

The 2nd Annual Club 1964, Inc. HBCU Symposium

EXPANDING OUR HORIZONS

Florida Memorial University | March 29 – 31, 2017

Our Doors Shall Remain Open...



For All Tomorrows To Come

CLUB 1964, INC.

About Us

Club 1964, Inc. is a nonprofit advocacy and social organization dedicated to the redemption and restoration of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The organization is comprised of divisions and chapters which operate on school and college campuses and throughout communities. The organization together seeks to create a School-to-HBCU Pipeline, HBCU Institutional Fellowship and HBCU Advocacy and Social Network.

Goals

1. We shall increase HBCU Application, Admission, Retention, and Graduation Rates.
2. We shall restore the pride and morale of the HBCU Experience.
3. We shall create awareness and recognition of the value and impact of HBCUs.
4. We shall strengthen community relations to encourage HBCU Donations and Sponsorships.
5. We shall unite past, present, and future HBCU Students, Personnel, and Advocates.
6. We shall prepare middle school and high school students to be successful HBCU Scholars, Alumni, and Advocates.

Objectives

1. We promote the history and present-day impact of HBCUs to all those willing and welcoming to learn.
2. We host events and activities for the HBCU Community and the communities they serve.
3. We foster networking and mentoring opportunities for members of the HBCU Community.
4. We provide scholarships and internships to future and current HBCU Students.

Mission

We advocate for Historically Black Colleges and Universities through academic, social, and professional ventures that recruit scholars, develop leaders, and educate advocates.

Vision

We envisage an ever-evolving global network of individuals and groups that protect the legacy, promote the impact, and preserve the value of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Purpose

We seek to provide Historically Black Colleges and Universities a network of scholars, leaders, and advocates mutually vested in her past, present, and future.

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SYMPOSIUM SALUTATIONS

About the Symposium

The Club 1964, Inc. Annual HBCU Symposium is the *only* national convening of past, present, and future HBCU Students, Personnel, and Advocates.

The HBCU Symposium debuted with its inaugural convening, themed “*Promoting and Preserving Our Roots,*” on February 10-12, 2016 on the campus of the illustrious Florida Memorial University. The inaugural was attended by hundreds of delegates from local high schools and colleges, HBCU students and personnel from across the nation, and advocates from near and far.

The purpose of the Annual HBCU Symposium is to provide a national platform for aspiring, current, and former HBCU students, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, affiliates, and advocates to assemble annually to discuss topics and exchange ideas on matters and concerns that are germane to the current state and future fate of our beloved Historically Black Colleges and Universities nationwide.

SYMPOSIUM SALUTATIONS

From the Convener



Welcome to the Club 1964, Inc. Second Annual HBCU Symposium, or *HBCU Symposium 2017*, for short.

I am humbled to once again be joined by friends, colleagues, and fellow soldiers on the HBCU Battlefield, advocating for all 100+ Historically Black Colleges and Universities nationwide. This year's convening, themed "*Expanding Our Horizons*," seeks to firstly, examine current issues that are germane to HBCUs and the people and communities they serve, and secondly, discover avenues for the stakeholders – namely, the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and advocates – of these institutions to continue advocating on their [the institutions] and our [the stakeholders] behalves.

The discussions that will be facilitated and conversations that will be held – arranged, organically, and sometimes a mixture of both –

over this 3-day convening are important and ought not be left here. After this convening, the real work begins; we will each be charged with taking the tips, advice, insight, and suggestions that are shared back to our campuses and offices and implement them (somehow, somehow) for the betterment of not just our institutions as individuals, but as a collective unit.

I look forward to connecting with and learning from each and every one of you, as much as I hope and encourage you all to do with each other. Together we can assure that the doors of all HBCUs remain open, 2017 and beyond.

For All Tomorrows To Come,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marquise M. McGriff". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Marquise M. McGriff
Founder + Executive Developer
Annual HBCU Symposium Convener
Club 1964, Inc.

WELCOME TO CAMPUS

About Florida Memorial University

Florida Memorial University is a private, coeducational, and Baptist-affiliated institution that has the distinction of being one of the oldest academic centers in the state, and the only Historically Black University in South Florida.

In 1879, members of the Bethlehem Baptist Association founded the school, then called Florida Baptist Institute, in Live Oak to create “a College of instruction for our ministers and children.” The Reverend J. L. A. Fish was its first president. Despite a promising start, racial tensions soon cast a shadow over the Institute. In April 1892, after unknown persons fired shots into one of the school’s buildings, then-President Rev. Matthew Gilbert and other staff members fled Live Oak for Jacksonville, where he founded the Florida Baptist Academy in the basement of Bethel Baptist Church. They began holding classes in May 1892, with Sarah Ann Blocker as the main instructor. The school in Live Oak, however, continued to operate even after this splintering.

In 1896, Nathan White Collier was appointed president of the Academy, a post he held for 45 years. President Collier recruited renowned composer and Jacksonville native, J. Rosamond Johnson, to teach music at the school. While in the employ of the Florida Baptist Academy, Rosamond composed music for “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing,” a poem written by his brother, James Weldon Johnson, creating the song that has since been enshrined as the “Negro National Anthem.” It was first performed by a choir that included students from Florida Baptist Academy at a celebration of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday in 1900.

Because of the dual pressures of a growing student body and not enough space to expand, the Academy took advantage of an offer from the City of St. Augustine to relocate the institution to the 400-acre “Old Hansen Plantation.” The school began its third incarnation at its new home in St. Augustine on September 24, 1918, as the Florida Normal and Industrial Institute. Influenced by the educational model popularized by Booker T. Washington at his Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, students were encouraged to be industrious and self-sufficient, constructing many of the campus buildings themselves, as well as growing and preparing their own food. The students received hands-on training in the practical fields which would allow them to support themselves and their families.

In 1942, the Baptist General State Convention voted to merge its two schools, closing down the Florida Institute at Live Oak and combining it with what would become Florida Normal Industrial and Memorial College in St. Augustine. Florida native and writer of the Harlem Renaissance, Zora Neale Hurston, served as an instructor for the school during this time.

Activism by FMC students, however, threatened to upset the delicate relationship between the City of St. Augustine and Florida Memorial, as well as provoking the resentment and animosity of whites in the area. Given this vulnerable financial and social situation, Dr. Royal W. Puryear oversaw the relocation of the school when, in 1965, the trustees purchased a 48-acre former air strip near Opa-locka in Dade County.

On November 11, 1968, the new campus opened as Florida Memorial College. In December 2004, the institution’s charter was amended, and the name Florida Memorial University was adopted.

The FMU legacy is firmly rooted in steadfast dedication and commitment to pursue its mission “to instill in our students the values of leadership, character, and service to enhance their lives and the lives of others.”

WELCOME TO CAMPUS

From the University President



Dear Attendees/Participants:

On behalf of Florida Memorial University (FMU), I would like to welcome you to our 2nd HBCU Symposium: Expanding Our Horizons. This initiative is hosted by Club 1964, Inc., an innovative group of student and alumni leaders determined to preserve the unique legacy of our nation's HBCUs and to ensure that future generations of students have the benefit of the transformative educational opportunities provided by these invaluable institutions. This conference is designed to bring students and members of the HBCU community together to discuss issues and topics that are both current and relevant to our institutions and their futures. Program participants will gain a deeper understanding of the HBCU value proposition and be positioned to assist with recruitment and retention efforts at their home campuses.

It is my pleasure to host this unique and important gathering on the campus of Florida Memorial University - South Florida's only Historically Black University. I look forward to joining Club 1964, Inc. in welcoming you to our campus and more importantly, to your participation in this important and meaningful dialogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roslyn Clark Artis". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis
President

THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ivory A. Toldson, Ph.D.



Dr. Ivory A. Toldson is the president and CEO of the QEM Network, professor of counseling psychology at Howard University and editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Negro Education*. Previously, Dr. Toldson was appointed by President Barack Obama to devise national strategies to sustain and expand federal support to HBCUs as the executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHIHBCUs). He also served as senior research analyst for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and contributing education editor for *The Root*, where he debunked some of the most pervasive myths about African-Americans in his Show Me the Numbers column.

SCHOLARSHIP AND ADVOCACY: Dr. Toldson was promoted to full professor while on leave from Howard University to serve President Obama's administration. He spent 3.5 years at Southern University and A&M College (SU), in Baton Rouge, LA, and more than a decade at Howard University in Washington, DC. At SU, Dr. Toldson was named young researcher of the year after successfully competing for the prestigious W.E.B. DuBois Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Justice. Dr. Toldson continued a high level of research productivity at Howard University, evidence by publishing 4 books, and more than 65 scholarly publications including articles in peer-refereed journals, book chapters, and policy

reports. Dr. Toldson became the Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of Negro Education* (established 1932) in 2008, where he led an effort to modernize The Journal, moving it to an online platform for peer reviews and subscriptions, while keeping it independently owned and run by Howard University. His efforts attracted many new international subscribers.

POLICY AND EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP: Dr. Ivory A. Toldson was appointed by President Barack Obama to be the executive director, for the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. In addition to ongoing work with elected officials, government executives, HBCU leaders and advocacy groups, Dr. Toldson conceptualized the White House Initiative on HBCUs All-Stars program, which identifies and engages the top HBCU scholars. He also co-authored a series of blogs on federal sponsorships for various federal agencies and hosted a series of webinars, in an effort to increase the approximately \$6 billion of federal revenue that flows to 100 HBCUs.

PREPARATION AND PERSONAL: After completing coursework for a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at Temple University, Dr. Toldson became a correctional and forensic psychology resident at the United States Penitentiary. There, he completed his dissertation on Black Men in the Criminal Justice System. He also served as the clinical director of the Manhood Training Village. He has received formal training in applied statistics from the University of Michigan, and held visiting research and teacher appointments at Emory, Drexel, and Morehouse School of Medicine. Since graduate school, Dr. Toldson has had a career-long affiliation with HBCUs and takes pride in his ability to promote HBCU scholarship and being an example of professional talent cultivated at HBCUs. He holds an honorary doctorate from Florida Memorial University. He is married to Marshella Toldson, and together, they are raising their daughter, Makena and their son, Ivory Kaleb.

SYMPOSIUM-AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday March 29, 2017

Opening Reception | Smith Conference Center B 6:00PM

Thursday March 30, 2017

Morning Plenary | Lou Rawls Center for the Performing Arts 9:30AM

Keynote Address | Lou Rawls Center for the Performing Arts 11:00AM

Lunch + Expo | Dining Hall Marketplace 12:00PM

Breakout Session I | Smith Conference A+C 1:40PM

Breakout Session II | Smith Conference A+C 3:05PM

Breakout Session III | Smith Conference A+C 4:30PM

Dinner | Dining Hall Marketplace 5:00PM

Evening Plenary | William Lehman Auditorium 6:00PM

Friday March 31, 2017

Club 1964, Inc. Presentation | Living/Learning Multipurpose Room 9:00AM

Breakout Session IV | Smith Conference A+C 11:00AM

Chat + Chew | Smith Conference B 12:00PM

Closing Session | William Lehman Auditorium 2:00PM

OPENING RECEPTION

Wednesday March 29, 2017

INVOCATION

Jeffrey Swain, J.D.
Dean of Campus Ministry, Florida Memorial University

SYMPOSIUM SALUTATIONS

Marquise M. McGriff
Founder + Symposium Convener, Club 1964, Inc.

WELCOME TO CAMPUS

Roslyn Clark Artis, J.D., Ed.D.
President, Florida Memorial University

CHAPTER WELCOME + PRESENTATION

Club 1964, Inc. Chapter #1 (Florida Memorial University)

RECESS FOR DINNER

SPECIAL REMARKS

Michelle Howard-Vital, Ph.D.
Provost, Florida Memorial University

CLOSING REMARKS

Marquise M. McGriff
Founder + Symposium Convener, Club 1964, Inc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laurelle Davis
Symposium Site Director, Club 1964, Inc.

MORNING PLENARY

Thursday March 30, 2017

OPENING REMARKS

Marquise M. McGriff
Founder + Symposium Convener, Club 1964, Inc.

MODERATOR

Breana L. McBride
Chapter President, Club 1964, Inc. Chapter #1 (Florida Memorial University)

Cradle to College: The Need for HBCUs in Education Reform

PANEL DISCUSSION

Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Ph.D.
E. Renee Posey, Ed. D.
Kierra Smith
Paul Wilson

CLOSING REMARKS

Marquise M. McGriff
Founder + Symposium Convener, Club 1964, Inc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laurelle Davis
Symposium Site Director, Club 1964, Inc.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Thursday March 30, 2017

OPENING REMARKS

Marquise M. McGriff
Founder + Symposium Convener, Club 1964, Inc.

GREETINGS FROM THE STUDENT BODY

Nicole Collins
President, Florida Memorial University Student Gov't Association

GREETINGS FROM THE CITY

Matthew Pigatt
Commissioner, City of Opa-Locka

GREETINGS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Ph.D.
Vice-Chairwoman, Miami-Dade County Public Schools

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ivory A. Toldson, Ph.D.
President + CEO, Quality Education for Minorities' Network (QEM)

CLOSING REMARKS

Marquise M. McGriff
Founder + Symposium Convener, Club 1964, Inc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laurelle Davis
Symposium Site Director, Club 1964, Inc.

BREAKOUT SESSION I

Thursday March 30, 2017

3 Reasons Why HBCUs Should Embrace Planned Giving as Fundraiser

Aquanetta Betts, J.D.

Smith Conference Center Room A

HBCUs need your help to grow and thrive. What you do as students, alumni and supporters is crucial to the survival of these institutions. Gone are the days of HBCUs depending on government funding to stay afloat. Planned giving is the new kid in town for many HBCUs, and it deserves a second look - when it comes to fundraising. Let's build a solid foundation for HBCUs so they will stay around for generations to come.

Differentiation at an HBCU: 'One Standard Doesn't Fit All

Kathy Bryant, Ed.D. and Evornia Kincaid, Ed.D.

Smith Conference Center Room C

As the field of education continues to be bombarded with numerous changes, we educators must begin looking at where our students fit in all of this transformation. It is incumbent of us to embark upon these changes as customization, differentiation, and innovation. Customization is a unique way to tailor the content to the standards so that the content is relevant to the students, therefore, ensuring that each student masters the standards. Content that is relevant to the student is critical to the retention process. Students tend to remember information that is relevant to them. Differentiation involves providing students with various opportunities to engage in the learning process, while retaining the content matter. This allows the students to be successful academically and professionally. One of the biggest shifts taking place in higher education is the increased access to revolutionary technology. According to Senge (2000), innovation is driven by recognition of new needs in society. The primary engine of change of the 21st century and of modern society is technology.

BREAKOUT SESSION II

Thursday March 30, 2017

How to be a Divah Boss and Love the Beauty Within

Jazmyne Byrd

Smith Conference Center A

Every HBCU Queen is a born leader. Her beauty and style compliment who she is. In a world ran by males, every Divah needs her chance to shine. It's important that females are on their top game in education, presentation, style, and business.

Sustaining HBCUs in a Post-Obama Society

Britt Spears and Chris Hill

Smith Conference Center Room C

It is obvious that this new presidential administration has brought increased concern to historically underrepresented groups here in the United States. Among those groups are Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their ability to thrive with a President who has set forth no formal plan to maintain these historical and valuable institutions. We plan to present information on ways that these institutions not only remain open but thrive in light of the political climate.

BREAKOUT SESSION III

Thursday March 30, 2017

Recapturing the Magic

Michelle Hollinger

Smith Conference Center A

Imagine the sense of urgency that existed when HBCUs were founded. Consider the courage and determination necessary to create institutions that were charged with educating newly free African Americans. What if we could recapture the pride, enthusiasm and persistence that went into the development of HBCUs? This presentation will offer energizing ideas designed to motivate people to protect, celebrate and enhance HBCUs in ways that help them to thrive.

Adulting 101: Life After My Degree

Leyanis Diaz

Smith Conference Center C

When I graduated from FIU, I was in a funk! I knew I wanted to be on TV but I didn't have a plan and better yet, I had no one to guide me and mentor me so that I could get there! Life during college, after college and adulting can be hard when you're doing it alone. In this presentation, I'll be talking about the 10 things I wish I knew about life after graduation.

EVENING PLENARY

Thursday March 30, 2017

OPENING REMARKS

Marquise M. McGriff
Founder + Symposium Convener, Club 1964, Inc.

MODERATOR

Tarrin D. Gary
Founding Member, Club 1964, Inc. Chapter #1 (Florida Memorial University)

#BlackSchoolsMatter Too: HBCUs in the Race for Black Lives

PANEL DISCUSSION

Denzel Burnside
Darryl Gordon
Wayne Lomax
Naomi Shelton

CLOSING REMARKS

Marquise M. McGriff
Founder + Symposium Convener, Club 1964, Inc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laurelle Davis
Symposium Site Director, Club 1964, Inc.

BREAKOUT SESSION IV

Friday March 31, 2017

We've Come This Far By Faith

Ederick Johnson

Smith Conference Center A

When you are in your first year of school and the pressure seems to be too hard for you to bear, it's always good to connect with a higher source of power for direction. When one thinks of spirituality one often thinks of church. This is true, but not always the case. In this workshop we will focus on the importance of faith at the HBCU.

Fabulously Fake + Beautifully Broke

Lynda Harris

Smith Conference Center C

Young individuals are facing financial challenges that may get them off to a bad start. You must establish good financial habits in order to succeed in today's economy. Faking financial prosperity will keep you in hustle mode for the rest of your life. Let's talk about generating wealth and not just income.

CHAT + CHEW

Friday March 31, 2017

Facilitator

Marquise M. McGriff

Founder + Symposium Convener, Club 1964, Inc.

Conversationalists

Sedika Franklin, Associate Director, White House Initiative on HBCUs

Elyse Jones, Operations + Program Analyst, White House Initiative on HBCUs



This is a closed discussion and luncheon with the Office of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This conversation is facilitated by Club 1964, Inc. This session is limited to registered delegates and “Friends” of the Organization, the Initiative, and the University.

CLOSING PLENARY

Friday March 31, 2017

OPENING REMARKS

Marquise M. McGriff
Founder + Symposium Convener, Club 1964, Inc.

PRESENTATION

The Club 1964, Inc. Symposium Staff

WORDS FROM OUR SPONSORS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

JESSIE TRICE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

SPECIAL REMARKS

Emmanuel Lalande, Ed.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs, Florida Memorial University

CLOSING REMARKS

Marquise M. McGriff
Founder + Symposium Convener, Club 1964, Inc.

BENEDICTION

Jeffrey Dean Swain, J.D.
Dean of Campus Ministry + Chaplain, Florida Memorial University

SPEAKERS



Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Ph.D.

As a classroom teacher, principal, adult education administrator, and public servant, Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall has made a lifetime of using education to unlock the doors of opportunity. On November 2, 2010, Miami-Dade voters elected Dorothy to serve as the Miami-Dade County School Board Member for District 2. Since being elected to the Board, she has been instrumental in improving access to education by establishing six; K-8 centers in her district; increased opportunities for minority and women business owners to conduct business with the school system, and helped to expand access to early childhood education for low-income families with the expansion of the Head Start program. On November 17, 2015, Dr. Bendross-Mindingall was the first African-American female elected Vice Chair of the Miami-Dade County School Board.



Aquanetta Betts, J.D.

Aquanetta J. Betts is a planned giving consultant and attorney. She is licensed in Washington, D.C., and Maryland, and focuses on estate planning and charitable giving. She holds a law degree from Nova Southeastern School of Law, and a Bachelor's degree from Florida International University. Before practicing law, she spent 15 years as a flight attendant for American Airlines. A frequent seminar presenter, she serves on the board of the Chesapeake Planned Giving Council.

Kathy Bryant, Ed.D.

Kathy Bryant is an assistant professor in the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education at Jackson State University. Some of the highlights of her four year tenure at JSU include: participation in the Center for Undergraduate Research, College of Education and Human Development (Elementary & Early Childhood Education) departmental curriculum redesign and coordinating monthly education seminars for incoming students. During the 2011-2016 academic years Dr. Bryant focused her research, teaching, and service on activities designed to enhance student learning, program quality, and research and publication opportunities for candidates within the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Dr. Bryant's effort to guide research over the course of those years offered her the opportunity to conduct research with six (6) undergraduate students entitled "The iPad An Instructional Tool: An Examination of Faculty Implementation Experience."



Denzel Burnside

Denzel is an alumnus of Florida International University (FIU) and Florida A & M University (FAMU), is currently rebuilding his Multi-Media and consulting company DB3 Media, Inc. and launching Ellie's House CDC along with Ellie's House Ministries, Inc. Burnside's goal is to minister and fulfill spiritual needs of the millennial generation with a "down home southern gospel," feel. He was born and raised in Miami-Dade County where he graduated from "Miami's Mega Magnet," Coral Reef Senior High School.



Jazmyne Byrd

Jazmyne Courtnee Byrd is an award-winning journalist who was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. She graduated from the only public HBCU in Ohio, Central State University, with a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology. In 2013 she was awarded Blackstreet Journalism Award and New York Fashion Award "Journalist of the Year 2013". She has been nominated for Maryland Fashion Award "Emerging Media Member 2013", Runway Inc.

"Blogger of the Year 2014" and Posed Fashion Awards "Blogger of the Year" 2014. On January 17, 2014 she stepped out and created "The Divah Filez" an internship for HBCU Students, which is currently one of the top 3 HBCU social organizations and the only one owned and operated by a female.

She is currently a writer for Sheen and Upscale Magazine. She is an Active Member of NCNW of Prince Georges County.



Leyanis Diaz

Miss Black Florida USA, Leyanis Diaz, received a B.S. in Communications from Florida International University December of 2015. During her time at FIU, Leyanis was a Peer Advisor, became a sister of Phi Mu Fraternity and was Miss Black and Gold 2015 for the Tau Delta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. She worked for Univision Communications Inc., CNN en Español and Radio Caracol and was involved with Alternative Breaks, SPC-BBC, and the Honors College, traveling to Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand the Summer of 2015 to teach English. Leyanis is currently a blogger, motivational speaker, host and an avid philanthropist in Miami, FL. This August, she will be representing the entire state of Florida in the national Miss Black USA pageant in Washington, D.C. As Miss Black Florida USA, she is promoting and advocating for health, education and entrepreneurship among minorities while

working with organizations and businesses to promote Florida as a hub for diversity, creativity, and opportunity. She is presently working with the Embrace Girls Foundation, Health in the Hood, Dream Defenders, the South Florida Black Business Directory, the Women of Color Empowerment Institute and is a leadership fellow for the FIU Lilian Lodge Kopenhagen Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication, hoping to make a profound impact in our community during her time as Miss Black Florida USA.



Sedika Franklin

Sedika Franklin is Associate Director in the office of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHIHBCUs). She manages office support, stakeholder engagement and external partnerships related to the implementation of the Executive Order to Promote Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. She is responsible for managing the development of program initiatives meant to promote excellence, innovation, and sustainability at HBCUs. Ms. Franklin obtained her Master of Business Administration degree from Averett University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.



Darryl Gordon

Darryl Gordon completed his undergraduate degree at the illustrious Florida A&M University. After graduating in spring of 2013 with his BS in Political Science, he would be recruited and accepted into the 2014 intake for Teach for America. He now is a Coordinator within the student development division at Daytona State College and a Masters of Education in Higher Education Administration candidate at Georgia Southern University.



Lynda Harris

Lynda V. Harris currently holds the position of Financial Advisor at IFS Securities, Inc. As a Financial Advisor with over 20 years in the financial services industry, Lynda specializes in asset management and financial advisory work. Lynda V. Harris is currently the co-host of the radio talk show “Understanding Money” heard on WBIZ, 880 AM in Miami, Florida for the past 9 years. Her volunteer work includes financial literacy and social security education to the young and old.



Chris Hill

Chris Hill is currently finishing his final semester in the Student Affairs in Higher Education Master’s program at Missouri State University. He currently serves as the graduate assistant for multicultural services, where he assisted in the development and coordination of multicultural programs and services for the campus community. Chris hopes to start his career journey working in functional areas that will enable him the opportunity to create inclusive environments for all.



Michelle Hollinger

Michelle Hollinger is a graduate of Miami Jackson Senior High School, Florida State University and has a deep abiding love for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Michelle is a former social worker turned journalist who served as editor of The Miami Times and the South Florida Times before launching her own publication, The Sisterhood. The monthly newsmag celebrates sisterhood, women helping women and spotlights women living life to the fullest. An author, Michelle has written The Sisterhood Exchange, Wind Beneath her Wings (ebook), and is in the process of penning The S.O.S. Council – an unfolding novel that has a new chapter published each month in The Sisterhood. The mother of three is also a filmmaker, a New Thought student and staunch believer in the power of thoughts and the law of attraction and theorizes that both are instrumental to the survival, actually the thriving, of HBCUs.



Ederick Johnson

Ederick E. Johnson is a member of Joseph Lodge No. 622 IF&AM in Miami Florida, and Sentinel for Wright Chapter No. 355 of Order of the Eastern Stars. He is a current student at Florida Memorial University majoring in Social Science Education, a member of FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), Student Council, Senior Class Board, and Founder and President of the African American Student Union. Ederick is currently employed at Call 4 Health as a Medical Scheduler.



Elyse Jones

Elyse Jones is the Operations and Program Analyst in the office of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHIHBCUs). Elyse serves as executive assistant to senior WHIHBCU leadership; managing all office support related to the implementation of Executive Order to Promote Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Jones also manages the HBCU All-Star student program; a program meant to promote educational excellence, innovation, civic engagement and student leadership at HBCUs. Prior to working for the Department of Education, Jones was a student at Valdosta State University. Elyse possesses a Master’s degree in Public Administration, and a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration.



Evornia Kincaid, Ed.D.

I am an Associate professor in the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education at Jackson State University. Prior to coming to Jackson State, I worked as a K-12 school administrator for the Milwaukee Public Schools in Milwaukee. I have also worked as a classroom teacher and a school guidance counselor. My passion is in developing quality teachers for our children. My research, scholarship and creativity activities have played a prominent role throughout my tenure here at Jackson State University. In October 2012, I was selected to be part of the first cohort for the Academy for Research and Scholarly Engagement. I was also a recipient of the 2012 “ONE JSU EXCELLENCE AWARD.”



Wayne Lomax

Wayne Lomax is the lead pastor of The Fountain of New Life Church in Miami Gardens, Florida. Since founding the ministry in 1996 as the Fountain of Pembroke Pines, in 2009 Pastor Lomax and the congregation relocated to Miami Gardens. As a part of the relocation and acquisition of the current campus, the Miami’s Life International Church merged with the congregation, forming what is known today as The Fountain of New Life. Pastor Lomax serves as the Vice Chair for the Board of Trustees of Florida Memorial University. He also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Opportunities Industrialization Centers, also known as OIC.



E. Renee Posey, Ed. D.

Dr. Renee Posey is the Assistant Principal at William H. Turner Technical Arts High School. She graduated from Florida A & M University and received a Bachelor’s of Criminal Justice and Masters of Applied Social Science. Dr. Posey continued her studies at Nova Southeastern University where she earned a Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Phi Delta Kappan, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, Dade Association for School Administrators, National Association of Black School Educators, and Florida Public Service Associations. Dr. Posey has worked in the field of education since 1987.



Naomi Shelton

Naomi Shelton joined UNCF December 2012 as Director of K-12 Advocacy for UNCF and completed a two-year term as president of the DC Young Democrats. Shelton directs UNCF's efforts to ensure more African-American students will be college ready and better prepared to enroll in and complete college by driving sustainable education reforms that benefit students and empower communities to demand improvement. Ms. Shelton received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Tougaloo College, a UNCF member institution.



Kierra Smith

Kierra J. Smith graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in English with a minor in Secondary Education from Florida A&M University. She was formerly an all-grades middle school English teacher for three years, before transitioning to Breakthrough Miami. She was formerly the Associate Site Director and is currently the Senior Site Director of the Miami Country Day School site. Her additional time is spent serving God and family, mostly with her young nephews.



Britt Spears

Britt Spears is currently pursuing a Master's in Student Affairs in Higher Education at Missouri State University. As a graduate assistant for programming focusing on spirit and traditions, Britt advises the student homecoming committee and traditions council, working in the office of student engagement. Recently Britt was honored as a 2017 Jim Rhatigan Fellow through NASPA, a leading student affairs organization. Upon graduation Britt is interested in working with historically underrepresented students.



Paul Wilson

Paul Vincent Wilson holds a degree elementary education degree at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida. After returning to Miami, Paul began his career with Miami-Dade County Public Schools as a teacher, while pursuing a Master's Degree from Florida International University in Urban Education, and also holds a certification in Educational Leadership. Paul has served in various administrative capacities, and is currently the Administrative Director in the Office of School Operations/Special Programs for Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Paul has numerous honors and awards to his credit, including being named one of South

Florida's "Most Powerful Black Professionals in Business and Industry" by Legacy magazine, being named as a "Top Black Educator for 2016" by Legacy magazine, and being awarded the "Urban Empowerment" Award from Year Up South Florida. Paul is also the proud son of Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, District 24, visionary and founder of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project.



SPONSOR'S HIGHLIGHT

JESSIE TRICE CENTER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Jessie Trice Community Health Center, Inc. (JTCHC) is one of Miami-Dade County's preeminent federally qualified community healthcare centers, governed by a remarkably dedicated Board of Directors (51% of the members are users of the medical services) and a diverse, incredibly talented, committed family of providers and staff.

The Jessie Trice Community Health Center, Inc. is a Florida 501 (c) 3, not-for-profit, Federally Qualified Health Center, which has been serving Miami-Dade County since 1967. The target population is the uninsured and underinsured, 95% of which live at or below the Federal Poverty Level of 200%.

JTCHC served its first patients from a trailer. Now, nearly fifty (50) years after its founding, JTCHC owns and operates eleven (11) Comprehensive Primary Care centers including a 40 bed Women's Residential Center for substance use, are in two (2) universities and are in forty (40) school-based health centers. Our school-based health centers bring parents peace of mind knowing that should an emergency arise during the work day that their child has immediate access to a qualified medical professional. The ethnic make-up of the service area varies significantly and to meet this challenge, JTCHC has taken a proactive role by adopting the Culturally, Linguistically Appropriate Standards (CLAS) model of cultural proficiency. Multicultural, multilingual, and multidisciplinary staff of approximately 350 members provides service to a very diverse population of over 32,800 patients who make more than 111,000 visits annually. JTCHC's medical staff includes physicians, dentists, and nurse practitioners, with more than 90% that are board-certified. With many more services available via referral, JTCHC is able to provide virtually seamless comprehensive primary care through contracts and business associate agreements.

Eligible accessible "medical homes" in central and northern parts of the county makes it easy for residents to visit one of ten (10) comprehensive primary care centers.

The center recognizes the importance of collaborations and has an extensive reach into the community via higher education institutions, foundations, coalitions, social service agencies, faith-based organizations and much more. All of these institutions, whether thru grant dollars or service partnerships, have been instrumental in helping JTCHC to accomplish its mission and achieve its strategic objectives. Clinical outcomes, and a focus on reducing healthcare disparities, rank us among the best community healthcare organizations in the nation, according to accreditation reviews from the Joint Commission. Our Ambulatory and Behavioral Health programs have been accredited since 1999 and in 2011 we were first in Florida to be certified as a Patient Centered Medical Home. Our healthcare plan ensures that we focus our attention on prevention and intervention initiatives like diabetes, HIV/AIDS, pediatric asthma, cardiovascular, hypertension, dental caries in children, prenatal/perinatal health, immunizations, cancer and depression to name a few.

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