing message and motto that has empowered the DC-MD-VA community. He is known as the "Community Pastor" because of the care he renders in the community to fight world hunger, social injustice, and systemic inequities.

By way of credentials, Juan Wilder attended and graduated from the Minnesota Graduate School of Theology at the top of his class maintaining a 4.0 GPA with a B.A. in Biblical Studies and Theology, Summa Cum Laude. Additionally, he completed all requirements to obtain his credentials (License to Preach; nationally) with the Assemblies of God. Currently, Pastor Juan leads one church in multiple countries and his evangelistic efforts have impacted lives all over the world.

Pastor Juan is a decorated veteran of the armed forces. After his tenure in the United States Air Force, he began teaching Math and Science at the Christian Fellowship Academy in Warner Robins, Georgia while also mentoring black male students with Godly counsel for righteous living. Juan Wilder is married to the wife of his youth, Melanie Wilder, and they share in the delight and joy of three beautiful boys - Juan Jr., Jacob, and Jordan.

Daryl C. Howard, Ph. D.

Daryl Howard, Ph.D is an equity instructional specialist whose work and research interests include race and cultural proficiency, social emotional learning, and the triumphs and challenges of African American male students. As chair of Maryland's State Department of Education's Advisory Council on Equity and Excellence for Black Boys, he researches and recommends policy and practice to disrupt harmful narratives, decrease disproportionality and elevate achievement. Dr. Howard is instrumental in the work of the Building our Network of Diversity (BOND) Project, where he leads initiatives focused on the recruitment, development, and retention of male educators of color, as well as empowerment of underserved male students. Howard lectures on the topics of race, sociology, and education at McDaniel and Prince George's Community College and is the author of *Complex People: Insights at the Intersection of Black Culture and American Social Life*. Additionally, Dr. Howard is part of the NEA Foundation's Educators' Table. The program seeks to uplift the voices of outstanding educators on key issues, including equity, educational justice, workforce diversity and more. Finally, Dr. Howard was a member of the Task Force for Achieving Academic Equity and Excellence for Black Boys, which formulated the recommendations for the AAEEBB pilot schools.



Acknowledgements

The AAEEBB Advisory Council Convocation Committee gratefully acknowledges the support of the following individuals and groups, without whom this special event would not have been possible:

The Students, Families, Administration, Faculty, and Staff of our Pilot Schools

Baltimore County Public Schools

Golden Ring Middle School
Pikesville Middle School
Southwest Academy

Calvert County Public Schools

Calvert County Elementary School

Charles County Public Schools

J.P. Ryon Elementary School
Westlake High School

Howard County Public Schools

Longfellow Elementary School
Running Brook Elementary School

Kent County Public Schools

Kent County Middle School
Kent County High School

Montgomery County Public Schools

Francis Scott Key Middle School
New Hampshire Estates Elementary
School

Prince George's County Public Schools

Catherine T. Reed Elementary School

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Wicomico County

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Baltimore County

Vermelle Greene, Ph.D.
Charles County

Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy, D.A., CCC-SLP
Calvert County

Rachel L. McCusker
Carroll County

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Prince George's County

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Calvert County Public Schools

Ruth Downs, MBA
*Executive Associate, Office of
Organizational Effectiveness, MSDE*

MSDE Volunteers

Morgan State University National
Pan-Hellenic Council Fraternities

Special Thank You to Dr. Vermelle Greene for her wisdom and vision to celebrate our black boys!
Videographer: Mr. Hampton Conway III, CEO/Production Supervisor, Firebug Productions