



IN SUPPORT OF THE
**UNITED WAY
MENTOR
CENTER**

2017 **RACE TO EQUITY SUMMIT**

FEBRUARY 8-9, 2017
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

www.MBKPBC.com
#MBKPBC #MBK #RaceToEquitySummit



**Bridging the Opportunity Gap
for Boys and Young Men of Color**

MBK COMMUNITY CHALLENGE



In September 2014, President Obama issued a challenge to cities, towns, counties and tribes across the Country to become “My Brother’s Keeper Communities”. This challenge represents a call to action for all members of our communities, and mayors in particular, as they often sit at the intersection of many of the vital forces and structural components needed to enact sustainable change through policy, programs, and partnerships.

My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) Community Challenge encourages communities to implement a coherent cradle-to college-and-career strategy for improving the life outcomes of all young people to ensure that they can reach their full potential, regardless of who they are, where they come from, or the circumstances into which they are born. Over 200 mayors, tribal leaders, and county executives across 43 states and the District of Columbia have accepted the MBK Community Challenge.

THE SIX GOALS OF THE MBK COMMUNITY CHALLENGE ARE ENSURING ALL:

- 1.** Entering School Ready to Learn
- 2.** Reading on Grade Level by 3rd Grade
- 3.** Increase High School Graduation Rate
- 4.** Increase Enrollment and Completion of Post-Secondary Education or Training
- 5.** Ensure Access to Jobs and Valuable Work Experience
- 6.** Fostering Community That Prevents Exposure to Violent Crime



MISSION • CORE BELIEFS • GOALS

MISSION

The My Brother's Keeper Network (MBKN) is a coalition of public and private entities that work together to improve life outcomes for boys and young men of color by promoting internal agency policy review, mentoring, and by creating educational and employment opportunities.

CORE BELIEFS

Three core beliefs guide the My Brother's Keeper Network:

First: There are dedicated leaders and organizations that are successfully changing the life outcomes for boys and young men of color. However, they are lacking the infrastructure, support and resources needed to sustain their work and increase their efforts to scale.

Second: Long-term success requires a coordinated movement of leaders and organizations working together to advance shared goals.

Third: Boys and young men of color live within a system that was previously designed to discriminate based on race. As a result, we need to address this issue with race-based solutions that are strategic and targeted.

Based on these core beliefs, MBKN will undertake the following interconnected strategies:

- Mentor Recruitment
- Strategic Communications
- Network Building
- Capacity Building

In taking this step, MBKN intends to play a role that is currently unfilled in the broader landscape of organization participants who are engaged in seeking the advancement of boys and young men of color. MBKN sees its role as furthering the collective efforts of its partner organizations. MBKN is designed to provide coordination, resources and support to other entities who are working to achieve the MBK overarching goals. It will complement, but not duplicate, the work performed by existing groups (i.e. child and youth symposium workgroups and the Superintendent's TaskForce, etc.) that are working towards the same goals.

MBK NETWORK GOALS

- To create a network of agencies that are working together to achieve shared goals (MBK goals)
- To assist network agencies in assessing current program policies and practices that focus on improving outcomes for boys of color, in determining their effectiveness and provide recommendations, resources, and strategies for improvement
- To create a sustained initiative that increases the number of male mentors and structured activities that promote the achievement of MBK goals
- To promote systemic changes in order to improve the community's attitudes and practices toward boys and young men of color, and to strategically allocate public and private resources to enhance their educational and economic opportunities

MBK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1.

Conducted initial MBK Policy Review and incorporated the recommendations into Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures Youth Master Plan.

2.

Increased the number of community stakeholders participating in Racial Equity Institute training and enhanced agency representatives' ability to develop action plans using a racial equity lens.

3.

Established over 200 public and private partnerships to serve on committees, assist with mentoring and mentor recruitment, provide internships and jobs and help achieve the goals outlined in the local action plan.

4.

Recruited over 150 one-on-one, group and professional mentors for the United Way Mentor Center.

5.

Increased the number of mentor programs for the United Way Mentor Center.

6.

Provided entrepreneur training, summer internships and jobs to more than 40 boys and young men of color in the past 12 months.

7.

Raised over \$25,000 for the United Way Mentor Center.

8.

Worked with municipalities and schools to establish MBK Ambassadors that will work with the business community to increase internship and job placement for youth, assist with mentor recruitment efforts and serve as a liaison to the MBK Network.

9.

Worked with other major cities throughout the state of Florida to establish a Florida Alliance for Boys and Men of Color.

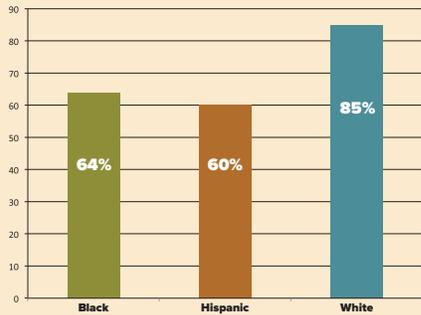
10.

Hosted two MBK Summits to help promote racial equity and address systemic barriers that exists within in Palm Beach County's education, criminal justice, healthcare and labor/employment systems.



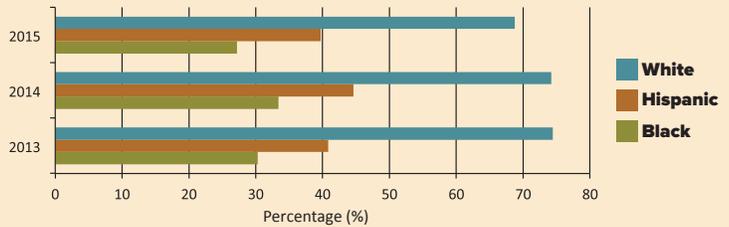
MILESTONES

1 ENTERING SCHOOL READY TO LEARN



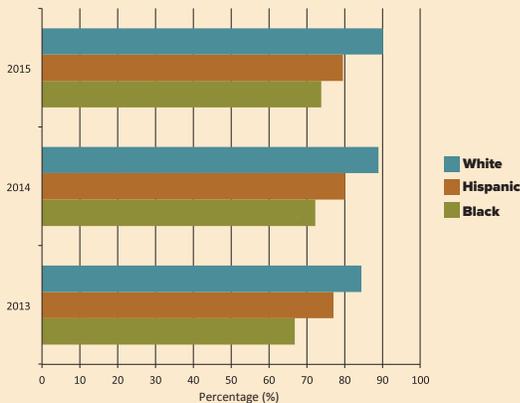
2014 Data-Source: PBC School District

2 READING ON GRADE LEVEL BY 3RD GRADE



2015 Data-Source: PBC School District (male only)

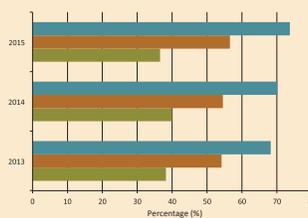
3 INCREASE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE



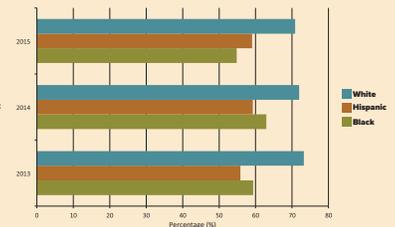
4 INCREASE ENROLLMENT AND COMPLETION OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OR TRAINING

Percent of graduates with Accelerated Diploma (AICE, IB, AP, & AA or AS degree)

Accelerated Success (Passing 1+ AICE, IB, AP, DE, or IC test), Military Enlist, National Merit

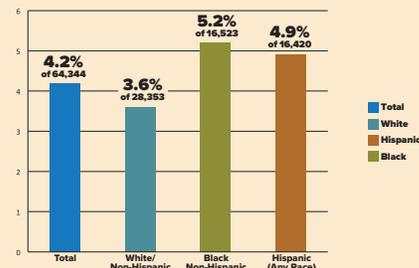


Post-Secondary Enrollment



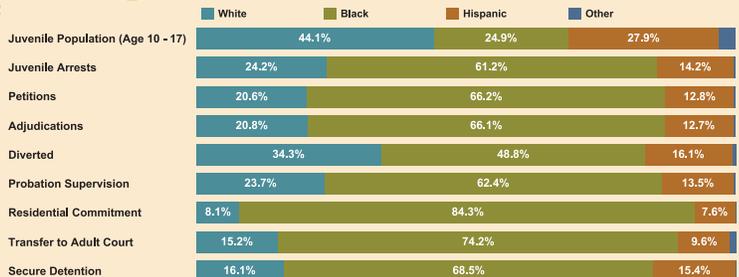
5 ENSURE ACCESS TO JOBS AND VALUABLE WORK EXPERIENCE

"Idle Youth" (Not working/not in school), Age 16-19, Palm Beach County, By Race/Hispanic Ethnicity, 2010-2014



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

6 FOSTERING COMMUNITY THAT PREVENTS EXPOSURE TO VIOLENT CRIME



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER POLICY REVIEW

AREAS OF FOCUS

MILESTONE I:

Remove testing barriers by recognizing, creating and implementing culturally sensitive/ appropriate assessment tools.

MILESTONE II:

Develop a community and school policy that promotes a holistic approach to education and wellbeing wherein parents are involved in the social-emotional and mental health of their children.

Develop policies to assess teacher absenteeism and its potential relationship with negative education outcomes, and to collect and analyze data on successful intervention and engagement of both students and teachers.

MILESTONE III:

Create a policy to refine the process for regular diagnoses and periodic reevaluation of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students. This process should include frequent data analysis, assessment, and quality improvement of referral processes.

MILESTONE IV:

Create a policy that encourages the development of more afterschool and out of school time activities for middle and high school students, thereby enabling mentors and coaches the opportunity to support social emotional learning, and that builds positive relationships with law enforcement.

MILESTONE V:

Create and enforce a policy that allows Boys and Men of Color to reconnect to school in a way that allows them to have a fresh start without bias and repercussions.

MILESTONE VI:

Implement policies that will improve school district staff's ability to train and educate youth on current and relevant social issues.

Develop a mechanism to track youth who attempt to transition back into school in order to determine the number of youth who are denied reentry, as well as the length of time it takes for them to fully transition back into the formal school setting.

Encourage fair civil citation policy for all local law-enforcement, and champion the decriminalization of small amounts of marijuana possession for all municipalities.



Message from
FORMER COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRISCILLA TAYLOR

Thank you for joining us for the 2017 MBK Race to Equity Summit! We are excited about the dynamic speakers, presenters and workshops we have planned for you. We appreciate your commitment to our local My Brother's Keeper Initiative and to the boys and young men of color in our community. Together, we will make a difference in the lives of our kids and improve the quality of life for our families and communities.

We have accomplished a lot in a short period of time, but there is still much to do. We look forward to keeping you engaged in this movement. We hope that you will continue to bring great ideas that will create improved educational and economic opportunities to our future leaders.

Sincerely,

Priscilla A. Taylor
Former County Commissioner
District 7



Message from
JAMES GREEN MBK TASK FORCE LEADER

Welcome to the 2017 MBK Race to Equity Summit. Your involvement in this conference will help us to gain a better perspective on issues involving racial equity and will strengthen our local collective efforts to improve outcomes for boys and young men of color.

In Palm Beach County, thousands of youth face persistent “opportunity gaps” that prevent them from reaching their potential. This not only affects the individual young people and their families, but it also prevents them from contributing fully to the community and the economy – thus impacting us all.

In order for us to successfully compete in a 21st-century global economy, all of Palm Beach County’s youth must have the opportunity to be safe, healthy, educated, and prepared to succeed in their lives and careers.

We are all responsible for the success of our community. To that end, we appreciate your contribution to this effort and we hope to keep you engaged in this initiative.

Coming together is the beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success!

James Green
My Brother’s Keeper PBC
Task Force Leader



WEST PALM BEACH

Business. Life. Balanced.



Jerri Muoio
Mayor

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of West Palm Beach, it is an honor and a pleasure to welcome you to the 2017 My Brother's Keeper Race to Equity Summit.

This Summit promises to be an extraordinary event which will showcase some of our nation's leading experts and organizations in the areas of policy reform, racial equity, and best practices regarding this most important issue.

The My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge was established by President Obama in 2014 to address the difficulties faced by minority boys and young men. The President challenged local leadership and elected officials throughout the nation, to step up and implement programs and policies to help improve the quality of life of our youth and to ensure that they reach their full potential, regardless of who they are, where they come from, or the circumstances into which they are born.

It is my hope that through the workshops and conversations held during this summit, our boys and young men of color will reach their full potential.

Best wishes for a memorable and successful event!

Jerri Muoio
Mayor

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,
Tourism, and Economic Development, *Vice Chair*
Banking and Insurance
Criminal Justice
Education Pre-K-12
Ethics and Elections
Fiscal Policy

SENATOR JEFF CLEMENS
27th District

Friends:

I'd like to welcome all of you to the 2017 Race to Equity Summit! This year's summit boasts a host of phenomenal speakers and presenters, as well as critical, engaging, and informative workshops.

As you know, The My Brother's Keeper Network of Palm Beach County is a community coalition focused on improving life outcomes for boys and young men of color. This year's theme, Bridging the Opportunity Gap, is especially important because of the impact, both current and future, persistent institutional and social "gaps" in opportunities have on our community. Frankly, the disproportionate inequity that is created by these "gaps" prevents our community from reaching its full potential when our young men of color aren't able to reach theirs.

To that end, I'd also like to thank you for your commitment to our community, to addressing the systemic neglect of our young men of color and making sure they are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need and deserve.

As community leaders, you are our greatest assets in our fight for a better future. I hope the next two days foster a spirit of continued commitment, fresh perspectives, and inspiration as we forge ahead in our race to equity.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Clemens".

Senator Jeff Clemens
Florida Senate District 27

REPLY TO:

☐ 508 Lake Avenue, Unit C, Lake Worth, Florida 33460 (561) 540-1140 FAX: (561) 540-1143
☐ 226 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5027

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

ANDY GARDINER
President of the Senate

GARRETT RICHTER
President Pro Tempore



TALLAHASSEE OFFICE

1401 Capitol Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 717-5088

DISTRICT OFFICE

2715 North Australian Ave., #105
West Palm Beach, FL 33407
(561) 650-6880
Fax: (561) 650-6882

COMMITTEES

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Appropriations Subcommittee
Economic Affairs Committee
Economic Development & Tourism
Subcommittee
Transportation & Ports
Subcommittee

STAFF

Legislative Assistant
Marian Dozier
District Secretary
Jervonte Edmonds

**Florida House of Representatives
Representative Bobby Powell, Jr.
District 88**

October 7, 2016

Welcome to the Race to Equity Summit!

I thank each and every one of you for attending this awesome event, which seeks to bridge the opportunity gap for boys and young men of color here in Palm Beach County.

But the battle is much larger, and I thank the County for realizing that and for partnering with Pres. Barack Obama's 'MBK Communities' shortly after he made his clarion call in 2014 for national work on this issue.

I also thank James Green for his tireless efforts and for fully partnering with our local non-governmental organizations, non-profits and government agencies.

We all have work to do and we will do it together. I, for one, am committed to the job!

Let's always remember that old African proverb: it takes a village to raise a child. Welcome to the village.

Yours in public service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bobby Powell, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Bobby Powell, Jr.
State Representative, District 88

Bobby.Powell@myfloridahouse.gov

Race, Power and Policy: Dismantling Systemic Racism

This session will bring government, business and community leaders together to network and to lay the foundation for the following day. The keynote speaker, Tim Wise will provide historical context on the social construct of race and how systemic and structural racism has led to the issues we are facing today, especially as it relates to our boys and young men of color. Mr. Wise's address will be followed by a panel discussion, which will explore the racial inequities that exist within our education, criminal justice and labor/employment systems nationally and locally. The panelists will also introduce innovative solutions taking place both locally and around the country to address these issues.

1:00 P.M.–1:25 P.M. Welcome and Opening Remarks

James Green, My Brother's Keeper Palm Beach County Task Force Leader
Verdenia Baker, County Administrator, Palm Beach County

1:25 P.M.–1:30 P.M. Introduction of Guest Speaker

Marsha Guthrie, Community Planning and Partnership Officer,
Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County

1:30 P.M.–2:30 P.M. Keynote Speaker

Tim Wise, Author and Activist

2:45 P.M.–4:00 P.M. Panel Discussion

Moderated by Marcus Littles, Sr. Partner, Frontline Solutions
Dr. Robert Simmons III, VP, Strategy & Innovation, Campaign for Black Male Achievement
Ronald Alvarez, Retired Palm Beach County Judge
Josh Kirschenbaum, Chief Operating Officer, PolicyLink
Priscilla Taylor, Former County Commissioner, District 7, Palm Beach County

4:00 P.M.–4:30 P.M. Closing Remarks and Next Steps

James Green, My Brother's Keeper Palm Beach County Task Force Leader

5:00 P.M.–7:00 P.M. Welcome Reception

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2017



THE HONORABLE RONALD ALVAREZ

Judge Alvarez is a retired Circuit Judge who served in the juvenile division for nearly 15 years, until his retirement in 2014. His professional experience includes sitting on the bench in other divisions of the court as well as over 20 years as an attorney in private practice. Judge Alvarez is a graduate of Indiana University where he where he earned his Bachelor's of Arts and Juris Doctorate. He has also served his country as a member of the United States Army. Judge Alvarez is well-known in the community for as a strong advocate for children. He has served an active member of various boards and associations, including but not limited to the Children's Services Council and the Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties. He has been featured in television and community events as a guest speaker as well as a faculty member at countless conferences. Judge Alvarez has been awarded several honors including the William E. Gladstone Award in 2011, Jurist of the Year (ABOTA) in 2012, Jim Sackett Adoption Advocate Award in 2014 and a Champion of Change (The Children's Healing Institute) in 2016. He has been married to Elaine Webb-Alvarez for 45 years and has two sons. Since his retirement, he has been working as a Circuit Mediator with Matrix Mediation, Inc.



JOSH KIRSCHENBAUM

Josh Kirschenbaum, Chief Operating Officer, enjoys building projects, initiatives, and organizations. As one of the original PolicyLink staff members, Josh has worked across the programmatic, communications, and operations teams, which allows him to bring comprehensive organizational knowledge to bear on supporting diverse alliances of internal and external teams to deliver on the promise of equity. His broad understanding of PolicyLink programs, funding, and partners enables him to design and launch new initiatives, drive organizational strategy, and chart the future of PolicyLink. Josh accomplishes this by being in steadfast service to the organization's mission, leadership, staff, and partners. When not immersed in the future of PolicyLink, he loves building alternative communities, dreaming of utopian societies, and chasing after his wild three year-old, Sammy Rose.

Prior to joining PolicyLink, Josh was the director of special projects at the University of California, Berkeley Institute of Urban and Regional Development, where he managed a defense conversion research program and fostered partnerships between the university and the City of Oakland to strengthen and revitalize low-income neighborhoods. He holds a BA from Brown University and an MS in city and regional planning from the University of California, Berkeley.



MARCUS LITTLES

Marcus Littles specializes in organizational development, particularly within the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. His work experience includes TCC Group, the Ford Foundation, where he served as a Program Associate in Community and Resource Development, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Littles is the founder of Frontline Solutions, and provides leadership to projects in organizational development, policy advocacy, and philanthropic engagement. A native of Mobile, he is a graduate of Auburn University and holds a master's degree in Public Administration, with a concentration in Nonprofit Management, from the University of Delaware.



DR. ROBERT SIMMONS III

Currently serving as the Vice President of Strategy and Innovation for the Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA), Robert W. Simmons III, EdD is responsible for the national implementation and development of CBMA's efforts to improve the life outcomes for Black men and boys as well as authoring a new narrative. As the largest, and most notable, organization in the United States singularly focused on Black men and boys, CBMA has been recognized by the White House's My Brother's Keeper initiative as a key national ally and partner. As a nationally recognized scholar and expert on issues of equity in higher education and K-12, Robert has shared his expertise throughout the United States and on numerous media outlets including CNN.

As a member of nationally recognized diversity and equity collaborative Edchange (edchange.com), Robert served as the first Chief of Innovation & Research in the District of Columbia Public Schools. While managing numerous initiatives in the district, including the launching of the first single gender public school in the history of DCPS, and authoring of the celebrated curriculum tool—*Teaching about Ferguson*—Robert was the chief architect of the nationally recognized Empowering Males of Color initiative. The Empowering Males of Color initiative is a pre-K through 12 initiative aimed at supporting African American and Latino boys in Washington DC. As a result of this work, Washington DC was recognized, along with Detroit and Oakland, as one of leading cities working to improve the lives of males of color according to the Promise of Place Report. Prior to joining the DC Public Schools, Dr. Simmons was the founding director of the Center for Innovation in Urban Education and the Institute for Urban Catholic Education at Loyola University Maryland. As a tenured professor of urban education and science education, and associated faculty member in African and African American Studies program at Loyola University Maryland, Robert also held a joint appointment as a research associate at the Baltimore Education Research Consortium at Johns Hopkins University.

A former middle school science teacher in the Detroit Public Schools, his teaching & administrative career in Detroit, Minnesota, & the Dominican Republic, included being nominated twice as the Walt Disney National Teacher of the Year and once for the Whitney and Elizabeth MacMillan Foundation Outstanding Educator Award. Robert has been a fellow with the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation where he conducted environmental research in the rain forest of Costa Rica, and participated in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund where he studied the Japanese education system with a particular focus on lesson study. The author of over 40 publications, including the book, *Talking About Race: Alleviating the Fear* (2013), his research has focused on the experiences of African American boys in public and Catholic schools, science education in urban schools, African American male teachers, urban education, and the role of race in understanding the social context of schooling. Robert's forthcoming book, *Responding to the Call for Educational Justice* is slated to be released in late 2017. Robert continues to work on a follow up to *Talking About Race*, titled *Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline: African American Males as Critical Scholars and Intellectuals*. This book is part autobiographical reflecting on his fathers' incarceration while offering insights into the educational experiences of African American males.

The author and evaluator of over \$2 million in grants, including serving as one of the leading researchers on an NIH funded project designed to support the development of virtual science labs for K-12 students and teachers, Robert has delivered workshops and lectures throughout the United States and Europe on his research. Robert is a renowned motivational speaker who openly shares his life experiences in Detroit during the height of the crack cocaine epidemic, the mental incarceration he experienced for much of his life due to the physical incarceration of his father, and the significant challenges he faced leaving his childhood home in Detroit to being one of the few African American students at an elite Jesuit high school.



TIM WISE

Tim Wise is among the most prominent anti-racist writers and educators in the United States. He has spent the past 20 years speaking to audiences in all 50 states, on over 1000 college and high school campuses, at hundreds of professional and academic conferences, and to community groups across the country.

He has also lectured internationally, in Canada and Bermuda, and has trained corporate, government, entertainment, media, law enforcement, military, and medical industry professionals on methods for dismantling racism in their institutions. Wise has provided anti-racism training to educators and administrators nationwide.

Wise is the author of seven books, including his latest, *Under the Affluence: Shaming the Poor, Praising the Rich and Sacrificing the Future of America* (City Lights Books). Other books include *Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority* (City Lights Books); his highly acclaimed memoir, *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son* (recently updated and re-released by Soft Skull Press); *Affirmative Action: Racial Preference in Black and White*; *Speaking Treason Fluently: Anti-Racist Reflections From an Angry White Male*; *Between Barack and a Hard Place: Racism and White Denial in the Age of Obama*; and *Colorblind: The Rise of Post-Racial Politics and the Retreat from Racial Equity*.

Named one of “25 Visionaries Who are Changing Your World,” by Utne Reader, Wise has contributed chapters or essays to over 25 additional books and his writings are taught in colleges and universities across the nation. His essays have appeared on Alternet, Salon, Huffington Post, Counterpunch, The Root, Black Commentator, BK Nation and Z Magazine among other popular, professional and scholarly journals.

From 1999-2003, Wise was an advisor to the Fisk University Race Relations Institute, in Nashville, and in the early '90s he was Youth Coordinator and Associate Director of the Louisiana Coalition Against Racism and Nazism: the largest of the many groups organized for the purpose of defeating neo-Nazi political candidate, David Duke.

Wise has been featured in several documentaries, including the 2013 Media Education Foundation release, “White Like Me: Race, Racism and White Privilege in America.” The film, which he co-wrote and co-produced, has been called “A phenomenal educational tool in the struggle against racism,” and “One of the best films made on the unfinished quest for racial justice,” by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva of Duke University, and Robert Jensen of the University of Texas, respectively. He also appeared alongside legendary scholar and activist, Angela Davis, in the 2011 documentary, “Vocabulary of Change.” In this public dialogue between the two activists, Davis and Wise discussed the connections between issues of race, class, gender, sexuality and militarism, as well as inter-generational movement building and the prospects for social change.

Wise appears regularly on CNN and MSNBC to discuss race issues and was featured in a 2007 segment on 20/20. He graduated from Tulane University in 1990 and received antiracism training from the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond, in New Orleans.



AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017

Marking Progress: The Movement Toward Racial Equity in Palm Beach County

This plenary session will explain President Obama's rationale for issuing the My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge, and convey the challenges boys and young men of color face across the nation. Participants will also learn about the innovative initiatives cities across the nation have implemented to address these challenges and how President Obama plans to continue this work after his term expires.

This plenary will also discuss ways to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline locally and nationally.

8:45 A.M. – Welcome

James Green, Director of Palm Beach County Community Services and My Brother's Keeper Task Force Leader
Paulette Burdick, Mayor, Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Eddie Ruiz, Ed D, Assistant Superintendent Student Services, School District of Palm Beach County

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. John Jackson, President and CEO of Schott Foundation for Education

10:00 A.M. – Transition

Steve Craig, President and CEO, CareerSource Palm Beach County

10:15 A.M. – CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Using Local Data and Evidence-Based Practices to Promote Policy and Systems Change (Room 2F)

Comprehensive disaggregated data are essential components in effective decision-making. Demographic and geographic data, in particular, can serve as catalysts for much needed policy and system reform. Through robust data analysis, organizations can identify indicators that provide significant insight into racial disparities and possible paths toward social justice. This workshop will discuss the ways in which our communities, large and small, are collecting, analyzing, and applying local data on racial disparities to employ evidence-based programs and to advance policy changes that foster racial equity and inclusion.

Moderator: Suzette L. Harvey, President & CEO, Prime Time Palm Beach County

Panelist:

Sarita Turner, Associate Director, PolicyLink

Lisa Williams-Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Services Council of PBC

Achieving Equity in Health (Room 2E)

The health access, quality, and outcomes of America's racial and ethnic minorities are worse than that of Whites. The healthcare of minority groups who also have limited incomes and lower educational attainment, as well as those with disabilities is particularly substandard. Narrowing these healthcare disparities has been the goal of many public and private efforts since the early 1990s. Although some progress has been made-particularly in closing the quality gap that minority groups experience-much more work remains to be done. The multiple causes of health and health care disparities are complex, and limited research, as well as institutional racism, makes progress a challenge. This workshop will summarize what is known about health and health disparities locally and nationally, discusses recent efforts to close the gaps, and enumerate best practices and policy recommendations to move the needle towards improved outcomes.

Moderator: Andrea Stephenson, Executive Director, Health Council of Southeast Florida

Panelist:

Dr. Alina Alonso, Director, Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County

April Young, Principal, New Equity Partners, Inc.

Grantmakers Take the Lead on Advancing Racial Equity (Room 2D)

As racial equity becomes a recurring theme in the nation's cultural, economic, and political narratives, grant makers are expanding their grant portfolios to support innovative ideas and policies to advance inclusion and opportunity. Not only are portfolios becoming more diverse and explicitly focused on addressing racial inequality, grant makers are also developing new tools and strategies that are transforming philanthropy as we know it. At a time when it is essential for foundations, grant makers, and philanthropists to be in alignment with the national conversation on racial justice, this session provides the critical space and expertise for defining examples of racial equity philanthropy, reviewing foundation-based strategies, and charting the future of this growing field.

Moderator: Daryl K. Houston, Community Investment Officer, Community Foundation

Panelist:

Abigail Goodwin, VP, Grants & Community Investments, Palm Healthcare Foundation
Damon T. Hewitt, Executive Director, Executives' Alliance for Boys and Men of Color

Faith Leaders Chartering a Course Toward Racial Equity (Room 2C)

Faith communities and their leaders have long been powerful voices in the fight for racial equity and social justice by keeping central questions concerning core human values at the forefront of political debates. However, as our nation becomes more diverse, the need for interfaith, equity-focused organizing remains. New strategies and innovative methods are emerging at the local, state, and national levels on a range of issues: wage and wealth inequality, voting rights, immigrant rights, gun violence, and police brutality. In this session, panelists will discuss the importance of building equity-focused leaders within faith communities, and will make the case for the continued power and expanding potency of interfaith efforts in the fight for greater racial equity and economic inclusion.

Moderator: Kevin Jones, Coordinator of Community Initiatives, City of WPB

Panelist:

Nicholas O'Neill, President, PBC Ministerial Alliance
Rev. Dr. R. Joaquin Willis, Church of Open Door, Collective Empowerment Group of South Florida

A Time For Healing: Improving Supports for Communities of Color Traumatized by Violence (Room 2B)

Communities of color experience ongoing and pervasive trauma on a daily basis. Its effects are far-reaching and particularly detrimental for marginalized youth of color, such as LGBTQ and low-income youth, impairing learning, cognitive development, and their ability to participate fully within their families and communities. While systems and programs that support healing are often focused solely on providing traditional counseling and mental health services, mental health providers and community advocates have developed and successfully implemented other modes of healing to nourish marginalized communities of color. In this session, community advocates and mental health professionals will discuss alternatives to traditional mental health support that fosters personal healing and supports community development.

Moderator: Seth B. Bernstein, Psy.D., CAP, Licensed Psychologist & Committeeperson, PBC Action Alliance for Mental Health

Panelist:

Dr. Maria Gallardo-Cooper, ESE Specialist, School Psychological Services, PBC School District
Dr. Eddy Regnier, Psychologist, Chairman of Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Males
Dr. Ischaji Robertson, Psychologist, President of ABPsi, Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) Black Male Mental Health Conference

Sustaining Community-Led Movements towards Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Policy Reform (Room 2A)

Elected officials, civic leaders, and community members throughout the country are realizing what criminal justice advocates and reformers have known for a long time: our criminal and juvenile justice systems are bloated and broken. Nevertheless, making the leap from awareness and protest to legislated policy change requires identification of urgent priorities, seeking out specific political opportunities, and learning to navigate barriers that can make or break grassroots efforts. The mainstreaming of this reality has energized a host of new initiatives, partnerships, and reform efforts that are exploring a range of solutions, including parole reform, outcomes-driven justice reinvestment, and abolishing youth prisons. With the current level of interest and energy flowing in this field, what will the future of criminal justice reform look like? In this workshop, policy experts and activists will share their experiences advocating for police reform and discussing best practices and recommendations as per the successes and challenges within their communities, with a special emphasis on current ideas and strategies that have the potential to become major forces in the growing movement to end the school to prison pipeline and the mass-incarceration crisis.

Moderator: Leontyne Brown, Organizer of Divine 9 National Die-In

Panelist:

Kayla Reed, Community Organizer, Organization for Black Struggle

Jane Tierney, President, Catalyst for Justice

Rae Whitely, Community Organizer, Black Votes Matter

11:45 A.M. – LUNCH AND ENTERTAINMENT

Promoting Equity, Access and Opportunity for All

The purpose of this panel is to facilitate meaningful dialogue with our youth. Participants will gain a better perspective about the challenges that boys and young men of color are facing within the Palm Beach County School District. Participants will learn how the school district's strategic plan, equity audit, disparity study and collective impact efforts coupled with mentoring supports and other initiatives will reduce the racial achievement gaps and dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline. This session will also explore the role of implicit bias in our education and economic system and discuss how leading organizations are adjusting to the shifting demographics locally and throughout South Florida.

12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Panel Discussion

Ernie Ellison, Board Chair, United Way of Palm Beach County

Deena Hayes-Greene, Managing Director, Racial Equity Institute

Kayla Reed, Community Organizer, St. Louis Action Council

Steve Vassor, Director, Rumble Young Man Rumble, Campaign for Black Male Achievement

1:45 P.M. – WORKSHOPS

Creating Economic Opportunity for Boys and Men of Color (Room 2B)

The economic opportunity gap affects boys and young men of color (BMoC) disproportionately nationwide. The resulting high rates of unemployment have long-term negative effects that can determine the course of their lives. Improving access to high-quality workforce training programs is instrumental in overcoming the skills gap that excludes BMoC from well-paying jobs and careers, and that prevents them from improving their quality of life and well-being. Thus, preparing BMoC with the necessary skills for tomorrow's job market has emerged as a critical area of intervention. This workshop will address important and successful strategies community leaders are employing locally and throughout the nation to secure living wage, workforce development opportunities, entrepreneurship and careers for these boys and young men.

Moderator: Bruce Lewis, President, Black Chamber of Commerce PBC

Panelist:

Benjamin Evans, Managing Director, BMe Community

Patrick Franklin, President & CEO, Urban League of Palm Beach County

Sam Roman, President, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce PBC

Boosting Black Male Achievement through Policy Reform (Room 2E)

A growing movement is working to eliminate harsh, inequitable school discipline practices like suspensions and expulsions that push students of color, including students with special needs, out of school for acts like truancy and "willful defiance." Efforts to put in place positive solutions to reduce out-of-school suspensions, increase student learning, and return schools to safe and supportive learning environments have begun to take hold in select cities and schools throughout the country. In this workshop, education experts and advocates will discuss the ongoing work to implement supportive, inclusive disciplinary policies that hold students accountable and improve school climate and safety for all members of the school and larger community.

Moderator: Dr. Deandre Poole, President, Coalition for Black Student Achievement

Panelist:

Deena Hayes-Greene, Managing Director, Racial Equity Institute; Member, Guilford County Board of Education
Dr. Robert Simmons III, Vice President, Strategy & Innovation, Campaign for Black Male Achievement

Reducing Harms to Boys and Young Men of Color Through Mentoring (Room 2C)

There is a belief that a child's life, especially one living in a high-risk community, will change for the positive by simply matching him or her with a mentor. In reality, mentors and mentoring programs are in a constant "tug of war" with the negative social and environmental elements that confront the lives of young men of color. In effect, mentoring programs must recognize that it takes more than a mentor to change children's lives. This workshop focuses on identifying best practices for mentoring, collaborations and resources mentors and mentoring programs need to "pull" young men of color into achievement.

Moderator: Ricky Aiken, Founder, Inner City Innovators

Panelist:

Gary Graham, Director, United Way Mentor Center
E. Bomani Johnson, CEO, Emergent Pathways
Brenda March, City of Orlando, Children and Education Manager/Parramore Kidz Zone
Steve Vassor, Director, Rumble Young Man Rumble, Campaign for Black Male Achievement

Improving College Access and College Retention Through Mentoring (Room 2D)

Getting students to college is an achievement, but getting students THROUGH college is a challenge. In response to the average 69.5 percent persistence rate in the U.S. (i.e. students returning to college for their second year), colleges and universities are expanding their mentoring support to college students, thereby increasing the persistence rate of students. This session will present best practices on the most effective ways for parents to find and utilize mentoring supports to help students prepare and persist in college. This session will also provide students, parents and other stakeholders with the most recent research in this area and inform participants about local efforts underway to improve college access and retention.

Moderator: Kimba Williams, Executive Director, CollegePath

Panelist:

Jose Enriquez, PhD, Latinos in Action
Gary Hartfield, President and CEO, Serenity Village, Inc.
Dr. Corey King, VP Student Affairs, Florida Atlantic University

Creating and Sustaining an Equity-Driven Collective Impact Model (Room 2A)

As soaring inequality continues to push low-income and communities of color beyond the margins of society, collective impact has emerged as a framework for achieving transformational change both nationally and worldwide. In effect, countless initiatives are using this framework to organize collaborative, cross-sector action to address poverty, education, health care, workforce development, environmental sustainability, and other major social structural challenges. Collective impact reflects a new energy around social engagement and a growing recognition that societal problems are too complex for any single organization or sector to resolve. Collective impact also exposes the hunger for disciplined practice, rigor, and meaningful accountability. As this framework of social action evolves, equity must be front and center. In this workshop, collective impact leaders will share their experiences and lessons learned from incorporating equity as an essential element in ongoing community impact efforts.

Moderator: Marsha Guthrie, Community Planning and Partnership Officer, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County

Panelist:

Simran Noor, VP Policy & Programs, Center for Social Inclusion
Jordan Thierry, Senior Associate, Policylink

3:15 P.M. – WORKSHOPS (Repeat)

- Sustaining Community-Led Movements towards Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Policy Reform (Room 2A)
- Reducing Harm to Boys and Young men of Color Through Mentoring (Room 2C)
- Improving College Access and College Retention Through Mentoring (Room 2D)

4:45 P.M. – CLOSING REMARKS



RICKY AIKEN

Ricky Aiken is the founder of Inner City Innovators, a movement aimed at providing indigenous leadership and innovative yet collaborative solutions to the problems facing the Inner City. As a product of the Inner City of West Palm Beach, Ricky strives to use his life-story and social capital to bring positive transformation to his community. Through his movement, Ricky has led multiple anti-violence protests and initiatives to put an end to the gun-violence which has plagued his community and instill hope in the residents who live there. Inner City Innovators was one of many key contributors to West Palm Beach's very first, "Summer of Peace."



DR. ALINA ALONSO

Dr. Alina Alonso, Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County Director, has been serving the medically underserved in Palm Beach County through the Health Department since 1989. As the Director she oversees the operations one of the largest county health departments in the state. Its 900 plus employees provide a full range of primary and preventive services to seven health centers located throughout Palm Beach County. Its numerous other Public Health services including Environmental Engineering, Nutrition, School Health and Community Health and Education make it a nationally recognized organization in a class by itself.

Dr. Alonso has trained in Bio-Chemical Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction since 1997. She has the experience of handling the clinical operations of first case of inhalation Anthrax in the United States in the last twenty-five years. She has extensive training in communicable and emergent diseases.

Dr. Alonso graduated from Barry University in 1978 with a Major in Biology, a double Minor in Chemistry and Mathematics and a BS degree. She pursued her medical career as a 1984 graduate of the foreign medical school, Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez in Mexico. In New York, she served as Chief Resident in the three-year Family Practice Residency Program at St. Joseph Medical Center from 1985 to 1988. After returning home, she finished a second residency in Public Health and Preventive Medicine in 1992 at the Palm Beach County Health Department. She is a diplomat of the American Board of Family Practice and a member of the Palm Beach County Medical Society.

Dr. Alonso serves on the faculty for Nova Southeastern University, Health Professions Division as Clinical Assistant Professor and remains very active in the Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency Program at the Palm Beach County Health Department training future leaders. In addition to her Public Health responsibilities, Dr. Alonso combines her Cuban heritage and her experience and training in Mexico and Central America to stay active in minority health issues, patient's rights advocacy, cultural diversity and tolerance training. Her favorite pastime is snorkeling or scuba diving off the Florida Keys and the Bahamas Islands with her sons Gabriel and Alex.



SETH BERNSTEIN, PSY.D., CAP

Seth Bernstein, Psy.D., CAP, is a licensed psychologist (PY5170) with over 20 years of experience working with children, adolescents, families and adults with a variety of social, emotional and behavioral concerns. He earned his doctorate at the Florida Institute of Technology, and completed his psychology internship at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital. In addition, he completed his post-doctorate training at Growing Together, Inc., a non-profit organization that served adolescents with substance abuse and behavioral challenges. Dr. Bernstein has also served as an outpatient program therapist at a community mental health center, clinical director of a residential drug/alcohol treatment program and director for several prevention and early intervention programs in child care, school and home settings. Dr. Bernstein regularly reviews professional articles for journal publication and has written a book chapter on professional development in the mental health field.



LEONTYNE BROWN

Leontyne is a marketing executive and a passionate community advocate. She organized the Divine 9 National Die-In with more than 10,000 nationwide in an effort to end excessive force by police officers and bring attention to the failing criminal justice system in America.

Leontyne is an award-winning branding expert with a proven track record of achievement in Strategic Marketing & Communications, National Advertising, and Public Relations for many of the world's most recognizable brands, including Coca Cola, Sprite®, Adidas®, AT&T, General Mills, Bacardi USA, 3M Corporation, Toyota USA, and Brand Jordan, Nike's flagship brand centered on NBA legend, Michael Jordan.

Over the span of her 12-year career, Leontyne has received a number of awards and accolades, including two Effie Awards, the American Advertising Federation Award, the Multicultural Excellence Award from the Association of National Advertisers (ANA), the 2010 Florida A&M Distinguished Alumni Award, and a 2011 Legacy Magazine 40 Under 40 Honoree.

As she makes West Palm Beach her home, Leontyne has become more and more involved in the community. She is active in a number of organizations, including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Urban League Young Professionals of Palm Beach County, and Women for Obama. She is also an active member of Carefree Ministries.



EARNIE ELLISON, JR.

Earnie Ellison, Jr. is the Managing Partner of Ellison Consulting Group, LLC; a diversity and inclusion consultancy headquartered in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. His primary focus is to make diversity and inclusion essential within the sports industry; leveraging inclusion to create value for national sports organizations, their partners and customers.

Formerly the Business and Community Relations Director for PGA of America, Earnie is widely recognized for his vanguard approach to creating a culture of diversity and inclusion within the world's largest working sports organization. In his 17 years at PGA of America, Ellison earned a reputation as a valuable diversity resource for the PGA golf associations and PGA partners.

Ellison is a much sought after speaker on the subject of diversity within sports and has served on multiple golf specific diversity and inclusion committees throughout his career. He is the Chairman Elect for United Way of Palm Beach County, Treasurer for the Black Chamber of Commerce, Palm Beach County and Vice Chairman for the First Tee of Palm Beach, Martin and Broward Counties.



JOSE ENRIQUEZ, PH.D.

Jose is an immigrant that was born in El Salvador and grew up in East L.A. He attributes much of his success to his hard working mother who sacrificed everything to give him and his siblings a better life. He graduated from John Glenn H.S. in L.A. with a full ride scholarship to wrestle at Brigham Young University where he obtained 3 degrees: BA in Secondary Education Spanish, Masters in Education, and a PhD in Education. His previous positions include; Director of Title III and Special Programs at the Utah State Office of Education, Director of Diversity for Alpine School District, served 11 years in both Alpine and Provo school districts as an Assistant Principal, and taught Spanish for 3 years prior to that. He was appointed as a commissioner on volunteerism by Lieutenant Governor Bell's Utah Commission on Volunteers in 2010, and as a commissioner to the office Multicultural Affairs by Governor Herbert, 2012. Currently, Jose is living his dream as the full time Executive Director of Latinos in Action (LIA), a non-profit he built from the ground up since 2001, and which officially became a non-profit organization in 2010. LIA is currently implemented in 110 schools across Utah, Idaho, Washington, Texas, and Florida. LIA's mission is to empower Latino youth to be college and career ready through culture, service, leadership, and excellence in education. Most recently, LIA was honored as a Bright Spot by the White House Center for Excellence in Hispanic Education. Jose is married to Jaymilyn Bonnett Enriquez and is the father of 5 children; 4 girls and one boy.



BENJAMIN C. EVANS III

Benjamin C. Evans III, is Managing Director of BMe Community where he oversees the execution of a national campaign strategy to build caring and prosperous communities inspired by Black men. He serves as the principal aide to the CEO in all aspects of administration, communications, fundraising, culture and organizational development. BMe's growth has been impressive on Benjamin's watch. BMe Leaders have already served over 200,000 people, BMe has influenced national policy, and committed over \$1,000,000 to local community leaders.

As a recognized and respected professional, Benjamin has over 10 years experience in public, government, and business relations. Starting out as the Director of the Florida Department of the Elder Affairs STARS Program in Tallahassee, FL. While in Tallahassee he started a non profit performing arts center for youth, Rakad' Institute of the Arts. He later transitioned to Miami where he began a career in risk assurance and auditing at Pricewaterhousecoopers LLC (PwC). After departing PwC, Benjamin served as marketing and brand director for SecuriGlobe where he led marketing and social media efforts in the U.S and Canadian markets.

Benjamin is a graduate of Florida A & M University in Tallahassee, FL where he received his bachelors in accounting and communications and masters of business administration. Benjamin loves serving in his community and working with youth. His expertise rest in being a strategic leader for creating and implementing innovative professional development, youth enrichment, and community development programs. He currently chairs the South Florida Youth Summit and serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors at Bible Based Church. Benjamin is from Philadelphia, PA.



PATRICK FRANKLIN

Patrick Franklin is a recognized visionary and vibrant community leader who successfully transferred and expanded corporate management, operational expertise, interpersonal skills and business acumen to the nonprofit industry. With a passion for uniting people and organizations to help others in need, he is adept at expressing complex ideas clearly and concisely, gaining the trust and cultivating support with constituencies at all levels including: board of directors, funders, community partners, staff and clients. A notable advocate, bridge builder and voice of the community, he is an active member on prominent local boards as another way of expressing and extending an unwavering commitment to leading and serving others.

Patrick is currently the President and CEO of the Urban League of Palm Beach County (ULPBC), a nonprofit affiliate of the National Urban League, serving in this capacity since 2002. He took the helm of what was then a fledgling affiliate, and through vision and

leadership revitalized and restructured the organization to deliver on its mission of “Empowering Community and Changing Lives”. Today the ULPBC has a staff of 36 FTE, 7 PTE and a total operating budget of \$5.5M serving over 17,000 clients annually. He accomplished this goal by focusing on reestablishing community trust and building relevant programs with an emphasis on process and results. Through successful implementation of 3-year strategic planning cycles he has sustained ULPBC operating budget growth of 15–20% per year for the past 6 years and has a GuideStar rated “GOLD” certification. Demonstrated excellence in fundraising has delivered proven results with over \$400K in cash, \$600K in-kind donations raised annually along with thousands of hours of volunteers who support the mission. Through leadership and mentoring he has realized other major accomplishments namely, a multi-year national award winning NULITES Youth group, creation of a secondary non-profit for housing development, secured funding for existing and new program funding in all core areas of service, transformed core housing division first time homeowners to pre & post foreclosure business during the 2008 housing crisis while continuously expanding and improving facilities to serve more clients.

Prior to joining the ULPBC, Patrick was spent over 13 years with Motorola in numerous management roles in the areas of community relations, program management, operations, production, engineering and quality. During his tenure he achieved many accomplishments including improvements in productivity, cost, quality, safety and on-time deliveries by providing leadership and direction with regard to structural, staff, management and process changes. In one of his final roles he managed a staff of over 350 production/associate managers, engineers and direct labor which delivered over \$190M in annual sales. However, it was his last role as Community Relations Manager and Chairman of the facility’s United Way Campaign that ignited his passion for nonprofit work. In four consecutive years, Patrick was able to raise over \$350K for the cause, with the same percentage of employee donations, despite significant continuation in workforce reduction.

Patrick began his career as an Exploration Geophysicist with Shell Oil. During a short 4-year career, Patrick and his Geologist partner co-founded one of Shell’s largest and most important oil and gas reserved finds ever, located in the Gulf of Mexico. The project’s code name was “Prospect Mars”, and is chronicled in the history of oil and gas exploration and production.

Patrick graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Physics from Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA. While working at Motorola he completed a Master’s of Business Administration from Florida International University in Miami, FL. A notable advocate, bridge builder and voice of the community, membership on other prominent local boards is an expression and extension of an unwavering commitment to leading and serving others. For his community work, Patrick is honored to be the recipient of numerous awards. Patrick has lived in Boca Raton, FL for over 28 years with his wife and entrepreneur Rachelle, and is the father of three children, Morgan, 24, Lena, 22 and Miles, 16.



MARITZA GALLARDO-COOPER, PH.D.

Maritza Gallardo-Cooper, Ph.D. has been a mental health practitioner for over 38 years in the private and public sector. She received her doctorate from the University of Florida and has maintained a productive career in a wide range of settings. Dr. Gallardo-Cooper has been a private practitioner, director of outpatient clinics, and director of an adolescent residential program, as well as coordinator of consultation and school-based treatment programs. Currently, she is the Administrator for School Psychological Services at the School District of Palm Beach County, Florida. Since early in her career, Dr. Gallardo-Cooper has focused on culturally sensitive mental health practices of at-risk populations. As a result of her early work, Dr. Gallardo-Cooper served as a member of the Hispanic Task Force of the President’s Commission of Mental Health. Throughout the years her clinical work concentrated on marriage and family therapy, child mental health services, multicultural school psychology, clinical supervision, program development, and service delivery outcomes. She has maintained active participation in professional organizations that advance cultural competence, held leadership positions in professional associations, and has been awarded professional recognition by her peers. Dr. Gallardo-Cooper teaches clinical supervision and has presented numerous professional workshops at the international, national, state, and local levels on multicultural, social justice, child-family mental health, assessment, and clinical supervision. She has published on bilingual interventions and multicultural family therapy, as well as coauthored two books on Latina/o counseling. Her current professional interests focus on psychological effects of immigration, bicultural and bilingual development, bilingual standards for therapy and assessment, organizational and individual social justice advocacy, and culturally responsive service delivery.



ABIGAIL “ABBY” GOODWIN

Abigail “Abby” Goodwin is the Vice President, Grants and Community Investments at Palm Healthcare Foundation. In her role, she leads the foundation’s grantmaking activities, building effective, impactful health-related programs for Palm Beach County. Abby has a dual Masters in Global Public Health and Applied Anthropology from the University of South Florida and has extensive experience in community-based organizations. She has spent significant years working with refugees and survivors of torture before joining the College of Nursing & Health Sciences at FIU as Director of Research. Most recently, she was the Executive Director of the Achievement Centers for Children & Families Foundation in Delray Beach and supported the agency’s fundraising and program development efforts. Abby and her family are Delray Beach residents.



GARY GRAHAM, SR.

In his current role, Gary Graham serves as the Mentoring Initiative Director for the United Way of Palm Beach County. He oversees the Mentor Center of Palm Beach County, which is a local affiliate of National Mentoring Partnership (MENTOR) - the only partnership of its kind in the state of Florida and one of only two United Way mentor programs, worldwide. He has over eight years of experience in youth mentoring, a bulk of which was gained while working for Children's Services Council as the Outreach Coordinator where he was responsible for the mentoring programs, fatherhood/male involvement initiatives and general outreach. Gary was born and raised in Miami, FL and graduated from the University of Florida in 2001. Throughout his many years of nonprofit work he has presented at several different conferences to many groups including but not limited to the National Homebuilders Association National Mentoring Conference, the Indiana State Mentoring Partnership, the Florida NAACP conference. Additionally, he has contributed to the Urban Leadership Institute's research on minority male mentor involvement and recruitment. Gary lives in Boynton Beach, Florida with his wife and four children.



MARSHA GUTHRIE

Marsha Guthrie, is a Community Planning & Partnerships Officer with the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County (CSC) where her current work focuses on community planning, partnership development and new initiative resource exploration and management. Ms. Guthrie provides essential leadership to Palm Beach County's Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures collective impact effort and plays a key role in advancing its racial equity systems' transformation work. Previous, to this Ms. Guthrie was Program Officer in System Performance responsible for program planning, system development and integration, where she supported the oversight and expansion of the Maternal Child and Family Services system for the Council. Ms. Guthrie was instrumental in leading the Council's Strategy Review and Allocation Analysis process aimed at refining its existing system of care to achieve its child outcomes. Ms. Guthrie led the exploration, development and implementation efforts for CSC's placed-based initiative (BRIDGES) – centers in at-risk areas of Palm Beach County providing services and supporting partnerships to improve child health and well-being outcomes. She continues to be a primary stakeholder in the development of the Council's pathways to early childhood systems work.

Prior to these roles, Ms. Guthrie served as the Project Director for Children's Services Council Full-Service Community School project funded by the Department of Education. Ms. Guthrie has more than 15 years of experience in the early childhood, child welfare and juvenile justice arenas. Her leadership in program management, organizational capacity building, community engagement and partnership development has fostered a collaborative environment among the county's service professionals. Ms. Guthrie's goal is to ensure children and their families have improved access to services and benefit from a seamless system of care. Ms. Guthrie is the proud mother to daughter who is a middle schooler in the Palm Beach County School District. She holds a Bachelor's of Arts degree in sociology from Montclair State University.



GARY T. HARTFIELD

Though the youngest of six children, Gary T. Hartfield has been on a leadership path since he was a young boy. The first in his family to obtain a college degree, Gary earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Engineering Technology from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Passionate about bettering his community, Gary entered the professional world in education. Motivated to impact higher education from a leadership position, Gary re-enrolled in school to earn a Master's of Business Administration degree from the University of West Florida. However, disillusioned with certain aspects of higher education culture, Gary eventually followed the pull to be an entrepreneur that had been tugging within him for years. Gary's compassion for others led him to launch Serenity Village Inc., which consists of several assisted living communities in Florida, and Serenity Village Insurance and Consulting, LLC. Gary's business acumen has helped him turn his ideas into reality and grow his businesses and their success. Gary has invested in and launched several startups, one of which is Sweet Talk Wireless. Currently, Gary serves as President and CEO of Serenity Village Inc, Serenity Village Insurance & Consulting and Sweet Talk Wireless. Gary is the father of three beautiful children, Ashley, Imani and Garrett Hartfield, and is committed to sharing his experiences to inspire others.



SUZETTE HARVEY

Suzette has led since 2006. Prior to joining Prime Time, she spent eight years in the field of philanthropy at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in Miami. Suzette worked briefly at Mount Sinai Medical Center as a public relations specialist after more than 11 years with the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, directing its communications and public relations activities. She was also a staff writer at the South Florida Business Journal, covering emerging technology throughout the South Florida region. A native of New York, she was employed at Scholastic Inc. to help launch a new family magazine in the early 1980s focusing on using personal computers in the home. Prior to joining Scholastic, she was a vocational counselor for a youth employment program run by the New York City Mission Society.

She was formerly a board member of the United Way of Palm Beach County, the Donors Forum of South Florida, the Center on Non-profit Effectiveness and the Old Dillard Museum. Suzette also serves on the Selection Committee of the Palm Beach County Cultural Council's Muse Awards and as a panelist for the Pathfinders of Palm Beach/Martin Counties Scholarship Fund sponsored by The Palm Beach Post. Additionally, Suzette has been a presenter at the National AfterSchool Association, Florida Afterschool Alliance, and Ready by 21 conferences and has had her work published in national publications. Recognized by Success South Florida magazine as one of South Florida's 50 Most Powerful Black Professionals of 2008, she is a graduate of Leadership Palm Beach County Focus 211; Nonprofits First's Go Lead Luminaries, Class of 2009 leadership development program; the University of Miami's 2007 Senior Executive Leadership Initiative; and Leadership Miami Class of 1989, and was a volunteer with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Broward County for several years. Suzette graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations from Brown University and a Master of Science degree in Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.



DEENA HAYES-GREENE

Deena Hayes-Greene is Managing Director of the Racial Equity Institute (REI) and brings over 15 years of experience as a community and institutional organizer. She is currently training with several anti-racist organizations, where she provides in-depth analysis of systemic and historically constructed racism and its impact on contemporary systems and institutions across the United States. Deena has worked extensively across the country, including in Alaska.

Her institutional work has been primarily in the areas of Social Services / Health and Human Services, public and private education, Higher Education, Judicial / Disproportionate Minority Contact initiatives, public health and non-profits. She was initially elected to the Guilford County Board of Education in 2002 and was re-elected in 2006, 2010, and 2014. She currently chairs the Achievement Gap, School Safety, and the Historically Underutilized Business Advisory Committees for Guilford County Schools. She also serves on the Ole Asheboro Street Neighborhood Association, the Guilford County Gang Commission, and as board chair at the International Civil Rights Center & Museum. Deena is a former Human Relations Commissioner for the City of Greensboro and has received numerous awards and citations for outstanding leadership. She lives with her family in Greensboro, NC.



DAMON HEWITT

Damon Hewitt is a Senior Advisor for U.S. Programs, providing strategic guidance on the Open Society Foundations' efforts to advance racial justice, including reforming school discipline policies and improving life outcomes for boys and men of color. He doubles as director of the Executives' Alliance for Boys and Men of Color, a philanthropic network of over three dozen national, local, and community foundation presidents committed to systemic change and shifting the false narratives about our nation's sons, brothers, and fathers.

Prior to entering philanthropy Damon worked for over a decade as an attorney at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF). He founded LDF's Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline initiative and worked on assignment in his hometown of New Orleans to coordinate post-Hurricane Katrina litigation and advocacy on education, housing, and voting rights issues. Damon also worked as executive director of the New York Police-on-Police Shootings Task Force, created to address police practices affecting communities of color after the deaths of off-duty African-American and Latino police officers who were shot by fellow officers after being mistaken for criminal suspects. Damon is coauthor of *The School-to-Prison Pipeline: Structuring Legal Reform*, and has published numerous articles on racial justice, school discipline policy, and progressive education reform. He holds a B.A. in political science from Louisiana State University and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.



DARYL HOUSTON

Daryl Houston is a Community Investment Officer for the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties. His primary responsibilities include managing a diverse portfolio grant proposal, managing the Foundation's Field of Interest, and providing training/oversight of the Resource Library. In addition, Daryl provides oversight of a number of other Community Foundation's initiatives.

Prior to coming aboard to the CF, Daryl spent several years with United Way of Palm Beach County, where he served in the capacities of Director of Hands On Palm Beach County, and Senior Director of Volunteer Center and Disaster Management. As the Senior Director, he provided oversight of the Volunteer Center's staff, and the day to day operations of its programmatic services.

Daryl currently serves on the board of the Emergency Food Shelter Program (Board Chair), Allegany Franciscan Ministries Grants Committee, Florida Philanthropic Network Education Affinity Group (Chair), and the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center's Green School Recognition Program. He has spent the last 16 years working in the nonprofit sector of Palm Beach County.



DR. JOHN H. JACKSON

On July 2, 2007, Dr. John H. Jackson became the President and CEO of The Schott Foundation for Public Education. In this role, Dr. Jackson leads the Foundation's efforts to ensure a high quality public education for all students regardless of race or gender. Dr. Jackson joined the Schott Foundation after seven productive years in leadership positions at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He served as the NAACP Chief Policy Officer and prior to that as the NAACP's National Director of Education.

Dr. Jackson also served as an Adjunct Professor of Race, Gender, and Public Policy at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute. In 1999, President William Jefferson Clinton appointed Dr. Jackson to serve in his administration as Senior Policy Advisor in the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Jackson possesses a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Xavier University of Louisiana; A Master of Education in Education Policy from the University of Illinois' College of Education; and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Illinois' College of Law. In addition, Dr. Jackson received a Master of Education and Doctorate of Education in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Dr. Jackson served on the Obama-Biden transition team as a member of the President's 13-member Education Policy Transition Work Group.



E. BOMANI JOHNSON

is the senior director of Programs & Partnerships for the DC Trust, an intermediary focused on ensuring that every child and youth in Washington, D.C. has access to the high-quality programs, supports and services needed for their development as well-rounded adults committed to the excellence of themselves, their families and communities, and our society as a whole.

In his current role, Johnson provides the strategic direction for The Trust's initiatives, capacity building offerings, and its grantmaking; builds new and enhances existing relationships with local and national stakeholders to support the vision, mission and goals of The Trust; and leads The Trust's work to enhance the lives of boys and young men of color in Washington, D.C. With more than 25 years of experience in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors, Johnson's professional experiences range from providing direct service to low-income youth and families of color, to advocating for the civil and human rights of marginalized groups on the national and international stages. Prior to the Trust, Johnson served as the Director, DC Office of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. Johnson also has worked with the Latin American Youth Center in DC, the Illinois Center for Violence Prevention, American Friends Service Committee and the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization in Chicago. Johnson is a member of the 2015 Class of the Association of Black Foundation Executives, Connecting Leaders Fellowship Program, and supports several organizations in the D.C. area including After-School All Stars and Techbridge.



REV. KEVIN L. JONES

Rev. Kevin L. Jones is a native of Rustburg, VA, and is the youngest son of Dwight and Gladys Jones.

Rev. Jones completed his education in the Campbell County School System and graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice from Radford University in 1996. In 2007, Rev. Jones graduated from Palm Beach Atlantic University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Ministry, and in August 2012, graduated with a Masters of Divinity Degree from The Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA.

Rev. Jones relocated to West Palm Beach, FL in 1997 and has held several positions in the non-profit sector focusing on Youth Development.

Rev. Jones was licensed to preach the Gospel in July of 2004, and ordained in September of 2007, at Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Gerald D. Kisner. In October of 2006, Rev. Jones joined the staff as the Minister for Youth and Young Adults. In July of 2014 Rev. Jones was elevated to the role of Assistant Pastor. In addition to the Youth and Young Adults, Rev. Jones works primarily with the Adopt -A-School Ministry, Christian Education Ministry, Men's Ministry, and the Social Justice Ministry. Rev. Jones also serves as Coordinator of Community Initiatives in the Office of Mayor Jeri Muoio in the City of West Palm Beach. Rev. Jones coordinates the African American Advisory Council, Mayor's Youth Council, Faith Advisory Council, and the Mayor's Village Initiative. The Mayor's Village Initiative's mission is to improve the outcomes of young black men in targeted areas of the city.

Rev. Jones is the Past Co-President of P.E.A.C.E., a congregation based organization charged with the mission of fighting injustice in the communities of Palm Beach County. During his time as Co-President, P.E.A.C.E. was able to win important issues in the areas of Wage Theft, Jobs and Unemployment in the Glades, Youth Crime, and Out of School Suspensions. These victories provided much needed opportunities for the least of these in our communities. Rev. Jones is President of the Baptist Minister's Conference of the Palm Beaches and Vicinity, and is the first clergy nominated to serve on the board of the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission. He is a proud member and Past Master of Pride of Palm Beach, Lodge #447, Free and Accepted Masons, and the Delta Delta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Rev. Jones enjoys coaching his sons and has volunteered for several years with the Recreation Department in the City of Greenacres, FL. Kevin is married to Michelle T. Jones, and is the father of three sons; Nicholas, Brandon, and Darrin.



DR. COREY A. KING, ED.D.

Dr. Corey A. King, Ed.D. is the Vice President for Student Affairs. He is responsible for all aspects of student life, promoting a campus culture that embraces academic excellence, social and personal development and civic responsibility. The departments/offices within Student Affairs include Campus Recreation, Counseling and Psychological Services, Dean of Students Office, FAU Career Center, Owls Care Health Promotion, Housing and Residential Life, International Student and Scholar Services, Marketing/Communications and Technology Services, Military & Veterans Affairs, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, New Student Orientation, Parent/Family Programs & Student Affairs Development, Upward Bound, Student Accessibility Services, Student Conduct, Student Health Services, Student Government, Student Involvement, Student Media, Student Union, and the Weppner Center for LEAD & Service-Learning.

Dr. King is also an Associate Graduate Faculty with the department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology within the College of Education. Dr. King holds a Bachelor of Science in Curriculum & Instruction and a Master of Science in Higher Education Administration/Student Affairs from Florida State University. He received a Doctorate of Educational Administration & Leadership from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



BRUCE N. LEWIS

Mr. Bruce N. Lewis is the Founder, President & CEO of L B Limited & Associates, Inc., Strategic Public Relations. The company is a West Palm Beach based corporation established in 1990 offering professional consulting services. Mr. Lewis is a Graduate of the University of Minnesota BSEE - Specialized in Electro/Chemical Design Engineering with a Minor in Business Administration.

Prior to starting his business, Bruce was a Senior R&D Electro/Chemical Engineer responsible for the development of cutting-edge processes by which to mass produce Semi-conductors or micro-chips for Fortune 500 corporations including Honeywell, Digital Equipment Corporation, RCA, General Electric (GE), Intel, Commodore Computer Corporation. Over an 18-year period of time, Bruce accumulated 12 patents.

Mr. Lewis, better known as “the Business & Community Capacity Builder,” has over 35 years’ of Corporate and Small Business experience and is committed to and active in numerous civic and community organizations. The following is a partial list:

- Palm Beach County, Ethics Commission Ordinance Drafting Committee Member (2013 – 2015)
- City of West Palm Beach, Downtown Development Authority Board Chairman – (2001- 2013)
- Recipient of the 2013 Legacy Magazine Award – Most Powerful & Influential Black Professional in Business & Industry
- Board Chairman Black Chamber of Commerce of PBC (2011-present).
- Recipient of 2012 Men of Excellence, Business Executive Award (Delta Sigma Theta Sorority)
- Middle School of the Arts (MSOA) Foundation Board member (2000-2003)
- Graduate, Leadership Palm Beach County, Class of 1997.
- United Way of Palm Beach County: Board of Directors, Executive Board, Co-Chair of Improving Futures for Children and Families Committee, member of Strategic Planning, Nominating, and Diversity Committees and 2005/06 Campaign Chair – the first Small Business owner to serve in that capacity. Note: a record \$15.5 million raised (1996-2007)
- Member of the M/WBE Advisory Committee appointed by the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners (1993 –1998)
- Corporate Board of Directors and Executive Board - Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach County, Inc., (1992-1996) and responsible for bringing a Boys & Club to the City of Riviera Beach
- Chair Public Relations Committee, SunFest Inc. (1996- 2004).
- Serve as a Small Business Advocate and Mentor to 37 businesses and counting (1995-present).

“For me, there is no greater feeling than the feeling of empowering someone else!”

These words from Bruce Lewis are words that men and women who are seeking leadership roles should pay attention to and would be well-served to emulate.



BRENDA R. MARCH

Brenda R. March serves as the Children & Education Manager for Orlando's Mayor Parramore Kidz Zone (PKZ) and oversees the day-to-day operations. In her role she is directly responsible for organizing and providing leadership to grassroots community leaders and non-profit, educational and faith organizations, in Parramore and the broader stakeholder community as well as called upon nationally for her expertise in children advocacy initiatives especially in underserved communities.

Ms. March brings over 30 years of experience to PKZ, specifically in the areas of program management, community organizing, and public relations. Ms. March has developed and led a lengthy list of programs during her 25 years of employment with the City of Orlando, instrumental in her leadership for First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move! Cities, Counties, and Towns," National League of Cities and PolicyLink: Campaign for Black Male Achievement, President Obama's My Brother's Keeper Orlando, including the Mayor's Matching Grants program, Citizen Corps, and Neighborhood and Community Plans, and has also been appointed by the Mayor to facilitate numerous task forces, committees and community relations initiatives to inform and engage Orlando citizens in municipal government.

In addition to her work with the City of Orlando, Ms. March serves on numerous boards and national panels including: Allstate Tom Joyner Family Reunion, Panelist, Cities United, Panelist, Volunteer Florida, Presenter, My Brother's Keeper, Presenter, Heart of Florida United Way CAP Board of Directors; Orlando Minority Youth Golf Association Board Member; Steinway Society of Central Florida Advisor to the Board; Orlando City Soccer Parramore History Committee Member; YMCA Achievers; and President of the Orlando Community & Youth Trust, Inc., etc.



SIMRAN NOOR

Simran Noor, Vice President of Policy & Programs at Center for Social Inclusion, is a key senior level manager who works directly with the President and Senior Vice President, providing programmatic leadership through the management and coordination of all program staff, strategy development, program management, organizational networking, alliance building, and relationship management. In this role, Simran's primary responsibilities include programmatic strategy, planning, implementation, staffing, and evaluation.

In her role, Simran leads CSI's Program team who, in turn, ensure the delivery and impact of CSI's programs. In her past work at CSI as Coordinator of Advocacy and Director of Policy & Strategy, Simran designed and facilitated dozens of workshops in collaboration with national and local community and government groups focused on applying a structural race analysis as well as specific policy issues including transparency and accountability, transportation, food and health equity. In addition to workshops, Simran is a regular speaker on issues of racial equity—frequently featured at conferences and public meetings. During her time at CSI, Simran has worked directly with local and national advocates across the country including in Detroit, New York City, and Seattle.

Prior to joining the Center for Social Inclusion, Simran served as Program Manager at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation where she worked with the Food, Health & Well-being, Racial Equity, and Civic & Community Engagement portfolios. She also served as Program Assistant at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, where she supported the Policy Research and KIDS COUNT teams. Simran is deeply committed to youth development, having worked in organizational development and as frontline staff for the Holistic Life Foundation, a Baltimore-based yoga and mindfulness program, and as a language arts and community engagement teacher for middle school students through the Middle Grades Partnership.

Simran has written and commented for a variety of media including the Detroit Free Press, The Times-Picayune, and City Limits Magazine. She also has been a featured panelist on MSNBC's Melissa Harris-Perry.

Simran holds a dual bachelor's degree in American Studies and Political Science from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and a dual master's degree in Public Administration and Social Policy from the University of Pennsylvania.



REVEREND NICHOLAS O'NEILL

A native of Stratford, Connecticut, Reverend Nicholas Trotta O'Neill joined Gray's Temple C.M.E. Church in 2014. Prior to that he spent more than a decade serving as a Pastor at churches in New York, Connecticut, Alabama and the Carolinas. He is the First President of the Palm Beach County Clergy Alliance, a member of the service-focused fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc., and a leading voice for community activism in West Palm Beach. In addition to leading the congregation at Gray's Temple C.M.E., Rev. O'Neill serves as Chaplain for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department and teaches 8th Grade Language Arts at JFK Middle School in Riviera Beach. He earned a bachelor's degree in English from Miles College in Birmingham, Alabama and a master's degree in Theology from Emory University. He is currently pursuing an M.B.A. and enjoys spending quality time with his wife and three children. Rev. O'Neill refers to his favorite line of scripture (Acts 20:23b-24) to describe his spiritual mission: "I count my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me in the task of testifying to the Gospel of God's Grace."



DR. DEANDRE POOLE

Dr. Deandre Poole was born and raised in West Palm Beach, FL. He is an experienced communication professional with a decade of college level teaching experience. He holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from Florida Atlantic University, and a Ph.D. in Communication and Culture from Howard University. His areas of teaching and research are in Race and Ethnicity, Intercultural Communication, Leadership and Communication, Persuasion, Political Communication, and Service-Learning. While not in the classroom, Dr. Poole is heavily engaged in community service projects.

He serves in the following leadership and community service capacities:

Vice Chairman, Palm Beach County Democratic Executive Committee

Chairman, The Coalition for Black Student Achievement of Palm Beach County

Chairman, Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, City of West Palm Beach, FL

Member, Palm Beach County Ministerial Alliance, Education Committee Co-Chair

Senator, United Faculty of Florida

Government Relations Committee Member, United Faculty of Florida

Academic Advisory Committee, School District of Palm Beach County

Member, Democratic Black Caucus of Palm Beach County

Member, Hispanic Democratic Caucus of Palm Beach County

Member, League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County

Member of UNIFY – A community coalition of leaders who work together to address social, political, and economic issues impacting underserved communities in Palm Beach County

Often, Dr. Poole is called upon to sit on community and academic panels. He gives community lectures on various issues pertaining to politics and cultural affairs. Professor Poole has been recognized as a 2013 Man of Valor Community Service Achiever presented by Touch of Compassion Mentoring Outreach Fellowship, Fort Lauderdale, FL. He is also an inductee into the Edward Alexander Bouchet Honor Society at Yale University. In his free time, Dr. Poole enjoys playing golf, going to the movies, reading, and traveling. He is a family man, and serves as an usher board member and a Sunday School teacher at his church. Dr. Poole is doing his part to make the world a better place for ALL people.



KAYLA REED

Kayla Reed, 25, is a St. Louis-native. After the deaths of Mike Brown, Jr., and Vonderrit Myers Jr., Kayla began organizing actions and protests to demand justice. Now as a Field Organizer for the Organization for Black Struggle (OBS), she leads campaigns on police accountability and economic justice. Through this work, she hopes to build and sustain political power in the black working class and fight to ensure this city knows that black lives matter.



EDDY M. REGNIER, PH.D.

Eddy Regnier was appointed to the Council in 2007 by former Florida Senate President Ken Pruitt. Currently, he is an associate professor of the Sarasota School of Professional Psychology and Behavioral Sciences for Argosy University at Sarasota.

Dr. Regnier is also in private practice at Assessment and Psychotherapy Services where he works as a Clinical and Forensic Psychologist. In addition, he serves on various community boards. Dr. Regnier is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts and received a Master's Degree and a Doctorate from Boston University.



DR. NYERERE ISHAJI ROBERTSON

Dr. Nyerere Ischaji Robertson is a clinical psychologist for Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust's Teen Court. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri. He was raised primarily in Anderson, Indiana and in Selma, Alabama.

Ischaji Nyerere Robertson is in his fourth year as president of the Association of Black Psychologists, South Florida Chapter (ABPsi). Dr. Robertson received his B.A. from Anderson University and Doctor of Psychology degree (Psy.D.) from the University of Denver's Graduate School of Professional Psychology. He has been a psychologist in Florida for fifteen years. His focus is on individual therapy with latency age and adolescent youth. He has a special interest in seeing the youth of today thrive within Miami-Dade County. He concentrates on the importance of relationships and the impact of stress on one's physical well-being. Dr. Robertson takes an interest in his family, especially, his six year old daughter who has just started the second grade. He enjoys reading, practicing Chinese Martial Arts, working out on the Bowflex machine, and studying languages. He has received his Advanced Communicator Bronze certificate as a member of the Miami-Dade Toastmasters club and continues to develop his communication skills within the comradery of this dynamic club.



SAM ROMAN

Sam Roman is originally from Salinas, Puerto Rico. He is the 12th of 15 children born to Geronimo Roman and Isabel Rodriguez. Sam is a veteran of U.S. Navy, served during the first gulf war, Desert Storm.

He is a successful business owner in Palm Beach County and President of The Puerto Rican Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Palm Beach County since 2010, also volunteers time in multiple community and governmental boards throughout Palm Beach County and South Florida.

Sam is the Community Relations Coordinator for Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. The Community Relations Unit's main goal is the unification of efforts, to consolidate and broaden community support that will assist PBSO in maintaining channels of communications with diverse communities within Palm Beach County.



ANDREA STEPHENSON

Andrea Stephenson is the Executive Director of the Health Council of Southeast Florida, one of 11 local health planning councils established by the Florida legislature. In this role, and in accordance with Florida statute, she is responsible for conducting regional health planning and implementation activities to improve access to health care, reduce disparities in health status, assist local and state governments in the development of sound and rational health policies, and advocate on behalf of the underserved.

Ms. Stephenson has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, with a concentration in Medical Sociology from the University of Florida. She also has a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) and a Master's in Health Science (MHS), both from the University of Florida.

Ms. Stephenson has nearly 20 years experience in various facets of the health and human services sector. She is also an adjunct faculty member of Barry University where she teaches undergraduate courses in the Health Administration program.

Ms. Stephenson has served on the board of directors of several nonprofit organizations in the community in aging, health care, child welfare, community partnerships, and mental health. She is a graduate of Leadership Palm Beach County, received the Heroes in Medicine Award for Community Involvement (2005), recognized by Success South Florida as one of the "Top 40 Black Professionals Under 40" (2006), and selected as a member of Who's Who in Black South Florida (2007). Ms. Stephenson lives in West Palm Beach with her three children, Eric, Alana Marie, and Terrell. Ms. Stephenson serves on the Audit Committee and the Community Investment Committee.



JORDAN THIERRY

Jordan Thierry joined the PolicyLink team as a Senior Associate in 2016. He is a Portland, Oregon native and a graduate of the University of Oregon's School of Journalism and Communication. He earned his Master's degree in Mass Communication and Media Studies from Howard University. During graduate school, Jordan worked as a Program Coordinator at the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, specifically coordinating the Black Youth Vote! program. After a year of Americorps service as an educator in Newark, NJ, Jordan joined the Funders' Committee for Civic Participation, where he helped improve their conference and webinar programming over the course of three years. In 2013 he premiered his first documentary feature film, THE BLACK FATHERHOOD PROJECT, and facilitates workshops and community events with it across the country. Most recently, Jordan served as a senior consultant at Frontline Solutions, a consulting shop specializing in philanthropy and social change where he worked on projects for Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Executives' Alliance to Expand Opportunities for Boys and Men of Color, among others.



JANE TIERNEY

Jane Tierney is a founder and the Chief Executive Officer of Catalyst for Justice (C4J), a community-based initiative originated in Palm Beach County Florida. In workshop sessions conducted by national experts in the field, the organization promotes science-based training to reduce the impact of implicit bias in policing. C4J fosters the constructive engagement of community members and law enforcement officials to further fair and impartial policing practices.

Jane has wide-ranging professional experience in the private, public and nonprofit sectors. She held executive positions in the travel industry for more than fourteen years and specialized in revenue optimization systems. For the last sixteen years, she has worked with nonprofit organizations holding executive leadership, consultant, and volunteer board positions. Jane is a member of the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission's Community Engagement Task Force. She holds a BA in Psychology and a BS in Education from the University of Pennsylvania. She completed graduate coursework with a major in management and organizational development as an MBA candidate in The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She is certified as a cultural competency trainer by the Cross Cultural Health Care Program in Seattle, WA. The Palm Beach County March of Dimes honored Jane as a 2004 Woman of Distinction for her community advocacy.



SARITA TURNER

Sarita Turner, Associate Director, has over 20 years of experience working in the non-profit sector raising awareness around, and supporting strategies to address institutionalized racism and the disinvestment of people and communities. Sarita has worked in various positions including: direct services, policy advocacy, community organizing, government, community development, and philanthropy. Under Sarita’s leadership, infrastructure investments, business improvement district pilots, community development, and crime and safety initiatives have been successfully implemented. Currently, Sarita serves as an associate director for PolicyLink where she works to further equity-focused federal, state, and local policies and place-based strategies. Sarita’s personality type is that of a spirited explorer. She loves the outdoors and since relocating to California has added hiking, golf, and white-water rafting to the list of things she loves doing.



STEVE VASSOR

Steve Vassor is a proud Daddy, husband and mentor, who enjoys travel, and as a former DJ loves rap, his musical first love. For 25 years, he has worked with, and on behalf of young people and their families. His calling and passion are improving life chances of young people, especially urban youth and young Black men. Steve founded AMPED Strategies to power and amplify great human services work. Steve is a skilled and sought after facilitator, trainer, moderator and listener. He enjoys AMPing people, creating coalitions, strengthening organizations and developing strategies that lead to improved conditions for young people.



RAE WHITELY

Rae Anthony St. Michael Whitely Sr. was born on a dairy farm in Jamaica to Hazelton and Iona Whitely. In the early 1980’s, Rae’s family migrated to America and settled in West Palm Beach. When drugs, gangs, prostitution and violence threatened the family, Rae’s parents moved the family to Boynton Beach, FL. Rae is a minister, community organizer and founder of the local Black Votes Matter initiative. This organization’s objective is to increase voter turnout in mid-term and municipal elections.

Rae’s current projects include;

- President and CEO of Boynton United 2 Bury the Violence, an organization that brings awareness about violence in our community.
- Founder of The Children’s Oasis International Inc. (an organization that enables today’s youth to be tomorrow’s leaders)
- Ordained Minister at Healing Hand Ministries serving as a Sunday School teacher and Praise & Worship Leader and assisting in leading the men’s ministry
- Spokesperson for the Boynton Beach Coalition of Clergy
- Palm Beach County Clergy Alliance Member
- Member of the Boynton Beach MLK Committee
- Member of the Boynton Beach Team of Hope, an organization whose objective is assisting felons re-enter society
- Co-Chairperson for the "Justice for Corey" campaign

Rae is married to Bethan Dawn Whitely, who he calls affectionately calls “Queen B.” The two have a blended family of 8 children Tanesha, Joan, Arline, Darline, Dienisha, Vincent, Rae Jr and Marion and 8 grandchildren, Corey, Chancellor, Kimori, Janae, Jeremy, Cameron, Lauren and Chelsea.



KIMBA M. WILLIAMS

Kimba M. Williams, President and Founder of Florida-based, CollegePATH, Inc. has over 19 years in the corporate business sector. She served as a Sales and Marketing Professional at The Coca-Cola Company for many years, then went on to various Sales Consulting and Training roles with several global pharmaceutical companies. Based on her passion for education she founded CollegePATH, Inc. in 2008; a not-for-profit educational consulting organization, focused on assisting Students of Color with early college exposure and college admissions counseling. Recognized by Legacy Magazine as “One of South Florida’s Black Leaders of Today and Tomorrow in 2012”, and Caribbean National Weekly’s “Top 40 under 40 Community Leader” in 2016, Mrs. Williams has since grown the organization to one that services both U.S. domestic and International students alike. Mrs. Williams holds a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Miami, numerous College Counseling Certificates, and is a wife and mother of three sons. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, dancing, sewing, and spending time with all her boys, big and small.



DR. LISA WILLIAMS-TAYLOR

Dr. Lisa Williams-Taylor currently chairs an evidence-based programs committee and participates in overall strategic planning for Children’s Services Council (CSC). She is responsible for research related to policy analysis and informing, advising, and assisting the agency in their efforts to develop strategies and public policies that benefit children and families in Palm Beach County. Her professional background has been in research and evaluation in the areas of addictions, mental health, and criminal justice. She has worked on many projects including developing logic model’s for SAMHSA’s National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices. Lisa holds Masters of Arts degrees in Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice, a Master of Philosophy degree in Criminal Justice and a Doctorate of Philosophy degree.



REV. DR. R. JOAQUIN WILLIS

Rev. Dr. R. Joaquin Willis is senior pastor at Church of the Open Door, U.C.C. in Miami, Florida. With a membership of over 300, the church campus houses a sanctuary and a Family Life Center. The church has a 501 (c) 3, Miami Youth Garden Inc., (MyG), created to assist in human and community development. He serves as a board member, President and CEO of Miami Youth Gardens (MyG). Pastor Willis serves as Board Chair of the Collective Empowerment Group (CEG) of South Florida, Inc. (formerly the Collective Banking Group). The CEG was a key participant in a large, complex, private-nonprofit joint venture, Miami Waymark 2.0 JV, which bid for the redevelopment of Liberty Square, Miami's largest and oldest public housing project. That experience, where the CEG team was one of the leading finalists, sparked the creation of the following initiatives:

- 1) Miami 2.0, Inc., where Pastor Willis serves as President/CEO. This CEG subsidiary will seek to act as Community Assets Manager for all major public housing projects, to ensure they will include a wide basket of social and supportive services. This new approach will foster the transformation of both people and places, addressing the root causes of deeply ingrained social and economic injustice. A key element in this process will be the use of SupportWell, the CEG's proprietary training tool for nonprofits, to require that all service providers adhere to best-practices standards of efficiency, transparency and accountability.
- 2) Collective Developers LLC, another CEG subsidiary that will develop single-family homes in a joint venture with a highly-respected private-sector developer. This program will help increase the supply of affordable for-sale homes.
- 3) The CEG will soon start marketing a prototype of a small, expandable, starter single-family home. This new product will sharply improve affordability of homeownership so that reliance will no longer be exclusively dependent on financial subsidies.
- 4) The CEG is developing a collaboration with a well-established local leader in supportive services to returning ex-offenders. It plans to join efforts to help expand their services and to jump-start new programs for early intervention and alternative sentencing initiatives for our youth.

The long-running Miami Youth Garden (MyG), and the preceding new initiatives are all offered under the CEG's umbrella concept, The Big Tent. Seeking to engage the entire community into supporting and lifting up those communities that have been unfairly left behind. The Miami-based South Florida CEG is an affiliate of the national association of local chapters of the National Collective Empowerment Group, in which body Pastor Willis has served as National Vice President since 2008. He was recognized as the 2012 Black History Month Civic Honoree by Legacy Magazine. In addition, he received the 2012 award for excellence in community development from South Florida Community Development and the 2012 award for "community empowerment" from People United To Lead The Struggle For Equality, Inc. (P.U.L.S.E.). Pastor Willis has served as Adjunct Professor at Howard University School of Divinity. He also serves on the Board of the 79th Street Corridor Development, Inc. and is a columnist for the South Florida Times Newspaper. Pastor Willis holds the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, the Master of Divinity and the Doctorate of Ministry degrees, all from Howard University.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Pastor Willis is the husband of Clarissa Willis and the proud father of five children and seven grandchildren.



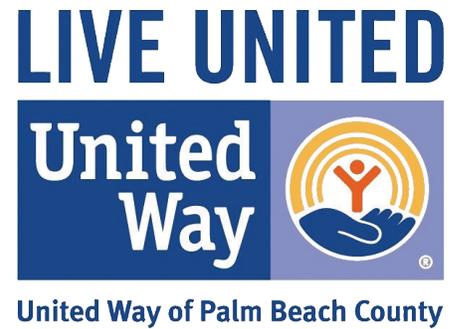
DR. APRIL YOUNG

A Principal at New Equity Partners, Dr. Young has worked extensively on questions of community change in urban areas. She designed the Overtown Men's Health Study, gathering extensive data on residents of a distressed neighborhood in Miami, Florida. In addition to research on the social determinants of poor men's health, Young works on related issues of juvenile justice, adult incarceration, and community re-entry.

Before joining the Overtown project in 2003, she ran the Community-University Roundtables Project at Stanford University. The Roundtables Project initiated applied research and provided technical assistance in distressed California communities on topics ranging from police racial profiling to senior women's health to equitable technology access.

Dr. Young has administered federal and state rental housing subsidy programs in Boston, Massachusetts. She provided policy analysis and technical assistance on federal housing grant programs to communities across the U.S. while with the social science research company Abt Associates in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She continues to conduct research and provide housing-related technical assistance to low-income communities. Dr. Young holds a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from Harvard University, and an A.B. from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Dr. Young is on the board of the International Society of Men's Health headquartered in Vienna, Austria and has served as the society's treasurer.

PRESENTING SPONSORS



SILVER SUPPORTERS



YOUTH SPONSORS





Pledge to Youth

Your dreams matter

Your goals matter

Your lives matter

You Are Someone Who Matters!

We love you

We care about you

and we are committed
to creating opportunities

for you to live a happy
and prosperous life.



Thank you to our
MBK CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

- Tammy Fields** Youth Services Director
- Marsha Guthrie** Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County
- Jayne Bosio** Palm Beach County Library
- Jaene Miranda** Palm Beach County Boys & Girls Club
- Vashti Rutledge** Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County
- Geeta Loach-Jacobson** Palm Beach County Youth Services
- Michelle Dwyer** Career Source of Palm Beach County
- Ike Powell** Palm Beach County Youth Services
- Marcia Bahia** Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
- Dr. Deandre Poole** Florida Atlantic University
- Dr. Myriam Glemaud** For The Children
- Charlene Henry** Palm Beach County School District
- Veleke Brown** E-Roadmap Corporation



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
Youth Services Department



2017
RACE TO EQUITY SUMMIT

www.MBKPBC.com
#MBKPBC #MBK
#RaceToEquitySummit



**Bridging the Opportunity Gap
for Boys and Young Men of Color**

SPONSORED
BY:

