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AFRICAN AMERICAN

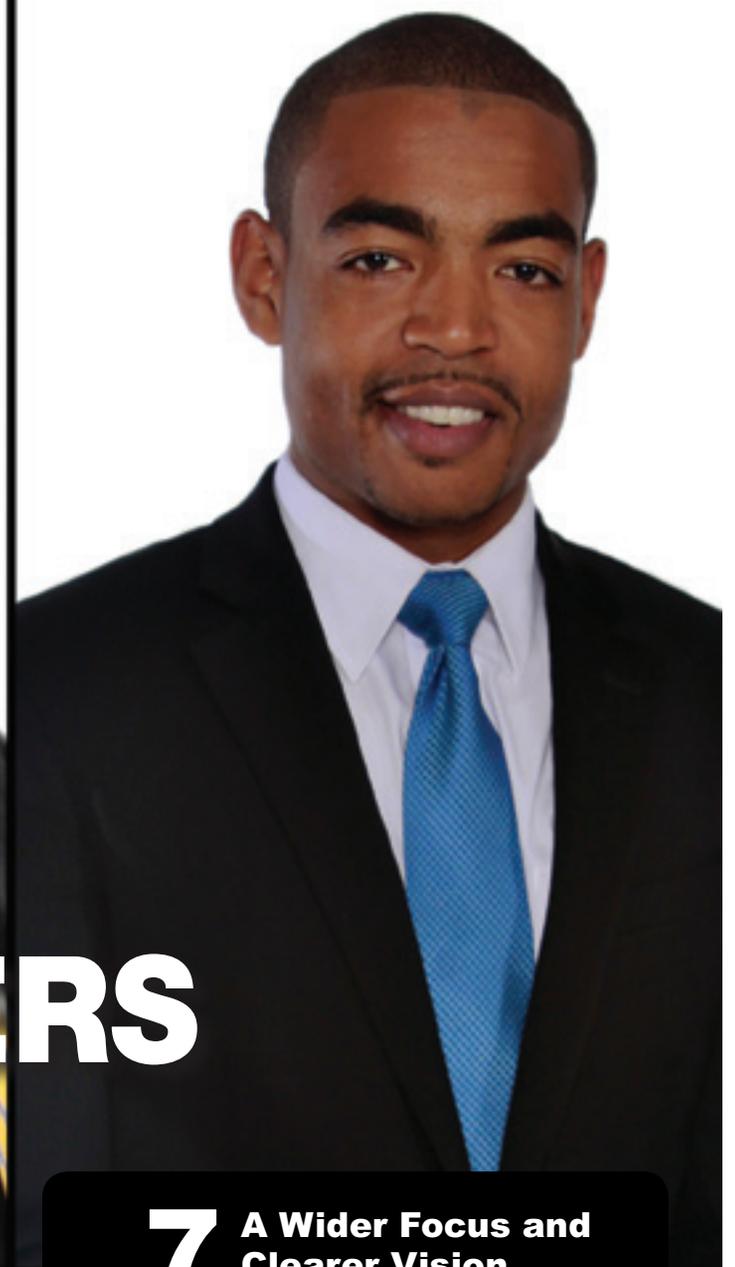
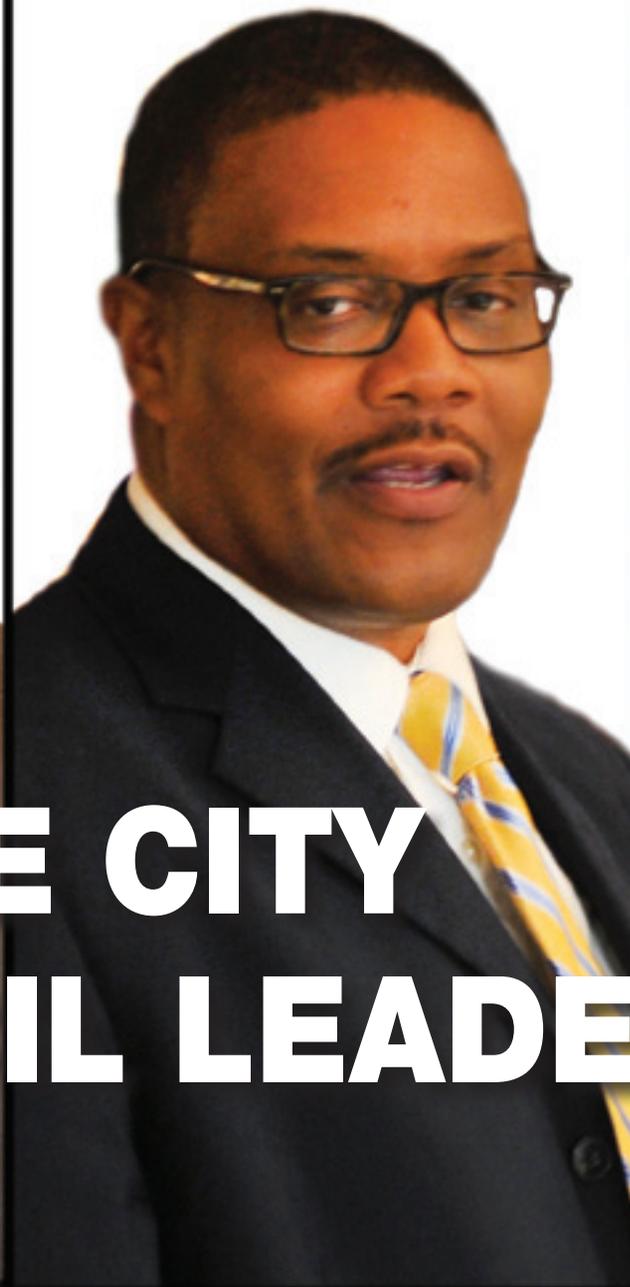
News Journal

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October 2014



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Publisher's Page

Stop Blaming White People. I say this not to, in any way, minimize or pardon the horrific and unspeakable acts of racism, brutality, injustice and discrimination perpetrated against African Americans by scores of White people in this country. I am painfully aware of the malevolent and destructive behavior in which far too many Europeans have been engaged — past and present. I am equally aware of where we, as people of African descent, find ourselves today on the spectrum of economic, political and cultural influence. It is 2014 — we have been emancipated, enfranchised, granted citizenship and civil rights, and had the bonds of slavery lifted; yet, there are too many of our people and sadly, too many of our leaders, who have shackled minds and blinded vision.

The murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri is a national tragedy. People throughout the world are viewing the repeated killings of African American men in this country with shock and great disappointment. The question that I believe we should soberly ponder is, "Who's at fault, the oppressed or the oppressor." On August 3, 1857, Frederick Douglass delivered a "West India Emancipation" speech at Canandigua, New York in which he said, "Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both." Our tolerance of suffering is too great.

My first question, upon hearing of the tragedy in Ferguson, was what is the Black population of the City? When I found out that Ferguson, Missouri is 70% African American, I had my answer to who's at fault... shackled minds and blinded vision. A city with a 70% African American population, a White Mayor, a White Police Chief, only one African American City Councilman, and only three African American police officers, out of a total of 53 on the police force is ripe for abuse and misconduct. Why? Because of an attitude of absolute control by the white leadership on one hand and inequality and injustice on the other by the Black population in Ferguson. I have always said, "If you've got the votes, call the question." The numbers are irrefutable. Why does the Black population in Ferguson not control its own destiny? If Frederick Douglass, Ella Baker, Fannie Lou Hamer, Stokely Carmichael, Viola Liuzzo, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., or Medgar Evers, among others, were alive today, I believe they would say, *Stop Blaming White People.* The power is in your hands.

I have always been struck by the words in the Declaration of Independence that speak to suffering. Most people are familiar with the well known conceits of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." They are not, however, as familiar with the sentence which reads: "Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed." In other words, people are very reluctant to change governmental structures and systems without being substantially put upon, to the point of denial of opportunity and long suffering. I believe this is also true with regard to the reluctance on the part of the public to change leaders--elected, appointed or otherwise.

The editorial focus for this edition of *The Columbus African American* is Leadership. Initially, it was our intent to focus on Labor and Politics; however, we determined that it would be more appropriate to address Leadership in all sectors of the economy. There is one thing that we know for sure — the vast majority of those who currently occupy positions of leadership have zero interest in identifying, recruiting, training or mentoring those who might have the interest or potential to replace them. Consequently, you will find in the pages to follow, individuals who are ready, willing and able to assume the mantle of leadership at the first opening.

Finally, we must rapidly move beyond *Blaming White People* for our lack of progress. We have an abundance of elected, appointed and hired African American leaders who are well positioned within every level of government, the private sector, small businesses, and non-profit agencies to open doors of opportunity. Our task is to hold them accountable and use our collective influence to help them keep their promises.

With Appreciation and Respect,

Ray Miller
 Founder & Publisher

In This Issue

**REMEMBER
to
VOTE
November
4th 2014**

IMPORTANT 2014 Election Dates

- Oct. 6** Deadline to register to vote
- Oct. 7** Early-voting / absentee voting starts
- Nov. 1** Applications for absentee ballots must be received by Board of Elections at noon
- Nov. 3** Deadline to postmark completed absentee ballot
- Nov. 4** Election Day: Polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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1 LEADERSHIP

Leadership – *Whom do you TRUST?*



By Cecil Jones, MBA

Each of us has many leaders. We have many family leaders (parents), spiritual leaders (pastors), elected leaders (politicians), managers (work leaders) and several other formal and informal leaders. Before we discuss our leaders, let's define leadership.

Dictionary.com

(<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/leadership>)

says leadership is:

- (1) the position or function of a leader, a person who guides or directs a group,
- (2) ability to lead,
- (3) an act or instance of leading; guidance; direction
- (4) the leaders of a group.

I can agree with this, but does it go far enough?

Business.Dictionary.com

(<http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/leadership.html>)

tells us that leadership is:

"The activity of leading a group of people or an organization or the ability to do this."

The definition then goes on to describe leadership as including the following.

Leadership involves:

1. Establishing a clear vision,
2. Sharing that vision with others so that they will follow willingly,
3. Providing the information, knowledge and methods to realize that vision, and
4. Coordinating and balancing the conflicting interests of all members and stakeholders.

A leader steps up in times of crisis, and is able to think and act creatively in difficult situations. Unlike management, leadership cannot be taught, although it may be learned and enhanced through coaching or mentoring.

I can agree with this even more, but does this go far enough? No.

These are dictionary definitions. To be actionable, to allow us to fully know, understand and act on leadership, we must include ETHICS.

WHOM DO YOU TRUST?

Before we discuss the skills of a leader, the primary assumption and attribute that must be included in the definition of leadership is 'Ethical'. One can have followers, provide a great vision, have a workable project plan, inspire others and share information exceedingly well. However, if ETHICS are missing, the leadership is built upon a weak foundation that will fall.

A leader must be trusted.

Long ago, when meeting a leader of a potential customer organization for the first time, she asked me "What will you do to build trust?" We had not signed the contract but were close to signing. I replied that I would treat their company as if it were my own and when I commit to a piece of work that she could count on it. She nodded. We got the contract.

I thought that was an interesting question to ask! I found out later that doing what you say you are going to do on the date the work is due was the major part of what she meant by 'trust'. Trusting someone does not need to equal just that you are comfortable someone won't steal from your wallet if your wallet were left in the open. A leader gains trust by 'saying what they will do' (make a commitment) and 'do what they say' (fulfill the commitment). Yes, there is that 1 out of 20 situation when one can't make a committed date due to a change in circumstances. A good leader communicates that AS SOON as that leader finds out about the POTENTIAL of a date change.

LEADERS BEGIN WITH ETHICS

A leader is trusted and has ethics when they tell a customer that the customer's work will take 2 months (the truth) and not 2 weeks (not the truth). Leaders are ethical and don't just gain the business and worry about telling the truth later, after the work has already begun.

A leader is ethical and gains trust by posting actual prices on items, not prices that they know have several other added costs when the customer purchases the item.

A leader gains trust and shows leadership when their voice message on their phone says I return calls with 24 hours and the actually return the call within a day.

A leader does not fabricate and make up false accomplishments, experience or education on their resume. We all phrase our resumes in the best light but lying is not the trait of a leader.

A leader does not give false status to others. If the homework will not be turned in on time, let the teacher/professor know as soon as you know. Similarly, give accurate status at work for your projects. Be ethical and let others know the truth.

Have you heard politicians promise to work on key issues in our community and be a person of the community? Then, when elected that politician has not even looked at the issue again nor have you seen them at any community event. Send them a letter and an email. They are not leaders.

As a mother or a father, have you promised your presence and involvement in your children's activities and then came up with excuses continually not to attend and participate. To your children, you are not a leader. AND... you are not helping to build future leaders.

Ethical behavior is the initial and primary attribute of a leader. To be a leader, yes, one needs a vision. Proverbs 29:18 tells us "Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." To be a leader one must communicate well with others. To be a leader, the operational plan and project plan must be communicated and understood by others. A leader is respected (not always loved) by telling the truth, even when other leaders and followers do not want to hear the needed truth. The foundation of leadership is focused on ethics.

LEADERSHIP IS IMPORTANT

Good Leaders Know When to Lead and Know How to Follow

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Having managed technology, communications and business functionality for multiple Fortune 100 companies, Cecil Jones is a technology and management leader. He teaches technology and communication courses as an adjunct professor. He is the Immediate Past President of the Columbus Association of Black Journalists.

African American Leaders: *Why Are We Dying?*



By Senator Charleta B. Tavares

We have health care leaders, researchers, educators, administrators and policymakers who have attempted to address the persistent disparities and uncon-

scionable premature deaths and disease within the African American communities in Ohio and the nation. As noted in last month's issue of the CAANJ, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), race is still a clear factor in health disparities even when data is corrected for other influences. African American women are experiencing both sexism and racism in care and treatment due to biases and stereotyping. Unfortunately, access, *appropriate treatment and health care supports* are still not readily available when it comes to racial and ethnic populations in the United States.

The Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence (MACC) has been one of the leading voices in addressing these issues over the last eleven years in the state of Ohio. MACC has conducted eleven statewide training conferences to share innovative workshops, promising practices and leaders in research with health and human services practitioners. These conferences along with regional trainings and lectures have provided tools and strategies for these professionals to unlearn or modify their treatment/care modalities and equip themselves with curricula, practices and research to improve service and care delivery. MACC has focused its learning and training conferences on sharing information and strategies to provide appropriate care/treatment and supports. However, there is an old proverb that says, "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink." *In other words, all of the research, cultural assessments, lectures, keynote presentations and workshop trainings are not going to improve the health outcomes of African American and other people of color unless and until the practitioner and their agency or institution change the way they deliver services and care.*

Case in point, the MACC conference this year titled, *Heading Downstream: The Affordable Care Act Meets Cultural Competence* welcomed three dynamic and well-respected researchers, Edwin Nichols, PhD, James Mason, PhD and Thomas Parham, PhD. Each of these keynote presenters brought practical, well-researched and demonstrated concepts and strategies to improve health outcomes for African American and other people of color. They presented not only what they knew but what has worked to improve the health and well-being of those who are suffering disproportionately and needlessly.



Sen. Charleta Tavares, Dr. Nichols, Joseph Hill and Angela C. Dawson at the MACC Conference 2014



Jill Frost, Mark Huddy and Kevin Dixon at the MACC Conference 2014



Dr. Thomas Parham, PhD, 2014 MACC Conference

In addition, there were fifteen workshops promoting health equity and the integration of health and behavioral health. Some of the topic areas included: technology and health care; health disparities among the LGBTQ community; gambling addiction differences among cultures; reunification among restored citizens; and the role of community health workers in healthcare reform. In addition, there was a Special Clergy/Faith Leaders Track that was designed specifically for clergy and faith leaders.

The question we must ask the health/human services professionals and their agencies is: What are you going to do to incorporate this learning into the way you deliver services or care? Are you going to share the information with your colleagues and supervisors? As a provider agency are you going to modify or change the way you deliver services and support the learning of your staff? Can we ensure that all staff is equipped with demonstrated strategies and practices to better serve African American and communities of color? If not, there is another saying attributed to Narcotics Anonymous, "Insanity is doing the same thing, over and over again, but expecting different results." This illustrates the need to have committed leaders who have courage, willing to take risks and who are not just going along to get along. We cannot afford to have members of our community needlessly suffer and die prematurely because someone is afraid of change and chooses not to modify or use new care modalities to eliminate health disparities by appropriately serving this community's members.

Healthy People provides science-based, 10-year national objectives for improving the health of

all Americans. For three decades, Healthy People has established benchmarks and monitored progress over time in order to:

- Encourage collaborations across communities and sectors.
- Empower individuals toward making informed health decisions.
- Measure the impact of prevention activities.

During the past two decades, one of Healthy People's overarching goals has focused on disparities. In Healthy People 2000, it was to reduce health disparities among Americans. In Healthy People 2010, it was to eliminate, not just reduce, health disparities. In Healthy People 2020, that goal has been expanded even further: to achieve health equity, eliminate disparities, and improve the health of all groups.¹ These health outcomes – morbidity and mortality rates, speak to the ethical imperatives for change in how we serve and provide care for our communities experiencing disparate and inequitable treatment. MACC recognizes the need for strong and persistent leadership in addressing health disparities and racial injustice and is committed to continuing to identify tools and strategies, including the need for cultural competency training, to achieve health equity in Ohio.

Charleta B. Tavares is the Executive Director of the Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence a statewide membership organization focused on eliminating health disparities by incorporating culturally appropriate strategies and tools into systems and organizations that provide care and services to Ohio's diverse residents. www.maccinc.net

¹<http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020>

A Wider Focus and Clearer Vision



By Tim Anderson

In 1966, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. address the National Convention of the Medical Committee for Human Rights held in Chicago and stated, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." Decade's earlier African American leaders W. E. B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington separately affirmed that the most significant impediment to economic empowerment for the American Negroes was their poor health status. Du Bois addressed the prevailing belief within the healthcare and insurance industries that African Americans were carriers of diseases rather than victim of diseases. In 1906, Du Bois published the definitive report of its day, *The Health and Physique of the Negro American*. This important work illustrated the factual health conditions of the early 20th century American Negro and scientifically addressed the racists and stereotypical prevailing thoughts that blacks were diminished and inferior both physically and intellectually. More than one hundred years later researchers continued to assert a leading cause of health disparities among Africans Americans as a "pre-disposition" to chronic diseases. Unfortunately, many in our community have internalized this to mean inevitability or simply stated, Momma had it and her brother had it, now I finally got it.

In modern day, we see health disparities that mirror the disparities of more than one hundred years ago that Du Bois and Washington sought to address. From infant mortalities, cancers, strokes, obesity, diabetes and other chronic and infectious diseases our community is at a significant health crisis. In September 2014, the Columbus Dispatch had a three part series on infant mortality in central Ohio. The series illustrated the epidemic of infant mortality and highlighting communities with the high incidences of infant mortality. Those communities are South Linden with the highest rate, Near Eastside second highest rate and the Hilltop with the third highest rate for infant mortality. Black babies in Columbus are nearly fifty percent of the projected infant mortalities for 2014, which is nearly seventy-five babies that will not live to reach their first birthday.

Dr. King's perspective was indeed correct, the inequity of healthcare is inhumane. As African Americans facing a number of health threats with large health disparities, we cannot be nearsighted. As important as the infant mortality crisis is within community, our vision must be clear, a 20/20 vision with a broader lens of activism. Consider that the financial cost of health disparities for African Americans in the U.S. accounts for more than \$54 billion dollars annually that is an additional \$1,500 for every African American person. Harvard University, School of Public Health equates the deaths of

African Americans from health disparities to the loss of a passenger airliner that crashes every day killing 260 passengers aboard. Had Dr. King been alive today I am certain he would have found these U. S. statistics shocking; strokes caused by hypertension (high blood pressure) is almost exclusively an African American disease and the majority of stroke victims regardless of the cause are African American; ninety percent of non-traumatic amputations are performed on African Americans; eighty percent of African American women are considered obese or morbidly obese (50%-30% respectively); African American men have the highest risk of prostate cancer, the highest risk for developing aggressive prostate cancer and the highest rate of death from prostate cancer; African American women have a lower rate of breast cancer than white women, but have a higher rate of deaths from breast cancer; chronic kidney disease is four times higher in blacks than in whites, and finally black babies are 2.5 times more likely to die before their first birthday than white babies.

In Franklin County the health disparity between blacks and whites mirrors the national statistics, however in Franklin County infant mortality is 2.8 times higher among black babies than white babies. In addition large health disparities exist between black and whites in diabetes, hypertension, chronic kidney disease, Parkinson disease, septicemia (bacteria in the blood) and HIV. Significant health disparities exist between blacks and whites in Franklin County with cancer, liver disease, heart disease, stroke, flu and pneumonia and chronic lower respiratory disease (chronic bronchitis, COPD and emphysema). Health disparities costs African Americans living in Franklin County more than 400 million dollars annually and more importantly accounts for hundreds if not thousands of deaths each year. With this reality, our vision for addressing health disparities cannot become singularly focused.

It would seem an insurmountable task to eliminate health disparities from our community. There are so many diseases plaguing our community that the notion of living a life free from chronic diseases just does not seem plausible. The fact is prevention has to become the practice. Focusing on diseases is complicated and costly, but focusing on prevention is simple and practical. To be effective, disease prevention must be practice every day. We must develop a tapestry of prevention woven into all aspects of our community. Prevention must be practiced in our homes and supported in the community. We cannot be episodic in our approach towards prevention and wellness with a scheduled event once a year or health programs that end when funding is no longer available.

Rather than to wait for outside interest to intervene into the community with an orientation towards research or short term intervention, we must initiate the strategy towards eliminating health disparities and develop a prevention model

of engagement. Our collective church community could adopt a "Prevention Sunday" campaign, where once a month before the sermon a message of prevention emphasizing the elements of living healthy and encouraging church members to prepare healthy Sunday dinners rather than visiting buffets. The public parks within our community could be transformed into "green gyms". These parks would have walking trail, outdoors gym equipment, shelters for supporting prevention initiatives and support group discussions, fruit trees and water fountains instead of bottle water vending stations. The time has come for a local hospital to specialize in the treatment of chronic diseases that disproportionately affect African Americans. Such a center should be located in an urban area and would develop medical intervention initiatives for breast cancer, prostate cancer, diabetes and obesity that have a cultural approach of engagement with the African American community.

African Americans are Franklin County's and the City of Columbus' largest racial and ethnic minority population. More than 270,000 African Americans live in Franklin County of which approximately 240,000 reside in the City of Columbus. Addressing the health needs of African Americans has primarily focus on sick care not prevention and wellness. For too long, the emphasis on addressing our health needs has been focused on medical services, leaving our community void of an infrastructure to support prevention and wellness. Unfortunately medical services, coordinated managed care providers, nonprofit agencies focused on disease education and management have been largely ineffective in eliminating health disparities or even reducing health disparities. As central Ohio mobilizes to confront infant mortality, our community must ensure that our babies, children, adults and seniors live in a community which has a focus on prevention and wellness.

Dr. King's provocative remark in 1966 describing our health status as "shocking and inhumane" continues to punctuate our health outcomes in 2014. With our health status in such a dismal state; with the high incidences of poor health outcomes, premature deaths and an escalating financial burden upon each of us, we cannot afford to focus solely on the headline health crisis. Nor should we wait upon other parties to design the scope of the intervention. Prevention is our best offense for a healthy community and the elimination of health disparities is the goal. In the upcoming CAANJ issues, I will outline goals and funding sources for developing a prevention and wellness campaign for the African American community of central Ohio.

Tim Anderson is a contributing columnist of the CAANJ, with a writing focus on community health and healthcare. He is the founder of In My Backyard Health and Wellness, email: timanderson@inmybackyardhope.

Leaders, Employees, and Cultures of Excellence

By Deborah Heater, J.D.

WeServant leader plus engaged employee teams equals an organizational culture of excellence. This appears to be a simple formula, but it is not always a simple cultural creation. A Ritz Carlton Hotel training conference highlighting their “gold standard” of customer service focused on the difference between function and purpose. For example, a bell boy’s function is to help hotel guests transfer luggage from vehicles to the hotel rooms; however, the bell boy’s purpose is to make hotel guests feel that serving them is a top priority. This is a concept with significance to a leader’s organizational values, engaged employees, and a culture of excellence.

An organizational leader’s function is to make decisions about budgets, hiring, managing employees, facilitating compliance with policies and procedures, and meeting benchmarks. An organizational leader’s purpose is to create and sustain a culture of excellence which would positively impact every element of function. So how does a leader fulfill that purpose? I believe that a leader is fundamentally a servant. That sounds like an oxymoron, but serving the needs of an organization is the only true way to lead so each reference to a leader is understood to carry the prefix of servant.

The best advice to give leaders begins with the need to understand that the organization

would not exist without those people for whom the organization was created. An organization’s excellence is measured by the degree to which the needs of stakeholders are met. If the organization is a hospital, patients and their families are key stakeholders. For a governmental agency, taxpayers are key stakeholders. For a retail business, customers are key stakeholders. For an educational institution, students are key stakeholders.

Because executive leaders cannot be available to interact with each stakeholder individually, they must rely on employees to deliver on the standard of excellence. So a leader has to create and sustain a culture where employees understand their purpose as well as their function and are committed to the standard of excellence. Leaders not only repeatedly communicate the standard of excellence as well as how they will support and value employees. This happens through scheduled interactions at large employee gatherings, at departmental employee gatherings, individual employee encounters and written communications.

Leaders must resist the tendency to only hear voices close to them from concentrated pockets of power. They require that the organizational culture value fairness and address toxic working conditions. A leader understands that even a difficult conversation about performance below the standard should happen with respect and,

where justified, should provide an opportunity for redemption.

Show up and check in. Create an environment where titles identify areas of responsibility, but not a hierarchy of human worth. Acknowledge and communicate the value of all employees from those who create a clean working environment to senior managers. Make sure that no one is allowed to lead and manage others without understanding what servant leadership means to the organizational culture.

Leaders foster engagement by listening more than talking and constantly promoting a safe environment for candid feedback. Ask questions like, “how can I help; how is it going; what is working; what needs to change; and what feedback do you get from our stakeholders?” Asking the questions mean nothing if leaders fail to care enough to act on the feedback.

It is the leader’s capacity to create value among employees for the common purpose over individual function that creates a culture of excellence.

Deborah Heater is President and CEO, of Strategic Performance Systems, LLC. She is a national consultant, supporting organization with management challenges and operational best practices. She can be reached at debheater@strategicperformancesystems.com.

Otis D. Winston: School of Hard Knocks!



By Shalonda Makupson-Tilford

Actor, Writer, Director, Coach, these are just a few of the many hats worn by Otis D. Winston. If the name sounds familiar, you may remember him for his exceptional athletic ability on the basketball court and track for the OSU Buckeyes during the 90’s. He was the captain of the basketball team, a 4-time Big Ten Champ and 2-time All American in the high jump and still holds the high jump record at OSU. He also had the honor of competing in the Olympic tryouts in the high jump. Since that time Otis has played Professional basketball overseas in Russia, been recognized as an inspirational

track coach, and accomplished IT Professional. Throughout the years the multi-talented athlete developed a love for writing and made this his past-time during his downtime and as an outlet when facing adversity in his life.

Otis is the CEO/Owner of F’o’CUSED PRODUCTIONz and has developed a high school television drama entitled *School of Hard Knocks*. The show is about two rival high schools Jefferson and Charleston, a few miles away but worlds apart. Each year they meet on the court for the state title. All they know about each other is what they’ve seen in the gym. That’s about to change. He was recently in Los Angeles pitching *School of Hard Knocks* to major networks. The response has been incredible! **“I always tell people this is not just a show, it is a movement. I created this to inspire people and change lives. I want people to know what is possible, the way the *Cosby* show did for me.”**

What’s exciting is the show is being filmed here!! Why Columbus? **“Columbus is my second home. Although I split my time between here and LA, this city mean a lot to me. It’s were I became the person that I am today through the many life lessons on the court. Not to mention my kids live here and they are the most important people in my life. We have the infrastructure, resources and talent to make quality television shows and movies. It is a diamond waiting to be discovered. I want to bring Hollywood to Columbus.”** With the support that he is receiving from the community, we are ready! He has been interviewed on various media outlets such as Power 107.5,

Magic 106.3., talktainmentradio.com, Channel 4 WCMH, Channel 10 WBNS, *The Columbus Dispatch*, and his alma mater--Ohio State.

He loves inspiring others to never give up and to pursue the vision that God has set before them. He previously worked as the track coach for New Albany High School and has recently accepted a position with Bishop Hartley to coach the men’s Basketball Team. “I’m looking forward to helping more young people reach their

dreams.” He continues to write, coach and facilitate motivational speaking engagements in his spare time. Although he is mentored by some very well-known actors and casting directors in the business, Otis continues to remain humble and grateful for the opportunity to do what he loves full time.

Otis’ faith in God, love for his two children Promise and Reign, and his motto “Never Allow Your Talent to Take You Where Your Character Can’t Keep You” drives him to continue to excel and persevere on and off the camera.

Otis has just released the anthem music video for *School of Hard Knocks*!!! **Please be sure to watch and share with your family and friends.** You can find the link on the Facebook page F’o’CUSED PRODUCTIONz

Shalonda Makupson-Tilford is currently the Director of Undergraduate Recruitment for the College of Engineering at The Ohio State University. She also works as the Director’s Assistant for F’o’CUSED PRODUCTIONz. She is married to Terrance Tilford and has two children, ages 13 and 7. Shalonda is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.



Emilia Sykes — *The Next Generation*

By Terry Anderson

Family inheritance is often the treasure passed down from one generation to the next, but sometimes we are fortunate to benefit from families who are willing to share their gifts with the entire community. This is the case of the Sykes family, from Akron, who have created a legacy of leadership and stewardship that has impacted their homestead as well as the entire state of Ohio.

With the upcoming election on Tuesday, November 4th, it seems that Ohio may experience the first occurrence of a husband, wife, and daughter's consecutive years of legislative service as **Emilia Sykes** runs as the democratic contender for the Ohio House of Representative's 34th District seat (Akron).

For over 30 years, the Sykes family has been at the forefront of serving as a proactive voice and social change in the Akron community and beyond. **Vernon Sykes** has dedicated a significant part of his career as an Ohio legislator, and will vacate his seat as a member of the 130th General Assembly due to term limits. He served two stints as a State Representative, the first from 1983-2000, and the second from 2007-present, replacing **Barbara Sykes** (his wife) who served two terms as a member of the House of Representative, from 2001 to 2006, and decided to forgo a third term in order to run for State Auditor. She was also the first African-American woman to serve on the Akron City Council prior to her role as a State Representative. Vernon has served two terms as a member of Akron's City Council as well.

Now, having defeated the opposing democratic candidate in the past primary election on May 6, **Emilia Sykes** is seeking to serve her constituency with her own passion, commitment, and vision and continue the legacy initiated by her parents.

EDUCATION & ACCESS

Barbara Sykes was encouraged by **Nokomis Strong**, her mother and personal hero, to pursue an education to escape the challenges of her rural Arkansas upbringing. She ventured to the University of Akron, where she earned her undergraduate degree in Social Work, and her master's degree in Public Administration. She currently serves as the President/CEO of the Ohio United Way, a statewide association of local United Way agencies throughout Ohio, and works to promote the public policy interest of its members, and leads statewide initiatives designed to improve Ohio communities.

Vernon Sykes, grew up in Akron, and was encouraged to pursue higher education as a pathway to success as well. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Behavior from Ohio University, a Master's Degree in Social and Applied Economics from Wright

State University, a Master's of Public Administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and a PH.D. in Public Administration and Urban Studies from the University of Akron. Additionally, he has taught at the University of Akron, and currently teaches Political Science at Kent State University where he received an Outstanding Teaching Award in 2007.

The Sykes met one another when their educational paths crossed in Akron, and forged a relationship grounded upon their passion for learning and social consciousness. They created a climate of support, collaboration, and encouragement in which they raised their daughters **Stancy Sykes Sherman** (who teaches at Akron's Buchtel High School), and **Emilia** who became attracted to their community involvement and political activeness. She considers her parents as her collective hero, and states, "they are very much the same."

CARRYING THE TORCH

Today, Emilia is very passionate about social justice issues, seeks to enhance early education efforts, and strives to expand access to health care in her community, as well as throughout the state. As she prepared herself for a career in public service, Emilia attended Kent State University where she graduated magna cum laude from Kent State University with a B.A. in Psychology. She then attended University of Florida Levin College of Law and received her J.D. with a Certificate in Family Law. While completing her



Barbara Sykes



Vernon Sykes



Emilia Sykes

law degree, she also earned her Master of Public Health from the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions.

Though she is campaigning in her first major election, she has a variety of experiences that provide for seasoned insight and purposeful reasoning. She is forward thinking regarding the provisions of a social safety net, structuring quality schools, and appropriate access to job training. Currently, she serves as the Administrative Staff Advisor at the Summit County Fiscal Office, where she has assisted in establishing a county land bank that finds the best-uses for vacant and abandoned property. While previously employed at Community Legal Services in Akron, Emilia devised access to quality health and legal services for the underserved.

As Emilia anticipates the opportunity to join the next Ohio General Assembly, she encourages everyone to get involved in the upcoming election, especially young voters. She states that, "Akron has been very kind to me and my family for over 30 years, and I'm looking forward to giving back."

For more additional information about Emilia, search the Website for: www.emiliasykes.com

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The NFL Must Tackle Domestic Violence



By William McCoy, MPA

The National Football League (NFL), the worldwide leader in sports and an iconic fixture in American culture, is under attack for domestic violence and violence against women- and must

change its strategy, approach, and action agenda. The NFL is being used as a scapegoat and whipping boy by those who would elevate their cause and visibility at the league's expense. The NFL needs to interrupt and change this dynamic, before it costs the league, its players, and its commissioner more than it already has.

The news media, violence against women lobby, and many in the general public are out of their minds with anger toward Ray Rice and the NFL's handling of his domestic abuse situation. Some of those pointing accusatory fingers and screaming for a pound of flesh are taking advantage of the Ray Rice situation to advance other agenda, however. For example, some people are attempting to put a Black face on the issue of domestic violence. First, it was O.J. Simpson; now, it is Ray Rice, whose videotaped beating of his then-girlfriend cost him his professional football career, millions of dollars, and reputation. A headline in the September 18, 2014 edition of *The Communicator* asks, "Can Ray Rice ultimately be forgiven?" The answer, according to one woman quoted in the article is no: "I wouldn't forgive him . . . any man who lays a hand on a woman is not worthy of respect."

Why isn't there a similar clamor to punish Mark Fuller, the Alabama federal judge who recently beat his wife, pled guilty, and was sentenced to attend a counseling program- and have his arrest expunged from his record upon completion? How about other celebrity female abusers- e.g. James Caan, Nicolas Cage, Glen Campbell, Dudley Moore, Sean Penn, Steven Seagal, Charlie Sheen, Al Unser, Jr., and William Koch- who have been given a "pass" by many of the same people demanding more NFL action?

The negative publicity and public pressure resulting from the Ray Rice case has pushed the NFL commissioner and NFL Players Association into a corner. The media, violence against women experts, and others- including some league officials and players- are calling for stricter league policies and stiffer punishment for abusive players, as well as more consequences for the commissioner. On the other hand, who, if anyone, is asking the aforementioned federal judge to resign, entertainers to give up their professions or customers to boycott their movies, or billionaire William Koch to stop his political



activity. Still, the NFL feels compelled- if not forced- to act.

What can the NFL do to be more proactive and assume a leadership role in addressing domestic abuse, child abuse, and other forms of violence within the league, violence against women network, and society in general?

The answer is simple: the NFL needs to embrace an initiative that focuses on changing attitudes and behaviors, which its current and former players can use and take it to the streets, schools, and every place there is violence and abuse. The NFL should develop its own in-house programming and use its influential players and platform to spread the message. While the NFL must initially focus on the players and people within its league, it can also use its power and prestige to become a leading voice and force in interrupting and reducing violence everywhere.

Information alone does not change attitudes or behaviors, experience does. As a result, the NFL needs a high-impact, experiential approach to attitudinal and behavioral change that can be adapted and used in a variety of settings with a myriad of audiences. The NFL can benefit greatly from having a unique, signature initiative that is proven to change lives with the potential to place the league to a leadership role on the issues of domestic abuse and other forms of violence. In short, the NFL needs a *Violence Interruption Experience (VIE)*.

VIE programming was originally developed and used with hardcore offenders in jails and prisons. Later, it was embraced by colleges and universities, victim services and other helping professionals, and others- including the NFL. In fact, at the conclusion of a *VIE workshop* for the NFL Management Council, Billy "White Shoes" Johnson exclaimed, "You hit the bulls eye!" *VIE* was featured at the first NFL Rookie Symposium, resulting in a *Columbus Dispatch* sports feature entitled "Turning off the anger."

The *VIE core curriculum* focuses on the roots of male violence, female violence and victimization, and building relationships with others. *VIE* can be used over multiple days to work with those engaged in or at-risk of violence or abuse. It can



also be adapted and used in shorter workshops and presentations aimed at raising awareness or preventing violence. The NFL should train a cadre of players and other personnel in the *VIE way of working* and have a self-sustaining, powerful tool that can reach literally thousands of people- including abusers and victims- over time.

William McCoy is founder and president of The McCoy Company- a personal services consulting firm specializing in strategic planning, economic development, and training. Mr. McCoy is one of the nation's leading proponents of violence interruption training. He was featured in the September 2014 edition of the Columbus African-American News Journal. Mr. McCoy can be reached at (614) 785-8497 or via e-mail at wmccoy2@themccoycompany.com.



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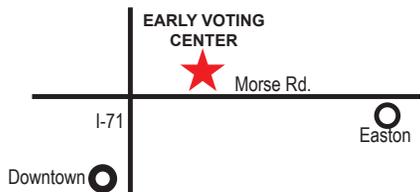
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Cover Story

Future City Council Leaders

By Ray Miller

Within three months, the Columbus City Council will experience the loss of both of its African American male Council members. No later than Monday, October 6, 2014 the Council will formally vote to appoint a new member to replace A. Troy Miller who announced his retirement from the City Council to pursue an employment opportunity outside of the State of Ohio.

Less than three months later, in January 2015, the Council seat currently held by Hearcel Craig will be vacated as a result of his projected election to the Ohio House of Representatives.

In addition to these two opportunities to bring new faces to the City Council, this local legislative body will have three incumbent members up for election in the May 2015 Primary election--Councilmembers Andrew Ginther, Zach Klein and Michelle Mills. There will be an unprecedented opportunity for Columbus voters to elect a total of five members to the City Council in the November 2015 General election.

More often than not, the City Council has voted to replace an outgoing member with someone of the same race and gender. With the numerous issues impacting African American males today and the departure of both of the Council's African American male members, one could logically reason that Councilmembers Miller and Craig would be replaced by two African American males. That certainly would be the preference of The Columbus African American. With the wide range of issues disproportionately impacting African American males in a dramatically negative way, there is an unquestioned need for strong leadership to address issues of: unemployment, academic failure, job creation, business development, health disparities, affordable housing, public transportation, environmental justice, crime and reentry initiatives.

Fortunately, three exceptionally qualified young men have put themselves forward as candidates for appointment to the Council, as a replacement for A. Troy Miller. Biographical information on each is presented below:

Charles W. Noble III is a Legal Policy Analyst at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University. In this position, he consults with a diverse group of clients on various issues of policy, law, society, and race. He is the Producer of Kirwan's first ever film project, "Letter from Birmingham Jail." He is a contributing writer for The Columbus African American news journal and speaks to local and national audiences on a wide range of civil rights, criminal justice and sociological issues. In addition, Mr. Noble is the Program Director



Charles W. Noble III

James Ragland

Shannon Hardin

for "More Than My Brother's Keeper," a pilot program for 35 African American males living in Columbus, Ohio's Southside. He holds a J.D. Degree from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, a Masters degree in Urban Planning and Design from the University of Maryland College Park, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology and Criminology from The Ohio State University.

James Ragland is the Development Director at Cristo Rey Columbus High School where he led a team that raised over \$2 million in gifts and pledges from January 2012 to August 2013. He is also a key member of a team that led a \$20 million acquisition and renovation project of the 146 year old Ohio School for the Deaf to serve as the permanent home of Cristo Rey Columbus. Mr. Ragland is a proud husband, father, educational leader, community volunteer, PTA President, Deacon in his Church and a graduate of Bowling Green State University. He has been an administrator at the Millennial School and W.C. Cupe Family of Schools, where he was able to help lead the school from Academic Emergency to Continuous Improvement. In addition, he served as a Legislative Aide in the Columbus City Council as the lead staff person to then City Councilwoman Charleta B. Tavares who now serves as a State Senator. James and his wife Terrie have two children.

Shannon Hardin is the Associate Vice President of Planning and Development at the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority. Prior to this recent appointment he served as the External Affairs Manager in Mayor Michael Coleman's Office. Mr. Hardin holds a Bachelors Degree in Political Science and International Affairs from Morehouse College. He is Vice-President of the Franklin County Young Democrats, Member of the Board for IMPACT Community Action, Kids Voting Central Ohio and Create Columbus Commission.

In many respects, being appointed to political office is more challenging than running for

that same office. The timeframe for selection is contracted and intensified because of the small number of decision-makers who could ultimately be one's colleagues. Matters of race, gender, sexual preference, age, experience, strategic alliances, political associations, electability, likeability, fear and fundraising dominate the behind the scenes discussions. Unfortunately, too little real attention is given to intellect, a passion for the work, honesty, integrity, maturity and morality. The lack of these latter qualities have derailed the careers of many otherwise superbly credentialed public servants.

Theodore Roosevelt, in a speech delivered at the Sorbonne, in Paris, France on April 23, 1910 said, "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs; who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and short coming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Charles Noble III, James Ragland, and Shannon Hardin are to be heartily commended for their willingness to be examined for selection to the Columbus City Council. Being a quality public servant is no easy task. The demands of the public is never ending and the reward of high achievement is gratifying. Moreover, enduring the mental and physical challenges of the race often go unrecognized by those who are unappreciative of the demands of public life and the sacrifices of those who choose to be in the arena.

QuestBridge Helps Smart Students from Low-Income Families Earn 4-Year Tuition-Free Rides to Elite Colleges

Article by David Leonhardt via www.goodblacknews.org

Arianna Trickey was opening a piece of mail in her bedroom during junior year of high school when a pamphlet fell out of the envelope. The pamphlet seemed to offer the impossible: the prospect of a full scholarship to several of her dream colleges.

She went running out to her father, a house painter, who was sitting on the family's porch in Grass Valley, a California city in the Sierra Nevada foothills. "You have to see this," she told him. "This is the scholarship that will get me to the best schools in the country."

The pamphlet was from a nonprofit organization called QuestBridge, which has quietly become one of the biggest players in elite-college admissions. Almost 300 undergraduates at Stanford this year, or 4 percent of the student body, came through QuestBridge. The share at Amherst is 11 percent, and it's 9 percent at Pomona. At Yale, the admissions office has changed its application to make it more like QuestBridge's.

QuestBridge has its roots in summer programs they started as Stanford students in the 1980s and 1990s. The initial one helped Dr. McCullough, who had paid his own way through Stanford, win a Rhodes scholarship.

Founded by a married couple in Northern California — she an entrepreneur, he a doctor-turned-medical-investor — QuestBridge has figured out how to convince thousands of high-achieving, low-income students that they really can attend a top college. "It's like a national admissions office," said Catharine Bond Hill, the president of Vassar.

The growth of QuestBridge has broader lessons for higher education — and for closing the yawning achievement gap between rich and poor teenagers. That gap is one of the biggest reasons that moving up the economic ladder is so hard in the United States today. But QuestBridge's efforts are innovative enough to deserve their own attention.

In addition to the hundreds of its students on college campuses today, hundreds more have graduated over the last decade. They've gone on to become professors, teachers, business people, doctors and many other things. Ms. Trickey, a senior at the University of Virginia who is also getting a master's in education, plans to become an elementary-school teacher in a low-income area.

College admissions officers attribute the organization's success to the simplicity of its approach to students. It avoids mind-numbingly complex talk of financial-aid forms and formulas that scare away so many low-income families (and frustrate so many middle-income families, like my own when I was applying to college). QuestBridge instead gives students a simple message: If you get in, you can go.

Yet the broader lessons of QuestBridge aren't only about how to communicate with students.

They're also how our society spends the limited resource that is financial aid.

The group's founders, Michael and Ana Rowena McCullough, are now turning their attention to the estimated \$3 billion in outside scholarships, from local Rotary Clubs, corporations and other groups, that are awarded every year to high school seniors. The McCulloughs see this money as a wasted opportunity, saying it comes too late to affect whether and where students go to college. It doesn't help the many high-achieving, low-income strivers who don't apply to top colleges — and often don't graduate from any college.

"Any private scholarship given at the end of senior year is intrinsically disconnected from the college application process," Dr. McCullough said, "and it doesn't have to be."

They plan to offer prizes in some cases to high school juniors, like a summer program or a free laptop, to persuade them to apply. To win the prize, the junior would need to fill out a detailed application, which could become the basis for his or her college application. The idea draws on social science research, which has shown that people often respond better to tangible, short-term incentives (a free laptop) than to complicated, longer-term ones (a college degree, which will improve your life and which you can afford). Two pilot programs started with donors — one focused on New Yorkers, one on low-income Jewish students — have had encouraging results, the McCulloughs say.

The programs tried to lift the ambitions of talented teenagers from modest backgrounds, by introducing them to peers and to successful adults. "The combination of seeing what can be done and then having someone you respect telling you you can do it — I think that's what most young people need," said Nico Slate, who attended a program in 1996. A native of a small town in the Mojave Desert, he is now a history professor at Carnegie Mellon and studies social movements in India and the United States.

Eventually, the McCulloughs realized the growing applicant pool to their summer program consisted of exactly the students whom top colleges said they wanted to recruit. So the couple began approaching admissions officers with plans for a new program the colleges would help pay for. QuestBridge uses traditional databases, like those with SAT scores, as well as networks of high school teachers and others to recruit students. It has an early application deadline, in late September, and a long application form, designed to get students to tell the story of their lives.

Crucially, the program promises a scholarship not just for one year but for four. As Mrs. McCullough, the organization's chief executive, said, "Unless you make that kind of promise to the stu-

dents and their parents, they're going to worry, 'Will the schools really pay for all four years?'"

Colleges balked at the promise at first. "What if we commit to a full scholarship and then the mom wins the lottery?" as Thomas Parker, the retired admissions dean at Amherst and an early QuestBridge supporter, put it. But he said the McCulloughs were persistent, arguing that many students would skip applying if they thought the scholarship might go away in later years, and college officials ultimately agreed.

The winners of the scholarships — which colleges pay for, as they do for much of QuestBridge's budget — go through a matching process. They attend their first choice among any of the 35 participating colleges that admit them. Hundreds of scholarship finalists who don't win are admitted separately to the colleges, through a more typical admissions process, often with nearly full scholarships. The students form a support network for one another, they say.

"It completely changed my life," Ms. Trickey told me, while sitting on the balcony of her apartment in Charlottesville, Va., which she called the nicest place she'd ever lived. When she was growing up in California and her father could not find enough painting work, her family would volunteer at a food bank, partly so they could eat the leftover food at the end of the evening.

As much as QuestBridge has grown, it of course remains tiny relative to the population of college-ready, low-income teenagers. Only a small slice of them will attend colleges with the resources to offer full scholarships. That's why the larger lessons of QuestBridge are so important.

What are they? One, the complexity of the financial-aid process is scaring students away from college. "You don't even know what it's talking about half the time," Mr. Parker said of the federal form. The Obama administration has taken steps to simplify it, but a full revamping would require help from Congress.

Two, large amounts of well-meaning scholarship money — from private sources as well as from Washington and state governments — is fairly ineffectual. It helps many students who would graduate from college regardless, rather than those with the skills to graduate who are at risk of not doing so.

Three, not every problem created by inequality is fiendishly difficult to solve.

Yes, many of them are, from growing gaps in health and family structure to struggling public K-12 schools. Yet some gritty teenagers, like Ms. Trickey and Mr. Slate, still figure out a way to emerge from high school with stunning résumés. They're on track to become quintessentially American success stories — and far too many of them still end up falling short.

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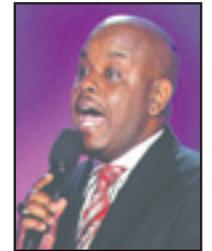
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Economic Disintegration II



By William Dodson, MPA

As part of the 'Baby Politicians and government bureaucrats have frequently proffered a dubious explanation for a drop in demand for government assistance programs ie. unemployment compensation claims.

They suggest that 'many are no longer seeking work' which is somewhat puzzling. This 'fatigue factor' is a cover for the scarcity of jobs for minorities and the many barriers to obtaining these so-called 'jobs that nobody wants'.

Access to many jobs are impeded by location and the lack of public transportation to these job centers outside the central city. Hiring is handled by third party placement agencies who screen workers and coordinate their training as temporary workers. This is a means to sift through the pool of available workers without any binding agreement to hire them as full time employees. The phrase 'term to perm' was coined for this practice, much like an engagement period, but if things don't workout, no love lost! But taking a closer it masks this dance where very limited benefits are extended, with a training wage paid but no unemployment benefits accrue nor is there any health benefits or paid leave. Actually, any absence gives cause to possible termination. It is akin to 'test driving a car' where if you don't like it you are not required to buy it. The loser is the unsuspecting worker who gets a call telling him/her not to report the following week, with little or no explanation. There is no implied contract nor is this practice subject to any oversight because it is within the rights of the employer to hire.

It is estimated that the employer eats a \$4,000 training cost (exclusive of the productivity realized during this 'dance') which is a business expense or loss. In sum, this merry-go-round is done in plain view, no foul, no harm, as far as the business goes. However, upon closer scrutiny, this is an all too familiar practice, particularly for African Americans in this country. Be it slavery or sharecropping, this ruse yields the same results: a ready pool of cheap labor with a guise of respectability as it is cloaked in symbolic language regarding declining productivity and the shortage of good workers. This gives cause to the mass exodus of US jobs to other countries where additional economic benefit is derived from exploiting cheap labor (including children) and much of this activity is not taxed by this government. If the lessons of the past are ignored, history has a cruel way of repeating itself.

Multinational corporations are running 'sweat shops' to bring designer goods to your favorite store. From clothing to the latest technology, low wage workers toil long and hard for nominal

wages to make goods like sneakers or the latest fashion ware for our most profitable businesses. President Barack Obama met not too long ago with Apple's CEO Tim Cook to persuade him to bring his major production stateside to boost jobs in the US.

The downside of this surreptitious practice is the 'slippery slope effect' - the free fall of earnest job seekers under this practice and the calamity that they endure due to their precarious financial position. Their hopes for securing financial stability are dashed after scraping what little they had to fulfill their job duties investing in gas, work clothes and other personal responsibilities. Just when it looked like they could see a light at the end of the tunnel, they are run over by a freight train and their security is devastated.

The net result is a greatly expanded underclass as low income, unemployed wage earners whose bootstraps have been cut fall out of the workforce in this revolving door scenario. They are not counted in the unemployment figures, as they did not earn any benefits. This conundrum gives rise to this babble about the unemployment rate by economists and other talking heads as

these invisible victims are rationalized away. Food pantries and homeless shelters are frequented as these invisible victims clamor for survival. Motels now serve as secondary homeless shelters as these persons panhandle to raise their room charge in these commercial areas. Many are earnest persons and include families where one member may be working. I have on many occasions provided benevolence assistance to such families caught in the clutches of this dour economy, more pronounced over the past five years. They are the victims of this modern day rat race! Moreover, the economic downturn was compounded by a 'tsunami' of public social policy actions at the same time : \$4 million in funding cuts by the United Way, the disposition of 3,000 public housing units and a burgeoning inventory of vacant and abandoned housing as well as foreclosures as a result of the real estate 'bubble' amid the banking crisis. The weight of these countervailing forces has not receded as some want to believe,

A Columbus Metropolitan Poverty forum avoided any discussion of generational poverty nor the underclass in what seemed to be a rally for those who experienced a 'hiccup' during this period and brighter days are just ahead. (The United Way has coined the phrase 'toxic stress' to characterize this phenomena). This omission or denial is intent on moving the conversation away from the hard to serve, towards more pleasant outcomes. This comes on the heels of major investments in once impoverished areas bringing new housing (and families), even buying out notorious 'carry outs', proposed arts communities and another iteration of an east side renaissance. All the while, stagnation persists in many other areas

where no such efforts are planned. Even the once prosperous economic corridors ie, Hamilton Road and Brice Road, hold large vacant commercial properties. Investments as a result of the Hollywood Casino have sparked development in the declining Westland Mall area.

This exercise failed to spotlight the burden shifted upon unsuspecting suburban communities who gained a new population of low income households. These families were placed in older apartment communities, unable to compete with more attractive new developments. They were now willing to take a Section 8 rental voucher. The Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority was the facilitator with its relocation program for the 'diaspora' of displaced families who landed in Reynoldsburg, Gahanna, Westerville, and other areas far away from their 'support system' of social services. Likewise public transportation is dysfunctional for these families needs as well, with limited daily service other than express buses. These communities do not receive any funding for social services.

The dearth of services is analogous to the Columbus areas formerly served by the Opportunity Centers of the Franklin County Department of a Jobs and Family Services (FCDJFS) originally linking these families to four service centers in these areas. **DISCLAIMER:** we assisted in the development of the Northeast Opportunity Center or Unity Partnership Building on Agler Road in 2000. This facilitated access to services for our residents who faced losing their benefits if they did not comply with the new Welfare Reform requirements because they could not access these services due to transportation barriers. This building addressed this issue head-on with new COTA service extended to Easton where new employment opportunities ie. Victoria Secrets warehouse and Chase Residential Mortgage were located along with all the retail jobs. Remedial education, career placement and child care services were located in the building as well.

Our partners, OMNI Management developed the Northwest Opportunity Center on West Fifth Avenue employing the same concept. These centers worked for nearly twelve (12) years assisting many families before FCDJFS decided to close both centers and to relocate to Northland! This very public decision recreated the same barriers that gave cause to locating at these sites: access to jobs and transportation. As a direct result, many of these families cannot reach the new location without great difficulty. This left a significant gap for these much needed services in these areas as these buildings now stand empty. Residents in the nearby Linden area, East Columbus, East Fifth Avenue and the Mock Road areas were also negatively impacted.

The South Center was recently closed as well and

Continued on pg 16

clients were told they could obtain services at the Wilson Road site, an equally difficult challenge by public transportation. The 'customers' were not surveyed regarding these changes to determine any negative impact or impediments now being experienced.

This dislocation of low income populations is an extension of Sociologist William J. Wilson's characterization of 'concentration effects' reflecting a new form of isolation (The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Underclass and Public Policy). Somewhat paradoxical, as the shift en masse to the suburbs, yielding new social problems, that are just unfolding. The Licking Heights School District, for example, recently lamented that they may need a new tax levy, coming on the heels of one recently granted by voters. While they enjoy a 'bump' in revenue for the school lunch program to feed the new population, they are challenged by the growth.

The cumulative social costs of this 'out migration' have not been reckoned. This shift obviously

went under the radar with the most recent US Census (2010) which is used to measure population shifts which factor into federally funded social programs. Ironically, the move outward does not translate into employment at the many suburban growth centers, as these populations lacked requisite job skills and such programs were out of reach or non-existent in these communities. It's like dangling a treat in front of a caged animal and taunting it incessantly. Communities impacted are 'blind-sided' and bereft of the resources to address this new burden.

A second Columbus Metropolitan Poverty Forum led by U.S. Senator Rob Portman spoke more directly to linking the unemployed with post secondary education and training opportunities through community colleges with supportive services. This a familiar tome embraced by social conservatives under welfare reform initiatives. This is what gave impetus to our collaboration on the Northeast Opportunity Center or Unity Partnership Building, facilitating access to services for our residents in Northeast Columbus. It would

appear that this new challenge has a precedent, but is there the political will to resolve this dilemma?

In a *Columbus Dispatch* Commentary (9/7/14), Thomas Suddes suggests that the eminent second term of a John Kasich governorship would feature a focus on work force development, with the challenge of aligning programs and services with community and technical training schools ie. Community Colleges. No matter what train you are on, this is the road to help the masses rise from the ineffective or misdirected efforts of the past and perhaps secure a share in the prosperity others enjoy in our community.

William Dodson is the Executive Vice President at Rhema Christian Center and Executive Director of Dayspring Christian CDC. He has been a Community Builder with over 35 years of experience in community organization, human services and community development. He is an affordable housing developer and community economic development specialist.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU PROPOSES NEW FEDERAL OVERSIGHT OF NONBANK AUTO FINANCE COMPANIES

Bureau Supervision Uncovers Auto-Lending Discrimination at Banks and Obtains \$56 Million for Harmed Consumers

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is proposing to oversee larger nonbank auto finance companies for the first time at the federal level. The Bureau also released a supervision report that details the auto-lending discrimination that the Bureau has uncovered at banks. The report highlights that the Bureau's supervisory actions against banks will result in about \$56 million in redress for up to 190,000 consumers harmed by discriminatory practices.

"Many people depend on auto financing to pay for the car they need to get to work," said CFPB Director Richard Cordray. "Nonbank auto finance companies extend hundreds of billions of dollars in credit to American consumers, yet they have never been supervised at the federal level. We took action after we uncovered auto-lending discrimination at banks we supervise. Today's proposal would extend our oversight, allowing us to root out discrimination and ensure consumers are being treated fairly across this market."

Cars are indispensable for most working Americans. Nearly 90 percent of the U.S. workforce commutes to work by car. Auto loans are the third largest category of household debt, behind mortgage and student loans. With the average loan for a new car nearing \$27,000, American consumers had 87.4 million outstanding auto loans valued at nearly \$900 billion in the first quarter of 2014. The leasing market also continues to grow as more than a quarter of new cars are acquired through leases.

Auto loans are financed by both banks and nonbanks. Consumers can either get a loan through direct financing where they seek credit directly from a lender or through indirect financing where an auto dealer typically facilitates a loan from a third party. Banks, credit unions, and nonbank auto finance companies provide credit to consumers both directly and indirectly. Some nonbank finance companies are "captive" nonbanks, meaning finance companies owned by auto manufacturers who generally do only indirect lending.

Currently, the Bureau supervises large banks making auto loans, but not nonbank auto finance companies. Today the CFPB is proposing to extend its supervision authority to the larger participants of the nonbank auto finance market. Under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (Dodd-Frank Act), the CFPB has authority to supervise certain nonbanks the Bureau defines through rulemaking as "larger participants" in a market.

Today's proposed rule would generally allow the Bureau to supervise nonbank auto finance companies that make, acquire, or refinance 10,000 or more loans or leases in a year. The Bureau would be supervising them to ensure they are complying with federal consumer financial law. The Bureau estimates that about 38 auto finance companies would be subject to this new oversight. These companies originate around 90 percent of nonbank auto loans and leases, and in 2013 provided financing to approximately 6.8

million consumers.

Given the significance of car ownership in the lives of consumers, the CFPB wants to make sure that auto lenders, including auto finance companies, are treating consumers fairly throughout the life of loan by:

- **Fairly marketing and disclosing auto financing:** The Bureau wants to make sure that auto finance companies who market directly to consumers are not using deceptive tactics to market loans or leases. The Bureau would be concerned if consumers are being misled about the benefits or terms of financial products. The Bureau is also looking to ensure that consumers are getting terms they understand and accept.
- **Providing accurate information to credit bureaus:** The Bureau wants to make sure that information provided to the credit bureaus is accurate. The CFPB recently took an enforcement action against an auto finance company that distorted consumer credit records by inaccurately reporting information like the consumer's payment history and delinquency status to credit bureaus. The CFPB is looking to prevent inaccurate information from being reported in the future.
- **Treating consumers fairly when collecting debts:** The Bureau wants to make sure that auto finance companies are not using illegal debt collection tactics. The Bureau has received complaints from consumers who say

that their autos have been repossessed while they are current on the loan or have a payment arrangement in place. The Bureau also is looking to ensure that collectors are relying on accurate information and using legal processes when they collect on debts or repossess autos.

Today's proposed rule is open for comment for 60 days after the rule is published in the Federal Register.

Discrimination in the Auto-Lending Market

The CFPB is also concerned about discriminatory pricing in the auto-lending market. When consumers receive indirect financing, often the finance company or other indirect lender authorizes the dealer to mark up the interest rate. Markups lead to dealers and indirect lenders charging different rates to similarly situated consumers, which increases the risk of discrimination. Discriminatory markups on auto loans may result in tens of millions of dollars in consumer harm each year.

In March 2013, the CFPB issued a bulletin reminding indirect auto lenders that under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA), it is illegal for a creditor to discriminate in any aspect of a credit transaction on prohibited bases including race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, and age.

Today the Bureau is releasing a new "Supervisory Highlights" report, which details the auto-lending discrimination the CFPB has uncovered at banks under Bureau supervision over the past two years. CFPB examiners found that these indirect auto lenders had discretionary pricing policies that resulted in discrimination against African-American, Hispanic, and Asian and

Pacific Islander borrowers. As a result, these borrowers paid more for their auto loans than similarly situated non-Hispanic white borrowers.

When lenders have not followed the law, the Bureau has used both enforcement and supervisory actions to direct institutions to obtain remediation to harmed consumers. Recent non-public CFPB supervisory actions at indirect auto financing institutions resulted in approximately \$56 million in remediation for up to 190,000 consumers.

To prevent discrimination from reoccurring at these lenders, the CFPB has identified at least three possible ways institutions can limit their fair lending risk:

- **Conduct internal monitoring for discrimination:** Auto lenders should monitor and correct for potential discrimination that stems from discretionary pricing policies and address the effects of markup policies as part of a robust fair lending compliance program.
- **Limit discretionary markups:** Indirect auto lenders can reduce the risk of potential discrimination by limiting the discretion dealers have to mark up the price of a loan financed by the lender.
- **Eliminate dealer discretion for markups:** Indirect auto lenders can also lower their fair lending risk by eliminating dealers' ability to markup the price of a loan and fairly compensating dealers using a different mechanism.

Today's supervisory highlights report is available at: http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201409_cfpb_supervisory-highlights_auto-lending_summer-2014.pdf

Methodology for Evaluating Auto Lending

In order to evaluate a lender's compliance with fair lending laws, CFPB examination teams use a proxy methodology just as other federal supervisory agencies and many private companies do. To proxy for race and national origin, exam teams rely on data associated with consumers' last names and places of residence. Census Bureau data is first used to calculate the probability that an individual belongs to a specific race and ethnicity based on their last name. Exam teams then update that probability based on the demographics of the area in which the person resides again using Census Bureau data.

The CFPB is releasing a white paper which details the precise methodology the Bureau uses to calculate these probabilities, and is also releasing the Bureau's computer code so that lenders can perform the same analysis that the Bureau's examination teams perform. The white paper also reports on a study the Bureau has conducted which finds that the integrated approach to building a proxy is more accurate than either surname or geographic data individually.

More details on the CFPB's proxy methodology for race and national origin can be found at: http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201409_cfpb_report_proxy-methodology.pdf

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is a 21st century agency that helps consumer finance markets work by making rules more effective, by consistently and fairly enforcing those rules, and by empowering consumers to take more control over their economic lives. For more information, visit consumerfinance.gov.

State Cannot Punish For Political Lies During Campaign



By Lloyd Pierre-Louis, J.D.

A federal court struck down Ohio's unconstitutional political false-statement law, barring the Ohio Elections Commission from deciding whether political statements are true or false.¹ Ohio's law criminalized disseminating a false statement concerning a candidate during a campaign,² and making a false statement concerning a candidate's voting record.³ But that has changed on the eve of Ohio's 60-day voting period.

In *Susan B. Anthony List v. Ohio Elections Commission*, a pro-life advocacy group and a government watch-dog group argued that

the law violated their First Amendment rights to criticize certain members of Congress who voted for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which they alleged funds for abortion. The targets of the criticism were two Congressional members, each pro-life Democrats, one of whom filed a false statement complaint with the Ohio Elections Commission (OEC) because the ACA does not appropriate federal funds for abortions.

The advocacy groups did not argue for "a right to lie." Instead, they claimed "a right not to have the truth of [their] political statements be judged by the government." The court agreed, finding "no reason to believe that the OEC is positioned to determine what is true and what is false." Because, in part, there is no clear way to determine whether a political statement is a lie or the truth- the voters should decide, the court ruled.⁴

Although the district court described the well-developed OEC procedures, which could include an expedited hearing, a public reprimand for a violation or a referral to a prosecutor as a first-degree misdemeanor, the burdens on protected political speech is too heavy.⁵

OEC complaints are most often filed just days before an election and then routinely dismissed shortly after the election so that the target has no opportunity for judicial review. "The speaker is forced to use time and resources responding to the complaint, typically at the exact moment that the campaign is peaking, and [his/her] time and resources are best used elsewhere."⁶

The court applied a strict scrutiny test and found not only that the law was unnecessary to achieve a compelling state interest, but also that the law was not narrowly tailored. Unless overruled by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals or the U.S. Supreme Court, political truth or lies must exclusively be determined by the voters.

¹Susan B. Anthony List, et al. v. Ohio Elections Commission, et al., U.S. Dist., S.D. Ohio No. 1:10-cv-720, Black, J. (Sept. 11, 2014), Doc. #139.

²ORC 3517.21(B)(9)

³ORC 3517.21(B)(10)

⁴SBA List, p.2.

⁵ORC 3517.154, ORC 3517.156, ORC 3517.156, ORC 3517.155 and OAC 3517-1-14.

⁶SBA List, p. 7.

Lloyd Pierre-Louis is a director at Kegler, Brown, Hill + Ritter focusing his practice on government affairs and civil litigation. With more than 15 years of experience, Lloyd has served as majority caucus counsel for the Ohio House of Representatives in which he advised legislative members and staff on legislation, ethics and employment matters, and negotiated with the Senate and executive branch agencies. In 2013, he was recognized as Who's Who in Black Columbus.

Preventive Maintenance Improves Your Odds



By Lisa D. Benton, M.D.,
M.P.H.

Living in California taught me to prepare for the inevitability of earthquakes. As a trauma surgeon working in a post 9/11 world, training consisted of prepping for worst case scenarios and disasters you almost couldn't conceive of. Many hours were spent role playing in the aftermath of an act of biologic terrorism or a chemical or radiation spill. Even when it came to planning for highway crashes, it was necessary to think of the ten-car pile-up rather than the single car. More than once that practice came handy when we responded to a bus crash, a building collapse, a freight train derailment, or a drive-by shooting.

Often our trauma hospital was on standby for the wildfires and earthquakes in other parts of the state, as well as when the President came to town. Since the hospital was near the airport, tourist attractions, a sports arena, and an oil refinery, there was no shortage of injured people to help. All of this activity was going on top of the daily emergency calls that were needed to save people who had been shot, stabbed, burned, hit by cars and trucks or had crashed a motor vehicle. When I was on call, expecting the unexpected was the mindset to live by.

The irony in all the practice, preparation and early response to save a life is that decades later, not much has changed. It's the basic, uncomplicated and planned for actions that dictate how well everything will go. When it comes to your health, being prepared means doing what is in your power to change and impact.

Being ready to respond to what seems like the impending dangers and attacks about to happen at any minute requires you to "keep calm and carry on." For your health it means getting a Flu shot, washing your hands, getting enough sleep, exercising and eating healthy. And it's not rocket science.

For example, getting a Flu shot will lessen the chance you'll get a life-threatening pneumonia and protect you against Flu strains left over from last year and give you a head start in being flu-free for 2015. Data shows that African Americans are more likely to die from pneumonia caused by the flu and to be sicker longer if we get the flu. Influenza vaccines (Flu shots) are made based on the surface proteins on the most common types of influenza

viruses that are going around, so the shot is based on a mix of what type of flu is in the neighborhood. Flu shots do not cause you to get the flu.

The proteins selected for the Flu shots are also selected a year in advance based on which strain of flu was circulating across the planet last year. Because of this you are protected from more than one type of flu virus at a time. Getting your "Flu shot" means your immune system gets exposed to a combination of the most likely types of flu virus roaming the planet. If you have asthma, COPD, any respiratory illness already, or a condition like cancer that can weaken your immune system, the Flu shot gives your lungs a jump start on making the antibodies to fight the flu before you get exposed to it.

Getting your Flu shot will give you one less problem for you and your doctor to worry about when treating you if you did happen to come down with the Enterovirus-D infection causing respiratory illnesses now circulating in the Midwest or any other lung problems. Because the Flu shot each year is made based on new virus surface proteins that come along year to year, it makes sense to get a Flu shot every year.

Getting vaccinated against the flu is just one of many preventative shots you should consider. There are vaccines against a viral infection that causes inflammation of the liver known as hepatitis. Vaccination against this infection will protect your liver from being overrun with a virus that kills the liver cells. A liver sick and dying from a hepatitis infection can not clear toxins from the blood and body killing you.

There is a vaccine against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, tetanus, different types of pneumonia and the bacteria call diphtheria which causes whooping cough. Whooping cough if you catch it can easily spread to children and infants giving them a life-threatening respiratory infection. For a list of the which vaccines you should get according to your age and risk for coming in contact with something or someone than can give you an infection, check on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website. That website also will keep you up to date about what infections and illnesses are moving around the world or close enough to you to get you concerned.

While getting vaccinated an example of only a few moments of your time mattering for a lifetime, taking a break from what seems like an ocean of never-ending bad news can do wonders. Reduce your stress by taking a media and technology holiday from your mobile devices. It's

recommended that you should not watch television or have your laptop nearby while in bed or trying to sleep. The glare from the screens prevents you from entering into the deeper stages of sleep and you'll awake more tired.

A diet with too much processed sugar and alcohol, aside from the obvious weight gain and risk of diabetes, will keep you awake at night. Exercising, in addition to helping you sleep better, will improve your strength and endurance as well as release endorphins, cytokines and other circulating chemicals that will boost your immunity and cells that fight infection and improve your memory.

Eating a diet rich in fresh fruits and vegetables is the easy way to load up on antioxidants and vitamins which are needed to repair the cells in your body as they age or get attacked by bacteria and viruses. I also say it again, and again, – yes sister-in-law, quit smoking and filling your lungs with over 3,000 toxic chemicals that tear down your lung tissue so badly that it can never recover.

My dad used to say there is "Nothing is new under the sun." Now that I consider the Midwest my new home (yes-Ohio is considered the Midwest by many people not from here), living in central Ohio, preparing to respond to hurricanes, tornados and even the fracking-induced earthquakes is the order of the day. Thinking globally, it's preparing for terrorism, Ebola and the latest disaster. In either case getting and staying healthy improves your odds for making it and makes surviving the unexpected easier.

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For more informaiton, see:

10 Relaxation Techniques that Zap Stress Fast

www.webmd.com/balance/guide/blissing-out-10-relaxation-techniques-reduce-stress-spot?page=2

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — www.cdc.gov

Information about the Flu
www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm?s_cid=cdc_homepage_topmenu_001

Vaccines and Immunizations
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/?s_cid=cdc_homepage_topmenu_002

Planned Breaks Can Help You Be Less Stressed



By Jacqueline Lewis-Lyons, Psy.D.

In the Bible, the book of Ecclesiastes opens the third chapter with "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." For many

of us, our minds are constantly working down our To-do lists. Wake up early to exercise, make time to pray, work 8-10-12- hours, buy groceries or pick up dinner, take kids to sports practice, laundry, etc. Then, after there are just not enough hours in the day left, we try to squeeze in a few hours of sleep. Sound familiar?

It is clear that our lives today are very busy, dare I say, too busy. As a result, we find ourselves at best tired and cranky, or at worst, sick from letting our immune systems becoming overloaded by stress and poor self-care. I am guilty of this too. In fact, as I write this, I am recovering from bronchitis, which is my sign that I'm not taking good enough care of myself. The trap that we all fall into is our desire to help. We tell ourselves and other "Sure, I can do ..." when we should realize that we are already at our breaking point. That "one more thing" often becomes the last straw and our arsenal starts to fail.

This all leads to my point for this month. I love October for its chilly nights with bright starry skies as well as the colorful foliage. But my favorite thing about October is that one Saturday evening when we get an extra hour of sleep! Yes, I make quite a production out of it and my family teases me mercilessly. But I don't care, because it is my right to enjoy this gift. In fact, I think it should be a recognized holiday for overworked women! As we read in the Bible, there is a time for everything, including a time to rest! I know, some of you think that's a four-letter word, but let's be real. If you are not at your best (or at least 75%), the odds are you are falling behind in everything else too.

The trick is to be aware of when you need to take a break, before illness or injury forces you to stop. There will come a point when you just can't keep going, all cylinders are empty, and you crash. Not a pretty sight. But, it is avoidable. Planning mini breaks throughout your week can help you to distress. Spend time with a friend, but not just to vent about all that's going on. Do something that is fun, relaxing, uplifting. It could be getting a manicure or massage, or even just meeting for coffee somewhere new and enjoying the view. Consider trying a different exercise. If the coming winter makes you put your walking shoes away, maybe it's time to try a yoga class or strength training session.

If you are completely oblivious to what the signs may be, ask someone close to you. Odds are good that your family members will be able to identify what they see when you are stressed out. Listen to them without judging or becoming defensive. You don't have to agree but hear them out. Then take some time to consider their comments. Even if you think you are on top of your game all the time, believe me, you're not.

So, feel free to join me in planning for the night I look forward to all year long (seriously). I often buy new pillows and change to heavier linens, and shop for beautiful candles. I plan and prepare a simple but hearty meal for that night's supper (vegetable soup and grilled cheese sandwiches). I make a pot of tea to sip while I sit in my freshened up bedroom, with a new book til I get drowsy enough to fall asleep. This is my idea for "Me" time.

Dr. Jacqueline Lewis-Lyons' office is located in north Columbus. Her practice centers on helping clients with depression and anxiety related disorders. In recent years, after discovering a love of running, she expanded her practice to include services related to Sport Psychology for athletes of all ages and levels. 614-443-7040; email Jacqui@DrLewisLyons.com

Congresswoman Beatty Stands Up for Victims of Domestic Violence



U.S. Representative Joyce Beatty (OH-03)

On the 20th Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, U.S. Congresswoman Beatty released the following statement:

"For 20 years, the *Violence Against Women Act* has been critical in protecting women and seeking justice when the tragedy of violence against women occurs. The nightmare of domestic and sexual violence is all too prevalent in our communities, and as a society we must change.

"In Ohio, nearly one in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. Only a fraction, less than one-fifth, of women who receive domestic violence services file legal charges against their attacker. It is clear that we have failed ourselves, our mothers, our daughters, and women in working to exterminate this scourge. The innocent and often voiceless victims of these devastating acts deserve better from our justice system, our legislatures, and our fellow Americans.

"Two decades on, the *Violence Against Women Act* continues to help protect women across our nation. Let us work together to prevent this violence and help victims and families."

More than 200 degrees and certificates. Empowering Beyond Measure.

If you are ready to move your career to the next level, Columbus State is where you'll find the educational pathways, dedicated faculty and academic support to do it. These things we can measure. The confidence and capability to take your career to the next level? That is empowerment *Beyond Measure!*



Terri B. Jamison

Franklin County Court of
Common Pleas

"My experience at Columbus State was tremendous. I took speech classes, which helped prepare me for public speaking. While campaigning, I was able to speak well to various audiences without fear. Also, I took accounting at Columbus State, and that helped me manage my finances during the campaign."



David White

Chief Information Officer,
Battelle

"I just looked at myself in the mirror and said, 'I have to go back to school.' It was absolutely the right place to go for a second shot. I went from supervising four people to 80."



Dorian Wingard

Chief Executive Officer,
Midwest Strategies, LLC

"I have been fortunate to work in capacities that have supported my interests in human services, criminal justice, and education policy, all of which took root at Columbus State and continue through service to our community."

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COLUMBUS STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The 6th Annual Central Ohio HBCU College Fair: *A Recap*



By: Ray Miller, III

If you missed the party, you missed a great one! On Saturday, September 20, 2014, over 1,000 people converged at Barnett Community Center on the east side of Columbus for the largest

Historically Black College/University (HBCU) college fair in Ohio. With nearly 30 HBCU's in attendance and multiple vendors, students traveled from Cincinnati, Dayton, Youngstown and throughout Columbus to learn more about these great schools.

For over six years, the Central Ohio HBCU College Fair, sponsored by the Ohio HBCU Foundation, has exposed over 8,000 young people to the opportunities available at these institutions. Both students and parents have had the unique opportunity to talk to college representatives and local alumni to learn about the culture, tradition and educational programs that are available. Many of them have even gone on to enroll at these great institutions and have joined the ranks of successful HBCU alumni here in Central Ohio.

The event was hosted by The Big Man Konata, with music provided by DJ Krate Digga. Door prizes were awarded every half-an-hour and there were special performances by the local graduate chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Participants also had the opportunity to attend free workshops to help them learn about different types of resources that are available to them such as financial aid,



scholarships and more. Students were also able to apply to the participating schools and have their application fees waived. It was a win-win for everyone.

Special thanks to the sponsors: Barnett Community Center, The Columbus African American News Journal, The United Negro College Fund, Pepsi, and Imagine Reign Creative Studios for helping to make this event possible.

The Ohio HBCU Foundation is dedicated to educating the community about the importance

of supporting Historically Black Colleges/Universities through events such as the college fair. The organization is planning several upcoming events in the community, including the 7th Annual Central Ohio HBCU College Fair which will take place in the fall of 2015.

If you would like more information about the college fair or to see pictures from the most recent event, please visit www.ohiohbcucollegefair.com.

See you next year!



KEVIN L. BOYCE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE 25th House District

"Your voice is your vote! I need your help to make a difference in electing strong leaders who will represent the people of Ohio and Franklin County."
- State Representative Kevin L. Boyce

OFFICIAL DEMOCRATIC BALLOT
FOR OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 25

<p>Edward FitzGerald & Sharen Swartz Neuhardt for Governor & Lt. Governor</p> <p>David Pepper for Attorney General</p> <p>John Patrick Carney for Auditor of State</p> <p>Nina Turner for Secretary of State</p> <p>Connie Pillich for Treasurer of State</p> <p>Joyce Beatty for Representative in Congress, 3rd District</p> <p>Charleta B. Tavares for State Senator, 15th District</p>	<p>Kevin L. Boyce for State Representative, 25th District</p> <p>Marilyn Brown for County Commissioner</p> <p>Mike Schadek for County Auditor</p> <p>Tom Letson for Justice of the Supreme Court</p> <p>John P. O'Donnell for Justice of the Supreme Court</p> <p>Tim Horton for Judge of the Court of Appeals, 10th District</p> <p>Jennifer Brunner for Judge of the Court of Appeals, 10th District</p>	<p>Mary Jo Kilroy for Judge of the Court of Appeals, 10th District</p> <p>William H. Woods for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas</p> <p>Thomas E Hayes for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas</p> <p>David Young for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas</p> <p>Chris Brown for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas</p> <p>Monica Hawkins for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas</p> <p>James W. Brown for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division</p>	<p>Vote FOR Issue 4 Franklin County Children's Services</p> <p>Vote YES on Issues 6, 7, & 8 City of Columbus Charter Amendments</p> <div style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em; color: orange;"> <p>VOTE EARLY!</p> </div> <p>GO VOTE IN PERSON!</p> <p>Franklin County Board of Elections 1700 Morse Rd, Columbus, Ohio 43229</p>
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When you receive your ballot be sure to complete it and return it right away!



RE-ELECT CHARLETA B. **TAVARES**

STATE SENATE  DISTRICT 15

ENDORSED DEMOCRAT

VOTE 

TUESDAY, NOV 4

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PAID FOR BY CITIZENS FOR TAVARES, KEDADA BETHEL, TREASURER, 1003 CLOVERLY DR., GAHANNA, OH 43230

"I have listened, learned and developed successful policy and legislative initiatives to address the needs of the residents of the 15th District and Ohio. I respectfully ask for your support and vote in the November 4th Election."

STATE SENATOR CHARLETA B. TAVARES



"Mike Hicks Creates Picture Perfect Yards"

Landscapes Unlimited is a family-owned business that has been serving the residents of Central Ohio for the past 15 years. They are licensed and bonded and have built a solid group of clients. The man behind all of the great work is Mike Hicks.

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3

EDUCATION

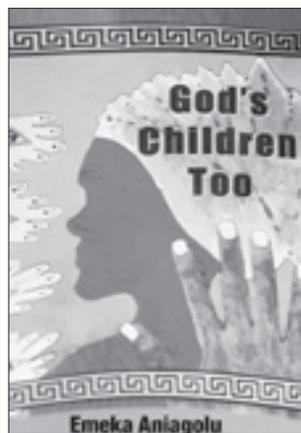
By Ray Miller

BOOK BAGS & E READERS

God's Children Too

By Emeka Aniagolu

Unspeakable and unforgivable incestuous sexual molestation sets the stage for a cascade of negative events that unfolded in the life of a young, Nigerian girl by the name Ify. Her morals warp. Her self-esteem disintegrates and she is psychologically damaged to the point of becoming a sex addict. As if that were not bad enough, Ify's dire economic circumstances combine with her loose morals to press her into a life of high class prostitution. She is eventually comes to America by the grace of God or fate, hoping to dramatically turn her life around for the better. What becomes of that hope? The superbly crafted biographical fiction (conflation of fact and fiction), presents the reader with yet another one of Emeka Aniagolu's page-turners. It is gripping from start to finish. It is brutal in its honesty and sweepingly majestic in its literary finesse and elegance. It is a tragic tale told with the aid of beautifully poetic narrative prose.

**The Public School Advantage***Why Public Schools Outperform Private Schools*

By Christopher A. Lubienski and Sarah Theule Lubienski

Nearly the whole of America's partisan politics centers on a single question: Can markets solve our social problems? And for years this question has played out ferociously in the debates about how we should educate our children. From the growth of vouchers and charter schools to the implementation of No Child Left Behind, policy makers have increasingly turned to market-based models to help improve our schools, believing that private institutions—because they are competitively driven—are better than public ones. With *The Public School Advantage*,



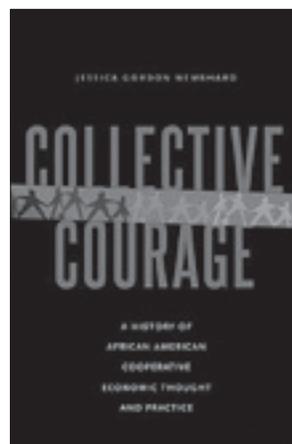
Christopher A. and Sarah Theule Lubienski offer powerful evidence to undercut this belief, showing that public schools in fact outperform private ones.

Despite our politics, we all agree on the fundamental fact: education deserves our utmost care. *The Public School Advantage* offers exactly that. By examining schools within the diversity of populations in which they actually operate, it provides not ideologies but facts. And the facts say it clearly: education is better off when provided for the public by the public.

Collective Courage*A History of African American Cooperative Economic Thought and Practice*

By Jessica Gordon Nembhard

In *Collective Courage*, Jessica Gordon Nembhard chronicles African American cooperative business ownership and its place in the movements for Black civil rights and economic equality. Not since W. E. B. Du Bois's 1907 *Economic Co-operation Among Negro Americans* has there been a full-length, nationwide study of African American cooperatives. *Collective Courage* extends that story into the twenty-first century. Many of the players are well known in the history of the African American experience: Du Bois, A. Philip Randolph and the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Nannie Helen Burroughs, Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Jo Baker, George Schuyler and the Young Negroes' Co-operative League, the Nation of Islam, and the Black Panther Party. Adding the cooperative movement to Black history results in a retelling of the African American experience, with an increased understanding of African American collective economic agency and grassroots economic organizing.



To tell the story, Gordon Nembhard uses a variety of newspapers, period magazines, and journals; co-ops' articles of incorporation, minutes from annual meetings, newsletters, budgets, and income statements; and scholarly

books, memoirs, and biographies. These sources reveal the achievements and challenges of Black co-ops, collective economic action, and social entrepreneurship. Gordon Nembhard finds that African Americans, as well as other people of color and low-income people, have benefitted greatly from cooperative ownership and democratic economic participation throughout the nation's history.

Billionaires*Reflections of the Upper Crust*

By Darrell M. West

The top one percent own about one-third of the assets in America and 40 percent of assets around the world. This concentration of financial resources in many countries gives the ultra-rich extraordinary influence over elections, public policy, and governance.



In his new book, Darrell M. West analyzes the growing political activism of billionaires and how they have created more activist forms of politics and philanthropy based on their net worth. With this "wealthification" of politics and society, it is important to understand how this concentration of wealth affects system performance as well as social and economic opportunity.

Through personal interactions and rich anecdotes, West takes us inside the world of the super-wealthy through a balanced and insightful analysis of U.S. billionaires such as Sheldon Adelson, David and Charles Koch, George Soros, Michael Bloomberg, Bill Gates, Peter Thiel, Donald Trump and Tom Steyer. And looking abroad, West analyzes the billionaires who have run for office in nations such as Austria, Australia, France, Georgia, India, Italy, Russia, Thailand, and the Ukraine. From oligarchs in Russia and Eastern Europe to princelings in China, tycoons raise important questions about political influence, transparency, accountability, and government performance. This book argues that countries need policies that promote better transparency, governance, and opportunity.

Local Chapter of Sorority Awards \$21,300 in Scholarships in 2014

Alpha Sigma Omega Chapter is a Columbus graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, an international service organization that was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D. C. in 1908. The sorority was founded on the principle of "SERVICE TO ALL MANKIND" and works at the international, national, state and local levels to support this principle.

Service to All Mankind Locally

In Columbus, Alpha Sigma Omega chapter provides a number of community service activities through a variety of vehicles: M.L.

K Day of Service, The Ronald McDonald House, The YWCA Family Shelter, local community walks and runs supportive of different organizations' efforts, local helping organizations. The chapter, to be of greater service, created its foundation, Achieving Standards of Excellence Foundation (ASOEF) in 2002 as a means of enhancing its support and recognition of academic achievement and educational excellence. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. It sponsors the following chapter efforts:

- the middle school Scholars' Tea recognition (8th graders with a 3.5 or higher grade point average who attend Columbus City Schools),

- a mentoring group for high school young ladies (The AKAdettes Club) and,
- the scholarship awards ceremony.

Additionally the foundation sponsors a School Supply Drive in partnership with Alpha Sigma Omega Chapter that gives school supplies to high poverty elementary schools in Columbus and supports Al Edmonson's Making a Difference, Inc.

The major effort sponsored through Alpha Sigma Omega's foundation and the focus of this article is the granting of academic scholarships to graduating seniors.



Andre Frazier, \$1,500.00 scholastic grant Tuskegee University



Taylor Mitchell, Eastmoor Academy, \$1500-Helen Ashburn Scholarship



Sarah Wilkes, Centennial High School, \$3000-Achieving Standards of Excellence Foundation Scholarship



Danielle Jones, Columbus Alternative High School, \$1750-Alpha Sigma Omega Scholarship



Xavier Rivers, Fort Hayes High School, \$1500-Helen Ashburn Scholarship



Michele Jones, Centennial High School, \$1000-Ora Dade White Scholarship



Alanna Meadows, Gahanna Lincoln High School, \$1800-Millicent Gaither Sims Scholarship



Zaria Ware, Columbus Alternative High School, \$3000-Achieving Standards of Excellence Foundation Scholarship



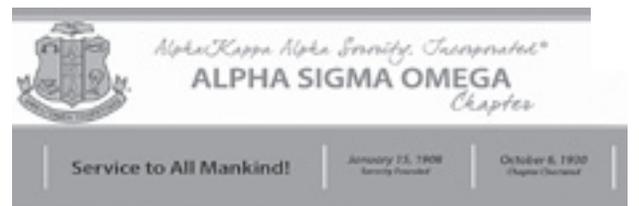
Jillian Deas, Northland High School, \$3500-Beverly Flowers Memorial Scholarship



Gabrielle Berry, Wellington, \$1000-AKAdette Club Scholarship



Mica Caine, Pickerington High School North, \$1750-Alpha Sigma Omega Scholarship



The Granting of Scholarships

In January, 2014, a \$1,500.00 scholastic grant was awarded to **Andre Frazier**, a student at Tuskegee University. Later in May of 2014 at the chapter's annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony, the foundation and chapter presented the scholarships to 10 recipients.

Application Process

Because the same basic process is used each year, this information serves as a "heads-up" for possible 2015 applicants. The foundation uses a three-step process to grant scholarships of various amounts to deserving high school graduating senior applicants. This includes 1) review of the student's application packet, 2) rating of the one-page essay submitted with application packet and 3) interviews of selected applicants using a panel composed primarily of community members. The application packet is sent to high school counselors at all central Ohio high schools in January. It is also placed on the foundation and chapter websites: asoef.org and aso1930.org, respectively.

To be eligible the student must:

- have the required grade point average--GPA (3.0),
- have passed all sections of the Ohio Graduation Test—OGT and,
- be a graduating senior.

The application packet must be properly completed and received before the deadline date.

Being Prepared for Scholarship Opportunities

2015 graduating seniors meeting the eligibility criteria should check with their high school guidance counselors in January for the application packet. Students should be diligent in keeping in contact with their school counselor for scholarship application opportunities. Many scholarship donors and colleges look for students who not only excel academically but also are engaged in their school and community. Even now students can start doing community service and getting involved with school activities if they are not already doing so. Studying hard and treating schooling for what it is, a stepping stone to a successful life, gets good results.

Supporting This Effort

Since the chapter's foundation is a 501(c)(3), donors who set-up scholarships or donate to support our other academic achievement efforts are able to receive receipts that can be used for tax deductions. The Foundation (ASOEF) has varied methods that supporters can use to assist in the granting of scholarships. This includes the following:

1. giving a donation,
2. setting up endowed scholarships, or
3. establishing scholarships given "in memory of" or "in honor of" a particular person.

Readers are encouraged to give serious consideration to supporting, recognizing and promoting academic excellence. For more information or to make a donation, please contact the foundation at its website asoef.org or email the foundation at director@asoef.org.

All efforts to promote and encourage high academic achievement and service involvement make a community a better place for all to live, to work and to raise families. Ensuring the education of as many of children as possible is always the right road to take.

"Decriminalizing School Discipline"



By *Marian Wright Edelman*

I believe the purpose of public schools is to educate not exclude children and to help identify and meet child needs, not make children serve adult

convenience, self interest, and systems. So huge reforms are required in school discipline policies and practices across our nation as school pushout has worsened in past decades with the criminalization of children at younger and younger ages aided and abetted by school expulsion and suspension policies which funnel children into the prison pipeline often crippling them for life.

Nationally, the number of secondary school students suspended or expelled during a school year increased about 40 percent from 1 in 13 in 1972-73 to 1 in 9 in 2009-10 although we know suspensions are more harmful than helpful to children. Schools with higher suspension and expulsion rates have worse school climates, lower student academic achievement, and are often less safe. Racially discriminatory school discipline policies contribute to the Cradle to Prison Pipeline® crisis with a Black boy born in 2001 having a 1 in 3 chance of going to prison in his lifetime and a Latino boy a 1 in 6 chance of the same fate.

The March 2014 report from the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights included

troubling findings on how unfair and excessive school discipline policies can be beginning as early as preschool. But there is some encouraging news. Some school districts are significantly reforming their discipline policies and, more fundamentally, how they view and treat children by moving away from harsh and exclusionary policies toward more positive and restorative approaches that improve discipline outcomes and keep children in school. The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) applauds such school district actions and hopes that districts across the country will follow.

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the second largest in the country, has the largest school police force in the nation closely followed by New York. Of approximately 9,000 arrests and tickets issued to LAUSD children in the 2011-12 school year, 93 percent involved Black and Latino students. The Labor/Community Strategy Center reported the district had the highest "Student Criminalization Rate" — the number of arrests and tickets or citations per 100 students — among all the largest districts in the country. In May 2013, after years of struggle, community organizing, and advocacy by many organizations that make up Dignity in Schools-Los Angeles and the Brothers, Sons, Selves Coalition — including the Children's Defense Fund-California — the school board adopted sweeping policy reforms in the School Climate Bill of Rights. It eliminated suspensions for the subjective catch-all category known as "willful defiance" and directed all district schools to implement PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) and restorative justice programs

to ensure students access to schools that reflect caring, inclusive, safe, and healthy learning environments.

The Los Angeles Unified School District announced additional positive changes recently thanks to efforts led by Public Counsel and the Labor/Community Strategy Center. The district will stop issuing citations for most campus fights and many other minor infractions. School police will follow a step-by-step formula that should result in students being referred to off-site counseling, mental health services, or other school- and community-based solutions for offenses that until now sent them to court or probation. Juvenile Court Judge Donna Groman said about the new protocol: "Juvenile court should be the last resort for youths who commit minor school-based offenses. The education system is better equipped to address behaviors displayed at the school level through restorative justice and other alternative means."

I agree with Judge Groman and applaud LAUSD and hope we can promote their new policy both nationally and statewide as a model response. Youths with serious attendance problems are being sent to counselors instead of courtrooms in a return to common sense. I have never understood why we exclude children from school for not coming to school rather than finding out why they are not coming to school.

Los Angeles is not the only large school system moving in the right direction. Positive

Continued on pg 26

Continued from pg 25

change is happening throughout the state of Maryland. Nearly 1 in 5 students was being suspended in Baltimore's 85,000 student school district annually until a new discipline code was implemented in 2008 emphasizing intervention and prevention and minimizing out-of-school suspensions and expulsions — especially for subjective offenses like disrespect, insubordination, and classroom disruption. The first year after the new code's adoption, out-of-school suspensions dropped 26 percent. Baltimore's actions helped spark a statewide review of school discipline policies and in 2012 Maryland's State Board of Education released a groundbreaking discipline study. In January 2014 the state released a new progressive discipline framework for all Maryland districts and more districts are seeing results. Montgomery County, the state's largest school system, has long been a national leader in documenting and closing its achievement gaps. Several years ago, it began reforming discipline policies. Out-of-school suspensions for high school students in Montgomery County dropped 37 percent in one year (2012-13 to 2013-14) also reducing racial disparities. A new code of conduct this school year emphasizes out-of-school suspensions as a last resort and provides steps to help students learn from their mistakes.

Over the past two years, with support from the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Children's Defense Fund has partnered with AASA, The School Superintendents Association, on child health enrollment and school discipline policies. We recently released a joint national survey of superintendents across the nation. Ninety-two percent of superintendents who responded believe out-of-school suspensions have negative consequences and half the responding superintendents indicated that reducing the use of suspension is important or very important to their leadership agendas. This is very good news for children and we need to accelerate the decriminalization of our nation's school discipline policies and practices by lifting up and building on successes. In Los Angeles, the time is ripe for the school district to fully implement and resource the School Climate Bill of Rights and more states can follow Maryland's statewide effort to prod local school decisions toward positive and fairer restorative discipline policies. We know what works and what doesn't work for children and need to place the highest priority on keeping students in school, safe, and learning. Engaged students and communities working with committed educators are showing that change is more than necessary — it's possible. It is critically important that public schools entrusted with educating and preparing children for college, work and life stop feeding them into the juvenile and criminal justice systems with zero tolerance policies especially for nonviolent offenses like tardiness and truancy or catchall subjective offenses like disruption or disrespect. Denying a child an education is hardly in the child or society's best interest.

As our nation's children become majority non-White in 2019, greater sensitivity and awareness of the children being taught is essential and precautions must be taken so that "differentness" of race, gender, culture, and special needs or gifts are better understood and respected.

In our first Children's Defense Fund report in 1974, *Children Out of School in America*, we examined all official federal and state data to determine how many children were not in school, building on a local Massachusetts Advocacy Group's report on children out of school in Boston. As we wrote at the time: "We found it was a national problem and that 2 million children were out of school including 750,000 between 7-13 years old. But the statistics did not tell us who those children were and why they were out of school. So CDF staff knocked on many thousands of doors in census tracts across the country to learn more. We found that the 7-13 year olds were largely children with physical, mental and emotional disabilities but school discipline policies were a major contributor to school exclusion. If a child was not White, or was White but not middle class, did not speak English, was poor, needed special help with seeing, hearing, walking, reading, learning, adjusting, growing up, was pregnant

or married at age 15, was not 'smart enough' or was 'too smart,' then, in too many places, school officials decided school was not the place for that child. In sum, out of school children shared a common characteristic of differentness by virtue of race, income, physical, mental or emotional 'handicap,' and age. They were for the most part, out of school not by choice but because they had been excluded. It is as if many school officials had decided that certain groups of children were beyond their responsibility and were expendable. They excluded them arbitrarily, discriminatorily and with impunity."

No child is expendable and every child deserves a right to learn and grow up to be the best they can be. We must increase the positive momentum that is building so once again schools educate children, help meet their individual needs and prepare them for the future.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org.

Endorsed by . . .

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Ohio Hispanic Coalition

Columbus African
American News
Journal

Somali Education and
Resource Center

Franklin County Children Services helps more than 30,000 abused and neglected children each year, and it offers services and supports to thousands of families in crisis.

Without the **RENEWAL** of a 1.9 mill property tax levy that expires at the end of 2014, vitally needed services to abused and neglected children could be jeopardized.

A vote FOR Issue 4 will not raise property taxes, but it will protect our children, strengthen our families and improve the quality of our community.

On November 4

Vote **FOR**
Issue 4
Franklin County Children Services

Paid for by
Committee4Children, Paul Anderson, Treas., 230 West St. Suite 700, Columbus, OH 43215



The Columbus African American Chamber of Commerce invites you to become a member of the most influential business organization in Central Ohio.

The membership dues structure is as follows:

PLATINUM	\$2,000.00
GOLD	\$1,000.00
SILVER	\$500.00
BRONZE	\$300.00
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For more information please contact us at:
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Ray Miller, President
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editor@columbusafricanamerican.com

4 PULSE

The Progressive Leadership Academy

By Ray Miller





**PROGRESSIVE
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

Cycle VI Fall 2014



Lubna Ahmed

Lubna Ahmed is an environmental conservation and public health professional. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Miami University and a Master of Public Health degree from The George Washington University. Ms. Ahmed has traveled to the Middle East, West Africa and Haiti to expand her knowledge of the global water crises, an issue area that is the focus of her career. She currently works with the Ohio Environmental Council as a Scenic River Intern assisting with stream quality monitoring.



Fawntiea Chandler

Fawntiea Chandler, Housing Assistance Supervisor for the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, is an emerging leader in Franklin County. Fawntiea prides herself on being the best that she can be all the time. Fawntiea is experienced in complex HUD policies and procedures and certified as a Housing Choice Voucher Specialist. Smartly earning two internal promotions, Fawntiea is highly engaged in customer service to over 4000 tenants living in subsidized housing in the Franklin County area, and oversees a dynamic team of nine housing advisors.



Moushumi Ali

Moushumi Ali is currently continuing her education in Business Management. She has had numerous management jobs in the retail industry since 2007 including Area Manager in Training and Store Manager for Journeys, Store Manager and Floor Supervisor at BAKERS and Assistant Manager at Arden B. After mere months of working at Journeys, Ms. Ali was promoted to Area Manager in Training of a 1.7 million dollar store.



Melinda Collins

As a credible voice of community advocacy, Melinda Barnes-Collins serves in positions giving strategic program oversight to assist those facing issues related to poverty. Additionally, she assists community businesses with business plan development. Currently she serves the State of Ohio in the Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise. She holds a M.P.A. and B.A. from The Ohio State University. Melinda lives in Westerville, Ohio with her two children.



Ophelia Arnold

Ophelia is a Property Manager II at Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority where she manages 2 properties with 316 units. Ophelia holds certifications as certified specialist public housing manger and certified public housing rent certification specialist. In addition Ophelia has trainings in low income housing Tax credit, community corrections (reentry programs that focus on adults and adolescents in lock facilities; Ophelia is a member of Columbus Young Professionals and Institute of real estate management. Ophelia's goal is to give back and strengthen her community in areas of housing and corrections.



Chasity Edwards

Chasity Edwards is an Educational Research Project Manager with the Crane Center for Early Childhood Research & Policy at The Ohio State University. Ms. Edwards earned her B.A. in Psychology from Ohio University and her M.Ed from Howard University. She has enjoyed her work in both clinical and classroom settings delivering direct services to children with autism in Columbus, Ohio and Washington D.C. Ms. Edwards has one son.



Chaz Boyd

Chaz Boyd is from Columbus, Oh and is a member of Living Faith Apostolic Church. Boyd holds a Bachelor's degree in Communication from the University of Toledo. During his time at the University of Toledo, he raised over \$3,000 in scholarships, interned at Charles E. Boyk Law firm under the marketing department, created an urban blog for WXUT and worked as a cameraman for several live productions one being aired on ESPN.



Averi Frost

Jennifer Averi Frost is Director at the Columbus Minority Business Assistance Center, a State of Ohio program administered by the Central Ohio Minority Business Association. Frost also serves as Board Chair of Mothers Helping Mothers, Inc., a local non-profit that assists homeless young mothers and their children. Ms. Frost is a proud graduate of Eastmoor Academy High School and Denison University with a B.A. in English Literature and Environmental Studies.



Roxlauna Brown

Roxlauna (Roxy) Brown is a Support Services Technical Clerk at Insurance Intermediaries Inc., a division of Nationwide Brokerage Solutions & Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. A Columbus, Ohio native, Roxy attended Eastmoor Academy High School and later attended Kentucky State University where she studied Political Science and Mass Communications. Always having a passion for politics and community service, her goal is to have a career in either Government Relations or Community Relations. Ultimately, Roxy feels like it's her purpose in life to give back to a community who has given so much to her.



Destin Grayson

Destin Grayson, a native of Dayton, Ohio is the Dental OPTIONS Recruitment Coordinator at HandsOn Central Ohio. He is the link for people of low income, few resources, and no dental insurance to volunteer dentists. Destin holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Urban Regional Planning from Miami University where he served as President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., leading his chapter to Ohio Chapter of the Year.



PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Cycle VI Fall 2014



Ezra L. Johnson

Ezra L. Johnson is a Project Manager for COWIC – Ohio Means Jobs, Columbus/Franklin County. He manages the S.O.A.R.hire! Summer Youth Internship Program, which yearly places over 700 young adults of needy families in meaningful internship positions. Ezra holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mass Media Communications from Wilberforce University and a Master of Science Degree in Marketing & Communications from Franklin University. He has one daughter, is a member of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, and the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.



Kris Perry

Karrisa (Kris) Perry is a mother of seven children. She has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Ohio University and a certificate in Bookkeeping. She is the Facility Business Coordinator for VSP (Vision Service Plan) in Columbus, OH. Karrisa is a member of VSP's Black Heritage Business Resource Group, serves on the board for the Ohio Juneteenth Festival's planning committee, and is an active member of Visions-masters (a Toastmasters chapter).



Lesley Latham

Doctor Lesley Nicole Latham is currently a Pediatric Dental Fellow for the Ohio State University College of Dentistry. She works as part of a community oral health initiative for the state of Ohio at Nationwide Children's Hospital and aboard a Dental Mobile Coach to provide care for underserved children. Native of Houston, Texas she attended the University of Texas at Austin and Baylor College of Dentistry. She spends most of her time traveling the globe and reading screenplays.



Taylor Porter

Taylor Porter believes in faith, family, fatherhood and financial literacy. Currently working as a Business Analyst with ODJFS in the Bureau of Automated Systems; Mr. Porter's previous experience includes sales, information technology, education and child welfare. Mr. Porter has become a well rounded professional and is eager to help rejuvenate the culture within the Columbus African-American community. Mr. Porter holds a B.S. from the University of Cincinnati and M.Ed from Central State University.



Danyell Lewis

Danyell Lewis is a passionate education advocate, committed public servant, and the incoming Senior Project Coordinator at Battelle for Kids. She serves as Secretary on the Ohio Program Evaluators' Group Board of Trustees, and also supports various community projects to benefit underserved youth. Ms. Lewis holds a Master of Public Administration from The Ohio State University and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Dayton.



Anessa Lynn Taylor

Anessa Taylor is employed with CMax Advisors as a Recruiting Assistant with over 16 years of HR experience ranging from recruitment, staffing, employee relations, etc.

In addition, she holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from The Ohio State University in Psychology. Taylor is happily married and with two children. She has been a faithful member of New Salem Baptist Church for over 15 years and has served passionately in several ministries.



Jason Morton

Jason Morton, M.Ed. is currently the Director at Focus Learning Academy Southwest. He has set on the board of directors for two Elementary Schools. He has completed the United Way Leadership Academy, and he has spent 8 years coaching football at the college and high school level. Jason earned his Master's in Educational Leadership from Capella University, and his Bachelor in Sociology from Bowling Green State University. Jason resides with his Wife in Columbus, Ohio.



Roosevelt Williams III

Roosevelt Williams III, is graduate of Central State University class of 2011, where he holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. In 2016 he will obtain his Master of Science degree in Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University. Williams currently works for Franklin County Children Services as an Adoption Recruiter. He also serves in the Navy Reserve, Member of First Church of God and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated.

The Progressive Leadership Academy is a 16 week leadership immersion program founded by Ray Miller, Publisher of *The Columbus African American* and former State Senator. The program has been in operation since March of 2011. The Fellows in the Academy have the opportunity to be instructed by some of the most accomplished and respected leaders in Central Ohio.

44th Annual Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference

Congresswoman Joyce Beatty served as the Co-Chair of the **44th Annual Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference**. It was the largest event in CBCF's history and raised the most money. We are proud that Central Ohio leaders stepped to plate as Sponsors, panel participants and guests. Leaders like OSU President Dr. Michael Drake presented on the Science and Technology panel, Mayor Michael Coleman on Black Mayor's Agenda panel, Councilperson Michelle Mills on the Elected Officials panel and Nationwide's Karen Heath Wade on the Money, Wealth Disparities Finance Panel. Sponsors for Congresswoman's Beatty Issue Forum and Reception honoring her for being Co-Chair included HONDA, Ohio Health, OSU, KeyBank, Limited Brands, Nationwide, Huntington Bank, Hightower Petroleum and Phi Beta Sigma just to name

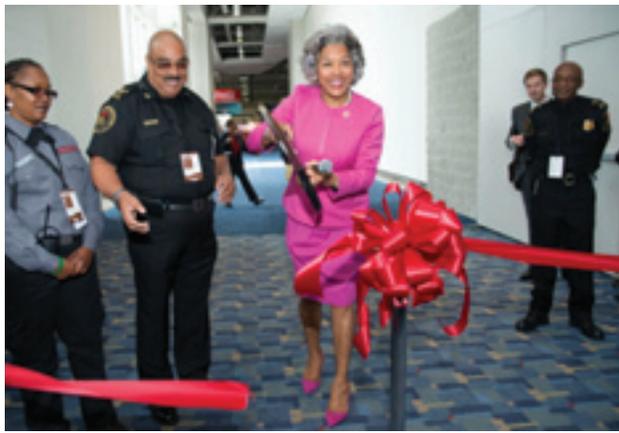
a few. Sponsor representatives included: Steve Francis, Karen Morrison, Karen Health Wade, Gale King, Steve Hightower, Stacy Rastauskas and Trudy Bartley.

The Congresswoman presented her Co-Chair Phoenix Award to Susan Taylor and she joined Congressman Andre Carson to present the Caucus award to Muhammad Ali. (Carson and Beatty nominated Ali)

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson was the moderator of Beatty's Session that not only had standing room but a long line of folks outside anxiously waiting to get in. There were some 70 Issue forums and some 10,000 individuals attended the conference.



Opening night VP Biden and Congresswoman take a moment for a photo op. Congressman James Clyburn and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee in backdrop



Congresswoman Beatty cuts ribbon to open Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference Exhibit Center where some 10,000 folks visited vendor booths



Congresswoman Beatty presents her Co-Chairs Phoenix Award to Susan L. Taylor



Congresswoman Joyce Beatty joined by friends (Susan Taylor, Jesse Jackson & Congresswoman Marcia Fudge) at her CBCF Reception honoring her as Co-Chair. The Whispers performed



Congresswoman Joyce Beatty, Otto Beatty with Martin Luther King III chatted after the Prayer Breakfast attended by some 3,000 guests



Gale King Hosts Nationwide Insurance Congressional Black Caucus Dinner Table with Board Members and industry executives



Congresswoman Beatty's table guests at Prayer Breakfast: Dr. Cynthia Jackson Hammond, President of Central State University, (CSU Choir performed at Breakfast and brought audience to their feet) and Steve Francis of Honda of America, a Forum Sponsor for Beatty's issue forum on Money, Wealth and Disparities: Building a Person Financial Legacy.



Roland Martin joins Congresswoman Joyce Beatty and Stanford Bishop the Co-Chairs of the 44th Annual Legislative Congressional Black Caucus Conference



Congresswoman Beatty joins discussion panel on the Voting Rights National Town Hall

5

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Charles Henry Langston: *Abolitionist, Government Official, College President, and Reformer*

By Roderick Q. Blount, Jr., M.A.

When most Americans think about what makes America great, they think about its freedoms. The Constitution, especially the first, thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments,

are a constant reminder and source of pride for Americans as they make many of these freedoms a part of our law. However, Americans did not always enjoy these freedoms and African Americans especially suffered, even after many of the amendments and other laws were passed, they were not fully implemented. It took a combination of social reformers, labor leaders, politicians and grass roots activists to successfully take steps to improve the plight of African Americans. Charles Henry Langston filled all of the aforementioned roles as he was a social reformer, labor leader, government official, and activist. He is often overshadowed by his younger brother, John Mercer Langston (U.S. Congressman and university president) and his grandson, Langston Hughes (renowned poet); however, he was a prominent leader in his own right.

Charles Henry Langston was born a freeman in 1817 on a plantation in Louisa County, Virginia, to Captain Ralph Quarles, a white plantation owner, and Lucy Jane Langston, a freewoman of mixed African American and Native American descent and former slave of Mr. Quarles. Mr. Quarles manumitted Lucy Langston and their daughter Maria in 1806 and their subsequent children were born free. After their father passed in 1834, Charles and two of his brothers, Gideon Quarles and John Mercer Langston, moved to a farm near Chillicothe. Not long after their arrival, the African American residents of a settlement near Chillicothe asked Charles to be a teacher of their children and he agreed. He was only 15. Charles and his brother Gideon enrolled in Oberlin College's preparatory school in the fall semester of 1835, becoming the first African Americans enrolled at that college. Oberlin College is the first college to admit students without respect to race as a matter of regular policy. Their younger brother John would also go to Oberlin in 1843 and graduate in 1849. When the brothers turned 21, they inherited a large part of their father's estate.

Charles Langston lived in Oberlin, Chillicothe and Columbus for nearly 30 years. Initially, he was employed as a part-time teacher and dentist.

He was an active member of the community through active membership in the A.M.E. church and being the first Worshipful Master (president) of St. Marks Lodge #7 in Columbus in 1852. Langston and his brothers also contributed a significant amount of time to reform activities and politics. Charles Langston was the Western Representative for the Sons of Temperance and used his position to promote education, moderate habits and political rights. He was the president of the Ohio black state convention in 1849 and served on a three-man committee of correspondence to call for a black national convention in Buffalo in September 1852.

Charles Langston and his brother, John, were active abolitionists and supporters of the Underground Railroad. He was the Executive Secretary of the Ohio State Anti-Slavery Society, of which his brother John was the president. Charles Langston was also a leader in the Oberlin-Wellington rescue where on September 13, 1858, over five hundred white and black residents of Oberlin, Wellington, and surrounding areas rescued John Price, a resident of Oberlin, from federal marshals, deputy sheriffs, and slave catchers. 37 of the residents, both white and black, were indicted by the grand jury for aiding and abetting in the rescue of John Price. Charles Langston was charged separately in Cleveland in 1859. He was sentenced to 20 days in jail and received a fine of 100 dollars. Shortly after his indictment, Charles Langston briefly met John Brown before his raid on Harper's Ferry, which he would later praise.

In 1862, Charles Langston had moved to Leavenworth, Kansas, where he helped the contrabands, enslaved African Americans who ran away and were accepted into Union military camps and declared contraband of war. He opened up a school for the children of the formerly enslaved African Americans and became a leader in the Kansas Emancipation League. He briefly moved back to Ohio to assist his brother John in enlisting African Americans in the United States Colored Troops. He returned to Kansas and maintained a role as a leader in the growing black community. In 1860, Kansas had an African American population of 627; however, by 1865 there were 12,527 African Americans in the state, nearly one-fifth of them living in Leavenworth. Charles Langston became the President of the Leavenworth Suffrage League in 1865, which advocated voting rights for African Americans. He spoke in front of the Judiciary Committee of the Kansas Legislature advocating those rights. In 1865, he was appointed to the Northwestern Freedmen's Aid Commission,

initially as an agent for the states of Kansas and Missouri. Consequently, he became the General Superintendent of Refugees and Freedmen for the State of Kansas. He was also the leader of the Executive Committee of the (Kansas) Convention of Colored Citizens in 1866.

Charles Langston continued his fight for equal rights and suffrage throughout his life. He also found time for involvement in a myriad of other activities. He was appointed principal of Freedman's University in Quindaro, Kansas, in 1872 where he increased enrollment and helped train teachers. He was the President of the Colored Benevolent Society, Grand Master of the Kansas Masons (African American), founder of the Inter-state Library Association, and associate editor of *Historic Times*, a local black paper in Lawrence, Kansas. In 1872, he was nominated by the Republican Party of Kansas to be one of four electors to cast their votes for President Ulysses S. Grant.

Charles Henry Langston had a long and distinguished life. He passed away on November 21, 1892. He left behind a loving family including his wife, Mary Patterson Leary Langston (whose first husband, Lewis Sheridan Leary, was killed in the Harper's Ferry raid), a son, Nathaniel Turner Langston, and a daughter, Caroline Langston Hughes. Caroline married James Nathaniel Hughes and they had a son, James Mercer Langston Hughes, better known as Langston Hughes. He was truly a renaissance man who fought for equal rights, community activism, education and suffrage his whole life. I encourage everyone to research more on Charles Henry Langston. I assure you that you will not be disappointed.

Works Cited

- 1) <http://www.blackpast.org/aah/langston-charles-henry-1817-1892>
- 2) http://www.kshs.org/publicat/history/1999winter_sheridan.pdf
- 3) <http://www.kaaacs.gov/legislative-advocacy/news-events/meetings-and-signature-projects/events/2013/08/13/default-calendar/charles-henry-langston-abolitionist-and-educator>



"Can the Ohio Student Association Launch a New Freedom Movement?"



By Marsha R. Robinson,
PhD

What is going on?

On October 11-14, 2014, Miami University in Oxford, Ohio will host a conference to remember and celebrate the brave young people who trained at the Western College for Women fifty years ago. These young people trained for a battle against racism that is now remembered as Freedom Summer. It was a war, complete with casualties, another generation's battle in the United State Civil War to enforce the Declaration of Independence and the United States' Constitution.

Fifty years and fifty miles away, on August 5, 2014 in the aisles of the Walmart store in Beavercreek, Ohio, police officers shot John Crawford III.

The Western College for Women was established in 1853 as the Western Female Seminary. Just opening a liberal arts college for women was an act of cultural civil disobedience in an age when being female brought additional lethal risks from poor maternal health care and from legal death upon marriage. In those days, marriage turned a woman into a feme covert or a woman who no longer existed as a person in the eyes of the court system because her body was the property of her husband. It was the legal application of a religious idea of female submission to husbands.

One hundred and one years later, three domestic violence homicides took place in Cleveland, Ohio, in a single week in September 2014.

The United States is still in the throes of two simultaneous civil wars: a war against women and a resurgent Confederate States of America.

What is to be done?

Many people are turning a phrase from WEB Dubois by saying that the problem of the twenty-first century is the color line. However, that phrase pushes violence against women into the shadows and allows it to continue, perhaps as an absurd substitution for racial privilege. "The color line" is an insufficient, incomplete, reductive, and unimaginative left-handed support of violence against women. The problem of the twenty-first century is more complex.

Today's young adults must use their multi-tasking, social media skills. Younger People, I think you are realizing that you do not have a choice. Your generation has to fight two civil wars.



The 50th Anniversary Conference, to be held October 11–14, 2014 at Miami University, will feature a full program and several guest lecturers and panel participants. <http://westernarchives.lib.miamioh.edu/freedomssummer/conference>

Why? You are the generation that inherits a plural America. The United States ceases to be a white majority nation on your watch. You have to deal with people in my generation who are having personal identity crises and suffering from social dementia. Too many of us, especially those of us with some degree of political power, do not know how to deal with a plural United States.

To the Ohio Students Association, to the Color of Change, to all of the social media networking groups, I am urging you to level up your social justice game.

I see you using the skills of the 1960s. I see you marching. I see your zeal. I see your frustration that no indictment was handed down by the grand jury in the case of the death of James Crawford III. I hear you asking, "What is to be done?"

Your civil rights movement, as I have suggested earlier, is one of re-educating people for plural United States. Your movement may not produce dramatic photos or film footage of mass demonstrations. Your movement for social justice will take place on the stage of one multi-generational family after another. You must be persistent through social media and, through gaining seats on school boards and city councils across the United States, you must be omnipresent.

You must modify the political power lessons of ahimsa, of satyagraha, of Ida B. Wells-Barnett, of Yuri Kochiyama, of Mohandas Gandhi, of Dorothy Height, of Martin Luther King, Jr., of Cesar Chavez, of Dolores Huerta, of Fannie Lou Hamer, of Steven Biko, of Barbara Jordan, of Corazon Aquino, of Hanan Ashrawi, of Wangari Maathai, of Wilma Mankiller, and of Aung San Suu Kyi.

To my peers, to those of us becoming elders as our own elders close the encyclopedias of their

lived experiences, I remind us that Civil Rights is a forward-facing moving. We make progress by marching forward across the bridges that fragment our society. We need to change our dialogues from praising ourselves for establishing Black Studies. Praise is traditionally raised by descendants. Rather, our role as elders is to point the way forward for our young adults.

As we commemorate Freedom Summer, let us consecrate today's youths who face a Civil Rights struggle that our elders never imagined: the transformation to a non-majority white United States of America.

Marsha R. Robinson, PhD is the Visiting Assistant Professor of World History at Miami University of Ohio. Contact: ProfMRobinson@gmail.com

For more information

For more information about the Freedom Summer Commemoration Conference, visit <http://westernarchives.lib.miamioh.edu/freedomssummer/conference/conference/>

For more information about the three domestic violence homicides in Cleveland, begin with http://www.cleveland.com/court-justice/index.ssf/2014/09/man_who_walked_into_highway_tr.html

For more information about the Ohio Student Association, see <http://www.ohiostudentassociation.org/>

For more information about the Color of Change, see <http://colorofchange.org/>

6 PUBLIC POLICY

Legislative Update



By Senator Charleta B. Tavares, Assistant Senate Leader

Legislative Highlights:

As Senate Bill 43, sponsored by Senators Charleta B. Tavares and Dave Burke that clarifies

and expands Ohio's court ordered outpatient treatment process for individuals with untreated mental illness with a history of harm to self or others went into effect this month. The bill was passed on June 4, 2014.

The passage of the bill illustrated for many probate court judges their ability to order certain individuals with mental illness into treatment in an outpatient setting. This ensures that the individual gets the treatment necessary for their recovery in the least restrictive environment. The sponsors worked with NAMI Franklin County and Ohio to have the law clarified on behalf of family members with loved ones who refused treatment due to their illness.

According to Rachelle Martin, Executive Director of NAMI Franklin County, "This bill offers hope to many families living in Franklin County and throughout the state who, in the past, have been turned away when they reached out for help for a loved one with untreated mental illness. We look forward to working with our community leaders to ensure that the bill is implemented as intended." NAMI Franklin County reached out to NAMI Ohio and the sponsors for assistance in clarifying Ohio's law.

NAMI Ohio has developed a guide titled, *Understanding Ohio's Court Ordered Outpatient Treatment Law*. The guide provides an overview of the new law and offers suggestions to those who are interested in ensuring that the law is properly implemented and applied appropriately in their respective communities. To download the guide, go to www.namiohio.org.

Election Campaigns:

The November Election Campaign season is upon us, and it is now time to focus on the candidates who are asking for your vote and the issues that are important to African American communities throughout Ohio. The candidates and the issue campaigns have developed propaganda and materials that tell their story or what it is they want to share with us however;

IMPORTANT 2014 Election Dates

- Oct. 6** Deadline to register to vote
- Oct. 7** Early-voting / absentee voting starts
- Nov. 1** Applications for absentee ballots must be received by Board of Elections at noon
- Nov. 3** Deadline to postmark completed absentee ballot
- Nov. 4** Election Day: Polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

it is incumbent upon all of us to research each candidate and issue on the ballot through our own means. We must hold each elected and appointed official accountable for what they said as they asked for your vote; what they did once they were elected and how they have participated in and addressed the needs of the African American community. *Do not give anyone a pass, whether or not they are from the same or a different racial, ethnic and/or cultural community as you.*

There are independent resources in order to gather information on candidates such as the League of Women Voters (www.lwv.org); the Ohio Senate (www.ohiosenate.gov); Ohio House of Representatives (www.ohr.gov); local newspapers, Ohio Channel (watch recorded sessions of discussion and votes on important legislation in the Ohio House and Senate www.ohiochannel.org); etc. In addition, you can use Bing, Yahoo, Google and other search engines to research news, videos and information about the candidates and issues. In Franklin County, we have a Children Services Levy (Issue 4) and the City of Columbus Charter changes (Issues 6, 7, and 8) on the ballot in addition to some local liquor options and suburban school district levies on the ballot.

Finally, there are Candidate's Nights scheduled by the Mt. Vernon Avenue AME Church (October 7), Voices for Ohio's Children (October 17 8:00-10:00am @Children's Hospital), Consortium for

Good Government, (multiple dates/locations – for info: <http://www.franklincountyconsortium.com/>), etc. For additional scheduled candidate forums contact the Franklin County Democrat or Republican Parties' websites at www.fcdp.org or www.franklincountygop.org respectively. We have to stay engaged, educated and registered to vote in order to weigh in with our voice and vote. Please share the important dates below with your friends and family to make sure they register, study the candidates and vote.

The Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission

The Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission meets on the second Thursday of every other month. If you would like to receive notices of future meetings, please join the OCMC mailing list by visiting

<http://ocmc.ohio.gov/ocmc/committees>

Several very important issues are currently being discussed in the Standing Committees of the OCMC that include *Redistricting, Education, Voting Rights, Investments of tax dollars, Term-Limits*, etc. It is important to note that a commission recommendation is void unless it receives a two-thirds vote of the membership of the commission. In the event of a call for a constitutional convention, the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission shall report to the general assembly its recommendations with respect to the organization of a convention, and report to the convention its recommendations with respect to amendments to the Constitution.

The Ohio General Assembly sessions can be viewed live on WOSU/WPBO and replays can be viewed at ohiochannel.gov (specific House and Senate sessions can be searched in the video archives). If you would like to receive updated information on the Ohio General Assembly and policy initiatives introduced, call or email my office at 614.466.5131 or tavares@ohiosenate.com to receive the Tavares Times News monthly legislative newsletter.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares, D-Columbus, is proud to serve and represent the 15th District, including the historic neighborhoods of Columbus and the cities of Bexley and Grandview Heights in the Ohio Senate.

7

LEGAL NOTICE

Issue #6 - November 4, 2014

Notice of Election on Proposition

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbus of Columbus, Ohio, passed on the 21st day of July, 2014, and based on recommendations of the 2014 Columbus Charter Review Commission, there will be submitted to a vote of the people of City of Columbus at the General Election to be held at the regular places of voting, on Tuesday, the 4th day of November, 2014, the question of

The Amendment proposed by Ordinance No. 1747-2014 would amend sections 26, 32, 61, 93, 118-120, 122-124, 128, 149, 194, and 231 of the Columbus City Charter, repeal sections 121 and 133-141, and enact new sections 236-238 to, including, but not limited to:

- Prohibit the city and its agents from denying equal access to city services or equal opportunity in city in employment and promotion, or the benefits thereof, on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification or expression, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, disability, family or military status, or any other status protected by federal, state or local law.
- Require that Recreation and Parks Commission members be residents of the city of Columbus and make changes with respect to appointment of members.
- Require the appointment of a charter review commission in 2022 and each 10 years thereafter; provide that the five commission members be Columbus residents, cannot hold office or employment with the city, and cannot be paid; require the commission to make findings and recommendations to council regarding the charter for possible submission to the electorate; and require that the commission be a public body.
- Provide that the mayor's budget estimate be published as a permanent, electronic public record, rather than a copy distributed to public libraries; and require the city clerk to compile the annual report of the city and publish it electronically as a permanent public record, rather than in book form.
- Provide that the Sinking Fund and all references thereto shall be repealed, effective July 1, 2015; provisions related to debt obligations shall be transferred to city officials; and city investments and sales thereof shall be regulated by ordinance.
- Apply charter provisions regarding water to all city public utilities; repeal the water depreciation fund and cash deposits for utilities; require the city to set aside sufficient funds from city utility revenues, or other necessary sources, to cover the city's outstanding utility debt obligations; and update a provision permitting council to create a fund to relieve some or all of the utilities bills of non-profits located in the city and serving disadvantaged persons.
- Grant authority to incorporate strictly limited, non-substantive technical changes into the charter by unanimous vote of council, and provide that such action shall not be by emergency ordinance and shall be subject to the referendum.
- Change from one to three years the period for reinstatement of an employee in the classified service to the eligible list, who is separated from service or reduced in rank without fault.

- Reserve to the city the right to prevent unjust discrimination in service or rates if it authorizes a grant to an entity to provide public utility services.

Shall the proposed Amendment to the Columbus City Charter be adopted?

The polls for the election will be open at 6:30 a.m. and remain open until 7:30 p.m. on election day.

Andrea Blevins, CMC
City Clerk
City of Columbus, Ohio

Issue #7 - November 4, 2014

Notice of Election on Proposition

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbus of Columbus, Ohio, passed on the 21st day of July, 2014, and based on recommendations of the 2014 Columbus Charter Review Commission, there will be submitted to a vote of the people of City of Columbus at the General Election to be held at the regular places of voting, on Tuesday, the 4th day of November, 2014, the question of

The Amendment proposed by Ordinance No. 1748-2014 would amend sections 41-46, repeal sections 47-51, 53-56, 200-206, 210-211, 215-223, and 234, and enact new sections 41.1-.6, 42.1-.16, 43.1-.4, 44.1-.6, 45.1-.5, and 46.1-.5 of the Columbus City Charter to, including, but not limited to:

- Restate that city elections be nonpartisan.
- Permit the city to regulate campaign finances and disclosure of contributions for political candidates and municipal ballot issues.
- Reorder and renumber sections related to elections; and apply state election law, unless otherwise provided by the charter or city ordinance.
- Use state law for the form of candidate and issue ballots.
- Regarding candidate petitions: use state law for nomination of candidates at a nonpartisan election; use state petition form and circulation requirements; and eliminate provisions that a petition signer pledges to vote for the candidate and that the candidate file an acceptance of the candidacy.
- Apply state law provisions for replacement of candidates in case of death, disqualification or withdrawal.
- Regarding petitions for initiative, referendum, recall and charter amendment: provide that the city clerk produce petition templates; require a pre-circulation certified copy and all petitions be filed with the city clerk; be printed in a uniform color; contain a title in 14 point font on each page, a notice to signers in 12 point font on each signature page, a full text with no ancillary information, and in the circulator's statement an identification of the employer; require the city attorney to determine if a petition addresses a single subject and is legally sufficient; specify the form of petitions; require disclosure to the city clerk anything of value provided to circulate, supervise, manage or organize a petition; petitioners must file an initiative or charter amendment petition

Continued on page 35

Continued from page 34

within 1 year after filing a certified copy; if 2 or more conflicting proposals are adopted at the same election, the proposal receiving the highest vote shall prevail.

- Regarding the initiative and referendum: require signatures of at least 5% of the votes cast at the last regular election for mayor to initiate an ordinance or referendum; determine the sufficiency of a petition in a public meeting by ordinance of council within 14 days of the board's report on the number of valid signatures and the city attorney's report on the legal sufficiency of the petition; and if a petition is sufficient, require council to act within 30 days to either submit the proposal to electors, or pass the initiated ordinance or repeal the ordinance subject to referendum.
- Regarding proposed initiated ordinances, referendums and charter amendments: provide that council prescribe a brief summary for placement on the ballot; and council may prescribe arguments for and against the issue to be placed in each voting location.
- Regarding recall petitions: restate that all elective officeholders in the city of Columbus are subject to the recall; eliminate a provision that recall petitions be signed at city fire houses or the city clerk's office; change the signature requirement from 15% of registered voters to 15% of the total vote cast at the last regular election for mayor; allow up to three officers to be subject to recall at the same election; set the period for holding the election at 60-120 days after the petition is found sufficient; prohibit filing a recall petition within 90 days of a regular election for the office; and eliminate a requirement that an initial petition with 1,000 valid signatures be filed to begin a recall.
- Require that no city officer may consider the subject matter of a petition when determining the legal sufficiency thereof, unless required to assure compliance with applicable law.

Shall the proposed Amendment to the Columbus City Charter be adopted?

The polls for the election will be open at 6:30 a.m. and remain open until 7:30 p.m. on election day.

Andrea Blevins, CMC
City Clerk
City of Columbus, Ohio

Issue #8 - November 4, 2014

Notice of Election on Proposition

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbus of Columbus, Ohio, passed on the 21st day of July, 2014, and based on recommendations of the 2014 Columbus Charter Review Commission, there will be submitted to a vote of the people of City of Columbus at the General Election to be held at the regular places of voting, on Tuesday, the 4th day of November, 2014, the question of

The Amendment proposed by Ordinance No. 1749-2014 would amend sections 3-6, 8-11, 13-19, 31, 33-34, 58, 64, 66-67, 78-79, 87, and 227, repeal sections 7, 12, 59, and 145, and enact new sections 5.1-.2, 9.1-.3, 10.1-.2, 11.1-.2, 15.1-.5, 64.1-.3, 78.1-.2, 87.1-.2 and 239-240 of the Columbus City Charter to, including, but not limited to:

- Apply to city officers and employees state laws that prohibit unlawful interest in public contracts, theft in office, improper compensation, bribery and

other provisions; and require loss of office or employment for violations, in addition to any state penalty.

- Provide that records of the city be made available to the public in accordance with state law.
- Provide that public bodies of the city hold open meetings in accordance with state law if members are appointed by a city officer and it is established for the sole purpose of advising any city officer or decision making body.
- Establish a citizens' commission on elected official compensation to recommend, every four years, the salary for city elective officeholders; prohibit council from setting salaries higher than commission recommendations; provide that the commission's recommendations include an annual cost of living adjustment which does not exceed the 4-year average increase in the consumer price index; provide that the 5 commission members be Columbus residents and cannot hold office or employment with the city or be paid.
- Provide that special and emergency meetings of council may be called in accordance with state law or ordinance; special and standing council committees, and rules therefore, may be established by council; council may expel or punish members for specified acts; the council president establishes meeting agendas and appoints committee chairs and members; a new council president be elected if the office is vacated; establish the office of council president pro tempore; allow a vote for acting president pro tempore in the absence of both president and president pro tempore; allow council to appoint a person to conduct investigations; repeal a provision for council to appoint a public defender for indigent persons charged with offenses in the municipal court; and prohibit council appointment of officers and employees except as provided in the charter.
- Require the following be maintained as a permanent electronic public record: council and committee minutes, council's journal, ordinances and resolutions adopted by council, and the city bulletin.
- Provide ordinances may be introduced in electronic or digital form.
- Consolidate duties of the city clerk and repeal the bureau of information and publicity in the city clerk's office and place duties with the clerk.
- Provide an elective officeholder may file a declaration of temporary inability to discharge the duties of the office and such period may not exceed 6 months; and provide if the officeholder is unable to discharge the duties of the office for 90 consecutive days and did not have a declaration of temporary inability in effect, the office shall be forfeited and the appropriate official shall seek a court action in quo warranto to vacate the office; and provide for filling a vacancy in office resulting from ceasing to hold any qualification for office and consistent language for creation of vacancies.
- Provide the city attorney may appoint a deputy who shall have the power to perform the city attorney's duties.
- Require council to adopt an ordinance regarding prohibited uses of public funds.
- Provide consistent language that elective officeholders must reside in Columbus, and may not hold any public office other than notary public, state militia or US Armed Forces Reserves.

Shall the proposed Amendment to the Columbus City Charter be adopted?

The polls for the election will be open at 6:30 a.m. and remain open until 7:30 p.m. on election day.

Andrea Blevins, CMC
City Clerk
City of Columbus, Ohio

2 Girls Teach Volleyball Skills

By Nadine L. Lewis

Longtime volleyball players/coaches Danielle Benson-Robinson and Brittani Lewis teamed up to form their company, 2 Girls Volleyball, in 2012. A clever play on words, 2 Girls Volleyball was an easy name choice for the two long-time friends turned partners, "We chose that name because we are 2 girls following our passion for volleyball," Benson-Robinson said.

With a combined 25 years of experience playing and coaching competitive volleyball, the two young entrepreneurs began their 2 Girls Volleyball journey with Saturday volleyball clinics, and have evolved over a short period of time into one of the most sought after volleyball programs in the area. With approximately 80 girls participating in travel teams, camps, clinics and opportunities to play-abroad the young company's labor of love continues to blossom rapidly.

Driven by a dedicated passion for volleyball, coupled with a naturally creative, nature, Lewis and Benson-Robinson have managed to mix business with pleasure in a unique manner. Lewis said the team is committed to what they do, "As dedicated coaches and players we plan to open the eyes of young athletes to the world of volleyball and the many positive outcomes that come with its involvement," she said.

Danielle Benson-Robinson began her volleyball journey in Jr. high school, continued through high school, and then went on to play at Kentucky State University where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Currently the head coach at Columbus North International

high school, Benson-Robinson said she looks forward to empowering young people to be all they can be and giving back to their community through volleyball. "We hope through our various services we can help young athletes cultivate a love for the game of volleyball and capitalize on the principles that are easily translated off the court." Benson-Robinson said. "I feel like it's my calling to give back to these young ladies what someone gave to me."

Columbus International High School Principal Ameer Kim El-Mallawany spoke of Benson-Robinson's knowledge of volleyball and her devotion to the students. "Coach Benson's experience, dedication, and her incredible rapport with her student-athletes have accelerated the development of our young people and our program to where the young ladies were not just able to see success on the court, but also use their experience in the volleyball program as an anchor on which to build their academic experience as a whole at International," the principal said

The second partner of the 2-Girls Volleyball team, Springfield native Brittani Lewis also began her volleyball career in middle school, and continued to play in high school, and went on to play at Muskingum University where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Biology. Currently the head coach at Walnut Ridge High School in Columbus she readily talks about why she coaches, "To be a teacher of life skills through the game that I love," she said.

Walnut Ridge High School Athletic Director Andrew S. Hange spoke of the difference Lewis



has made at the school, "Coach Lewis' love and commitment to the development of young girls and the game of volleyball is undeniable. From day one on the Walnut Ridge Volleyball Staff, Brittani quickly began to change the mindset of our student-athletes. She has instilled in them the discipline to be model citizens and the skill set to compete," he said.

Services provided by 2 Girls Volleyball include Club (AAU TRAVEL), Teams playing abroad; Opportunities for international community service projects; Private individual and group volleyball lessons ; Skills clinics (small groups/teams) Team volleyball Camps; Individual, group and team conditioning camps.

For more information, please contact the website: www.twogirlsvolleyball.com, or email them at info@twogirlsvolleyball.com

Internship for Keia Sykes



The Columbus African American News Journal welcomes Keia Sykes. Miss Sykes joined the Columbus African American team as an intern from Columbus Alternative High School (CAHS) on September 24, 2014. She is a junior whose focus is to attend college to obtain a degree in English with an emphasis on Creative Writing and a minor in medicine.

Miss Sykes has high expectations of herself and her creativity allows her to be full of ideas. Her interests include Greek mythology, public relations and activism. She plans to go out of state to school, narrowing down her choices to Howard or Emory Universities.

Miss Sykes is very observant and is found often reading, journaling, writing poems and a couple of plays. Clubs she is currently involved with include: the CAHS School Yearbook and Newspaper, Film, Teens for Tolerance, Student Ambassador and Dance Fitness. In her free time, she likes to watch Tyler Perry plays and old reruns of Full House.

Miss Sykes will be working with the Columbus African American News Journal every Wednesday for the next six months with her term ending on April 29, 2015. Welcome aboard Keia, we are excited to have you as a part of our team!

COMMUNITYEVENTS

OCTOBER

October 6, 2014

Voters Registration Deadline

Registrations to vote in the November 4th General Election must be submitted by October 6, 2014. Registrations must be postmarked no later than thirty days before Election Day per Ohio Revised Code 3503.19. If not mailed, the registration must be at the board of elections no later than thirty days before an election.

Location: Franklin County Board of Elections

Address: 1700 Morse Rd., Columbus, OH 43229-9513

Hours: Monday–Friday 8:00am-5:00pm

Contact: (614) 525-3100

Website: vote.franklincountyohio.gov

October 8-9, 2014

City of Columbus Mayor's Small Business Conference and Expo Mayor Coleman's Women's Business Forum

The Thursday session is Women, Wealth & Power: Transforming Our Communities through Business Ownership with remarks by Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Congresswoman Joyce Beatty and Jeanette Armbrust, President, National Association of Women Business Owners-Columbus. On Friday, there will be a panel discussion of regional trends and opportunities for small businesses hosted by Bill Lafayette, CEO, Regionomics, Columbus.

Location: Hilton Columbus Downtown and the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Short North and Arena District, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Website: Columbus.gov/msbc

October 11, 2014

My Sister's Keeper Mind, Body, and Wealth Conference, Presented by National Coalition of 100 Black Women Central Ohio Chapter

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Coalition Central Ohio Chapter (NCBWCO) will host the 4th Annual My Sister's Keeper Mind, Body, and Wealth Conference.

Location: Columbus State Community College Center for Workforce Development

Address: 315 Cleveland Avenue Columbus, OH 43215

Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Admission: Free (Registration is required)

Website: <http://ncbwcentralohio.com>

October 10-12, 2014

Second Baptist Church Men's Weekend / Christian Men: Living According to God's Plan

Men of all ages and invited to join the brothers of Second Baptist Church for a dynamic weekend of teaching and learning about what it means to be a Christian Man living according to God's plan. Keynote speakers and panelist are scheduled.

Location: Second Baptist Church

Address: 186 N. 17th Street, Columbus, OH 43203

Hours: Friday: 6-8pm, Saturday: 8am-noon, Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Worship Service

October 12, 2014

Celebrating the 50th Preaching Anniversary of Dr. Charles E. Booth

Come Celebrate With Us! Join Mt. Olivet Baptist Church family and the entire community to celebrate this 50 year milestone. Guest Speker: Dr. William H. Curtis, Senior Pastor, Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Location: Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

Address: 428 E. Main Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Contact: (614) 221-3446

October 14-November 9, 2014

Broadway in Columbus: The Lion King

Experience the phenomenon of Disney's The Lion King when Columbus' best-loved musical makes a triumphant return to the Ohio Theatre.

Location: Ohio Theatre

Address: 39 E. State St., Columbus, 43215

Admission: Visit website for dates and tickets

Call: (614) 469-0939

Website: www.broadwayincolumbus.com

October 15, 2014

Women In Leadership

Come out and develop tools for being a leader and balancing family, work and life. Please bring out resume's and business cards.

Location: Buckeye Ranch

Address: 2440 Dawnlight Avenue. Columbus, OH 43211

Contact: Janee Jenkins

Call: (614) 733-8192

Admission: Free

Email: xclusiveempowerment@gmail.com

October 15 -19, 2014

Central State University Homecoming

Come to Wilberforce, Ohio to reunite with friends, faculty and future Alums. The following activities include the College of Business 16th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing, Athletic Hall of Fame Luncheon, Gospel Explosion, Homecoming Parade and football game against Concordia College. There will be a Greek Step Show, and an Alumni Generations Party. Call for more information.

Location: Central State University

Address: 1400 Brush Row Road, Wilberforce, Ohio 45384

Contact: 937-376-6011

October 19, 2014

Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon and Half-Marathon

More than 18,000 runners, walkers and wheelchair racers are expected to participate in the annual Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon and 1/2 Marathon. Dubbed the place to do 26.2, the Columbus Marathon has a reputation for being flat, fast and fun.

Location: Downtown Columbus

Hours: Sunday 7:30 a.m.

Call: (614) 421-7866

Website: www.columbusmarathon.com

Thursday, October 23, 2014**Conversation Series: "Feeling It: Gospel to Soul"**

On Thursday, October 23, the Lincoln Theatre Association will continue Conversations, a free series designed to generate community discussion on a variety of interesting questions surrounding the arts. The second event in the Lincoln Conversations Series will be "Feeling It: Gospel to Soul." The subject of the event will be the centrality of gospel music, particularly African-American gospel, to soul music. The conversation will welcome honest discussion about the tension between sacred and secular music epitomized by the career controversies surrounding such legendary performers such as Thomas Dorsey, Sam Cooke, and Aretha Franklin, all of which straddled the divide between the two genres.

This 90-minute, multi-media presentation will include a gospel performance by the Paul Laurence Dunbar Choir, a soul performance by T. Wong, and a Q&A panel featuring Dr. Ted McDaniel, professor of African-American music at The Ohio State University and Dr. Keith A. Troy, Pastor, New Salem Missionary Baptist Church. The conversation will be moderated by Lincoln Theatre General Manager Suzan Bradford and Jack Marchbanks, Lincoln Theatre Association board member and co-host of WCBE's "Jazz Sunday."

Location: Lincoln Theatre**Address:** 769 E. Long St., Columbus, OH 43203**Hour:** 6 p.m.**Admission:** Free**Contact:** (614) 719-6624**October 25, 2014****Offstage at the Jazz Academy featuring Carly Thomas Smith**

Join us for a new workshop series titled Offstage at the Jazz Academy hosted by Byron Stripling. Join Byron for a casual and engaging conversation with the wonderful guest artists of the Columbus Jazz Orchestra. Offstage at the Jazz Academy provides participants a behind-the-scenes glimpse from the artist perspective on performing with the CJO - adding new perspective to being an audience member.

Location: Jazz Academy**Address:** 769 E. Long St., Columbus, 43203**Hours:** Saturday 2-3 p.m.**Admission:** \$10, Registration is free for CJO subscribers.**Phone:** (614) 294-5200**Website:** www.jazzartsgroup.org**October 26, 2014****Making Strides Against Breast Cancer**

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer is a 5k, non-competitive walk that raises money for the American Cancer Society's breast cancer research and programs.

Location: Downtown Columbus**Hours:** Sunday 8:30 a.m.-Registration, 10 a.m.-Walk**Admission:** Refer to Making Strides Columbus' website for entry fee details**Call:** (888) 227-6446**Website:** www.makingstrideswalk.org/columbus**October 26-27, 2014****Multicultural Visit Program at Ohio University**

The Multicultural Visit Program is an overnight visit to the Ohio University campus for selected college bound students who are juniors and seniors in high school. You will get a chance to meet faculty, administrators and students, discuss your academic goals, meet potential future classmates, and acquaint yourself with Ohio University and campus life.

Location: Ohio University**Address:** Ohio University, Undergraduate Admissions, 120 Chubb Hall, Athens, Ohio 45701-2979**Contact:** (740) 593-4100**Website:** www.ohio.edu/admissions/mvp/**October 30, 2014****Next at Wex: Sinkane with Helado Negro**

It's always special to celebrate homegrown success-especially when it's as danceable and downright funky as this. Plan to be there when Sinkane returns to his home city of Columbus with his four-piece band, touring in support of his upcoming DFA Records release.

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space**Address:** 1871 N. High St., Columbus, 43210**Hours:** Thursday, 8:00-10:00 p.m.**Admission:** \$16**Call:** (614) 292-3535**Website:** www.wexarts.org**NOVEMBER****November 6, 2014****The Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery Presents "The Urban Landscape: A Tale of Grandeur and Abandonment"**

The Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery will present "The Urban Landscape: A Tale of Grandeur and Abandonment" from November 6, 2014 through January 11, 2015.

"The Urban Landscape," curated by Christine Fowler Shearer, explores the perspectives of 16 Ohio artists through original works of art that reflect on the fundamental nature of city life.

Location: Riffe Gallery at the Verne Riffe Center**Address:** 77 S. High St. Columbus, OH 43215**Hours:** 10:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.**Admission:** Free**Website:** www.oac.state.oh.us/riffe/**November 7, 2014****Jazz Arts Group's One Night Only annual celebration**

The historic Lincoln Theatre will be in full swing with the remarkable Tony Monaco Trio in the ballroom, and Columbus Youth Jazz members led by Mark Donovan in the Jazz Academy. Then the main stage spotlight shines bright on a star-studded group led by trumpet virtuoso Byron Stripling, featuring a special return appearance by Los Angeles soul singer Chris Pierce lending his incredible vocals to the bill. Finally, One Night Only dances into the night with a soulful after-party featuring MojoFlo in the ballroom as the Jazz Academy transforms into an intimate jazz club starring Anna & the Consequences to cap off the night. One Night Only showcases some of Columbus' brightest talent performing distinctly American styles, all to support the mission of the Jazz Arts Group. Please join us for this night to remember!

Location: Lincoln Theatre**Address:** 769 E. Long St., Columbus, 43203**Hours:** Friday 6:00 -11:00 p.m.**Admission:** \$50-\$150**Phone:** (614) 294-5200**Website:** www.thejazzacademy.com/secure/one-night-onl**November 9, 2014****Men's Day is coming!**

Faith Ministries Church of Columbus, Ohio is a young and vibrant congregation. Its pastor, Dr. C. Dexter Wise III, is a two time Harvard graduate who has been licensed to preach since the age of 16 and pastoring since age 23. So, Brothers get ready for two spiritually charged sermons!

Location: Faith Ministries Church**Address:** 2747 Agler Rd., Columbus, OH 43224 USA**Hours:** Sunday 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**Contact:** (614) 416-8500**Website:** FMCTV.com**Website:** bit.ly/imsummit201

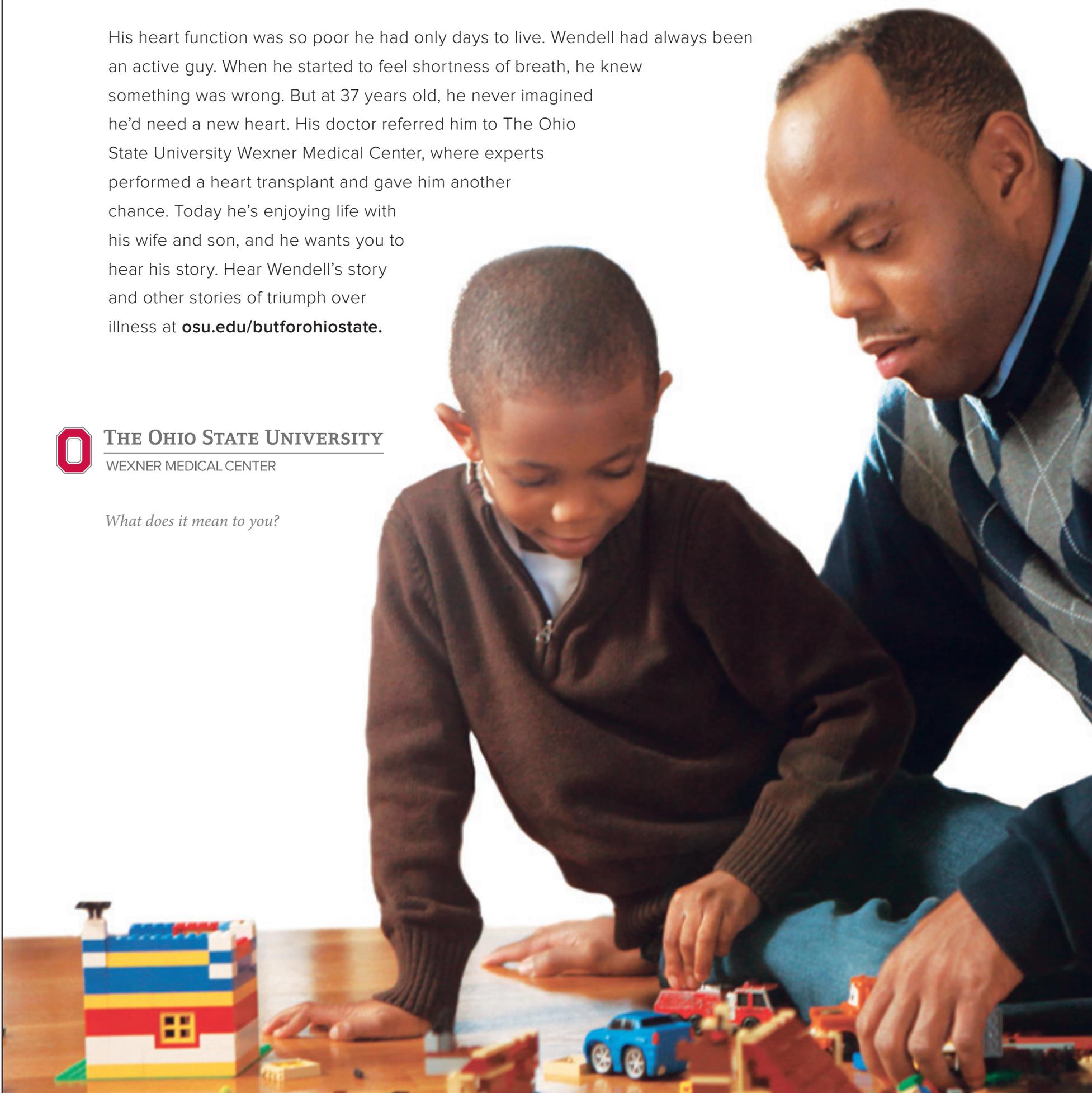
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His heart function was so poor he had only days to live. Wendell had always been an active guy. When he started to feel shortness of breath, he knew something was wrong. But at 37 years old, he never imagined he'd need a new heart. His doctor referred him to The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, where experts performed a heart transplant and gave him another chance. Today he's enjoying life with his wife and son, and he wants you to hear his story. Hear Wendell's story and other stories of triumph over illness at osu.edu/butforohiostate.



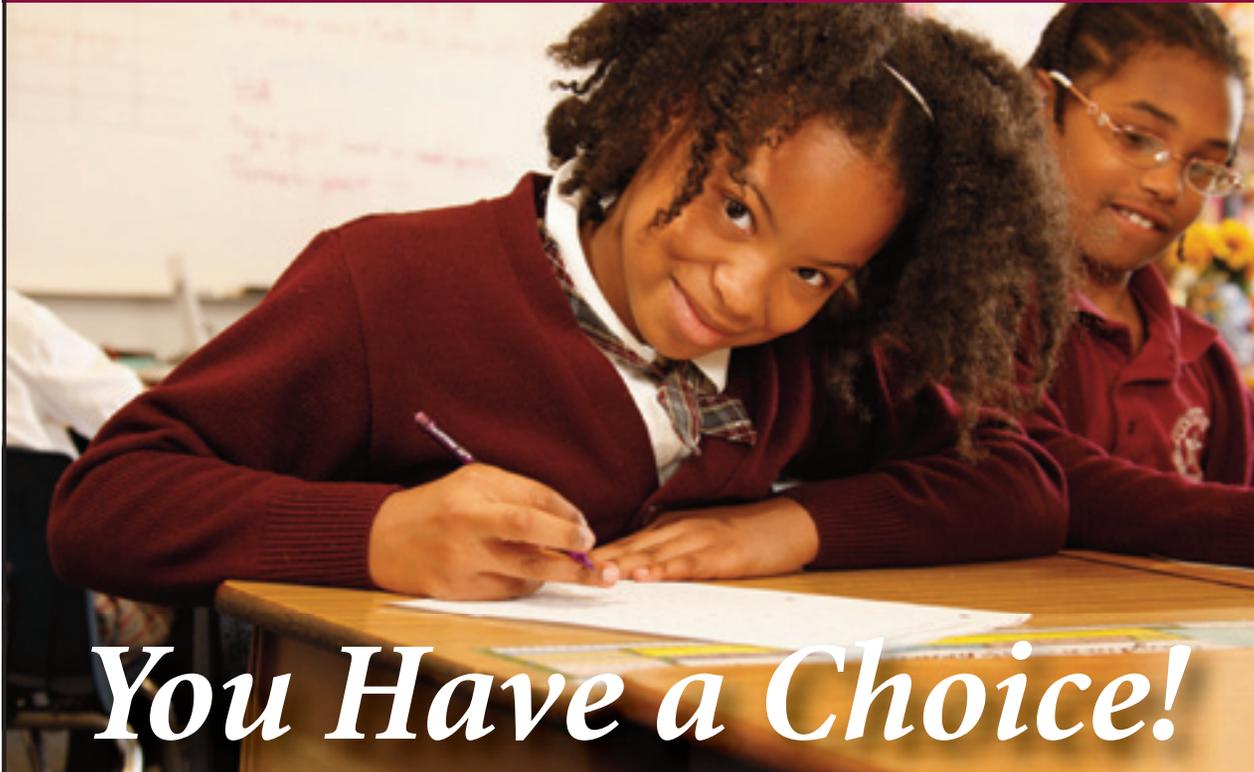
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What does it mean to you?



Wendell and his son, Isaiah – Florence, KY

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