

**2011-12 Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium Members**

**Abington School District**

Amy Sichel, Superintendent  
Abington, PA

**Allentown Area School District**

C. Russell Mayo, Superintendent  
Allentown, PA

**Brandywine School District**

Mark Holodick, Superintendent  
Claymont, DE

**Burlington Co. Institute of Technology**

Donald Lucas, Superintendent  
Westampton, NJ

**Cheltenham Township School District**

Darlene Davis, Superintendent  
Elkins Park, PA

**Cherry Hill Public Schools**

Maureen Reusche, Superintendent  
Cherry Hill, NJ

**Chester County Intermediate Unit #24**

Joe O'Brien, Executive Director  
Downingtown, PA

**Downingtown Area School District**

Lawrence Mussoline, Superintendent  
Downingtown, PA

**Easton Area School District**

Susan McGinley, Superintendent  
Easton, PA

**Hatboro-Horsham School District**

Curtis Griffin, Superintendent  
Horsham, PA

**Lenape Regional High School District**

Emily Capella, Superintendent  
Shamong, NJ

**Lindenwold Public Schools**

Geraldine Carroll, Superintendent  
Lindenwold, NJ

**Lower Merion School District**

Christopher McGinley, Superintendent  
Ardmore, PA

**Methacton School District**

Tim Quinn, Superintendent  
Eagleville, PA

**Norristown Area School District**

Janet Samuels, Superintendent  
Norristown, PA

**North Penn School District**

Curtis Dietrich, Superintendent  
Lansdale, PA

**Pennsylvania State Education Association**

James Testerman, President  
Jerry Oleksiak, Treasurer  
Linda Cook, Southeastern Region President  
James Sando, Mideastern Region President

**Perkiomen Valley School District**

Cliff Rogers, Superintendent  
Collegeville, PA

**Rose Tree Media School District**

James Wigo, Superintendent  
Media, PA

**Salem City School District**

Patrick Michel, Superintendent  
Salem, NJ

**Southeast Delco School District**

Stephen Butz, Superintendent  
Folcroft, PA

**Upper Darby School District**

Louis F. DeVlieger, Superintendent  
Drexel Hill, PA

**Upper Dublin School District**

Michael Pladus, Superintendent  
Maple Glen, PA

**Wallingford-Swarthmore School District**

Rich Noonan, Superintendent  
Wallingford, PA

**West Chester Area School District**

Jim Scanlon, Superintendent  
West Chester, PA

**Wissahickon School District**

Judith Clark, Superintendent  
Ambler, PA

**DELAWARE VALLEY  
MINORITY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT CONSORTIUM**



**2011-12  
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
DARE TO BE GREAT: LIVE YOUR DREAM!**

**December 1, 2011**

**University of Pennsylvania  
Sheraton University City Hotel  
Philadelphia, PA**



**8:15–8:45 REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

*Lower Lobby*

**9:00–9:15 WELCOME**

*Ben Franklin Ballroom 2-3-4-5*

*Dr. Robert L. Jarvis, Director  
Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium  
Penn Center for Educational Leadership  
Graduate School of Education  
University of Pennsylvania*



**9:15–10:00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS:  
DARE TO BE GREAT: LIVE YOUR DREAM**

*Ben Franklin Ballroom 2-3-4-5*



*Mr. Carlos Ojeda, President & CEO  
CoolSpeak  
Pottsgrove, PA*

Carlos has been called one of the most dynamic speakers under thirty in America today and the remarkable journey of his life began in the streets of Newark, NJ and later to Reading, PA where his immigrant parents saw opportunities for themselves and for their first generation Puerto Rican children.

Growing up for Carlos proved to be a difficult task, especially in school. Not understanding his social, economic and cultural background, many of his high school teachers told him he would never amount to anything. One teacher once called him, “the greatest piece of garbage he had ever seen.” Yet his drive, passion and dreams led him to overcome those obstacles and pursue a career of life-long learning and

educational success, being the first person in his family to graduate from college with honors. His experiences have led him to always remind young people to, “never, ever, ever let anyone tell you who you are or what you will become. That’s your destiny to fulfill, no one else’s.”

Carlo’s obsession with living life completely and passionately is only rivaled by his desire to share his message. Because of this he has become a published writer, poet and speaker. He lives his life according to the saying, “life is not measured by the breaths that you take, but rather by the moments in life that take your breath away.” And adds to it by proclaiming, “it doesn’t matter how long you live, it matters what you do while you live.”

It is his belief that human progress comes through the determined efforts to promote education, social activism and entrepreneurship in our youths. According to him, “every second that you live, every breath that you take, is a second and a breath that you have to turn it all around.” He sees now as the time to transform the youth into leaders of today, not tomorrow.

Carlos received his bachelor's degree in Business Management with a Minor in Marketing and a Minor in Law from Bloomsburg University, and his Master's in Business Administration with a focus in business development, entrepreneurship and organization development from Kutztown University.

**6. “MY CONFIDENCE + (MY CHOICES) – MY HATERS = MY SUCCESS:  
WHAT I NEED TO KNOW TO SUCCEED”**

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Chuck Williams, Assistant Clinical Professor and Director  
Center for the Prevention of School-Aged Violence School of Education  
Drexel University Philadelphia, PA

**ROOM:** William Penn 2

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:** In this session we will explore and discuss issues of bullying and self-esteem. The popular conception of minority achievement will also be explored, using President Barack Obama and rapper T. I. as two different models of achievement. We will also view a few popular music videos to determine what types of messages are being presented and/or reinforced, and the impact they have on how you think about your own success, in the classroom and in life. Youth will also have an opportunity to share their successes, with the hopes of inspiring their peers.

**1:45–2:15 FINAL REFLECTIONS: CONTINUING THE MOMENTUM**

*Ben Franklin Ballroom 2-3-4-5*

**2:15–2:30 BUSES DEPART**

*Special thanks go to the dedicated teachers, guidance counselors and school administrators from our Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium school districts for their extraordinary leadership and support in organizing this event!*

**3. "POWER OF YOUTH"**

**PRESENTER:** Mr. Carlos Ojeda  
**ROOM:** Ben Franklin 1

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:** When it comes to leadership we tend to think about President's, CEO's, and famous leaders like Martin Luther King, and Cesar Chavez. We may not consider ourselves leaders just because we are not in the spotlight or recognized across the globe. However, this session will teach us all that we are leaders, that we have the power to change. Power isn't about being famous or being the loudest. It's about leading now and moving our community towards a brighter future as a whole and not as individuals. Learn about how the power of youth is all about you.

**4. "CODE SWITCHING OR KEEPING IT REAL? A CONVERSATION ON STANDARD ENGLISH VS ETHNIC SLANG AND HOW IT MAY AFFECT YOU"**

**PRESENTER:** Mrs. Andrea Lawful-Trainer, Educational Consultant and Parent  
 Mrs. Robyn Tucker, Parent Abington School District, Abington, PA  
**ROOM:** William Penn 1

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:** This workshop is designed to be a spirited conversation between the youth and the two facilitators on the merits/ consequences of speaking in a manner that may be misconstrued as negative or "trash" talking. When is it appropriate? Are you losing your identity if you "Code Switch?" The presenters are parents of teenagers who sit on both sides of the spectrum and will keep you laughing while giving you food for thought on why first impressions are often lasting ones. Come and discuss with these adults how you can remain true to yourself and keep your identity in an increasingly competitive school environment without being perceived as offensive.

**5. "(INSIDER)": WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF COLLEGE**

**PRESENTER:** Undergraduate Student Leaders from the University of Pennsylvania —  
 Monica Castañeda • Jenn Gamarra • Danny Keyes • Taylor Mclendon •  
 Isamar Ramirez  
**ROOM:** Chestnut

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:** Too often, students of color may feel like they do not have peers to learn from or model in college. A lack of people "like me" in college can lead to feelings of isolation, resentment, and inadequacy. It may be even more difficult when you don't have anyone at home to relate to. These feelings could prevent you from fully engaging in the college experience or even worse, cause you to drop out. In this session, current college students will share their "insider" experiences in higher education and offer advice from a student of color perspective. Get answers to questions that you may not get to ask your school counselor or family. Empower yourself with firsthand insight so that you can successfully navigate the path of college.

**10:05–11:25 MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**1. "(INSIDER)": WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF COLLEGE**

**PRESENTER:** Undergraduate Student Leaders from the University of Pennsylvania —  
 Richard Amador • Zalima Barazani • Oyinkan Muraina • Pedro Reyes •  
 Lindsey Todd • Joseph Umanzor  
**ROOM:** Chestnut

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:** Too often, students of color may feel like they do not have peers to learn from or model in college. A lack of people "like me" in college can lead to feelings of isolation, resentment, and inadequacy. It may be even more difficult when you don't have anyone at home to relate to. These feelings could prevent you from fully engaging in the college experience or even worse, cause you to drop out. In this session, current college students will share their "insider" experiences in higher education and offer advice from a student of color perspective. Get answers to questions that you may not get to ask your school counselor or family. Empower yourself with firsthand insight so that you can successfully navigate the path of college.

**2. "POWER OF YOUTH"**

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**4. "DISCOVERING YOUR PURPOSE AND PASSION"**

**PRESENTER:** Mr. Omar Barlow, CEO and Principal, Eastern University Academy Charter School and Barlow Enterprises: *Work. Love. Live. BE More Excellent*, Cheltenham, PA  
**ROOM:** University 1

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:** The greatest men and women are very clear about their purpose. They know that their lives are extremely significant. Knowing it, they intentionally seek to uniquely express their passions, gifts, and talents. The discovery of their reason for existence enables them to transcend countless barriers to success. This process equips you to acquire the keys to discovering your purpose. You will learn why the fulfillment of purpose is the ultimate measure of success. Once you learn these essential principles, your entire perspective will change, and so will your life!!!

**5. "MY CONFIDENCE + (MY CHOICES) - MY HATERS = MY SUCCESS: WHAT I NEED TO KNOW TO SUCCEED"**

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Chuck Williams, Assistant Clinical Professor and Director Center for the Prevention of School-Aged Violence School of Education Drexel University Philadelphia, PA  
**ROOM:** William Penn 2

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:** In this session we will explore and discuss issues of bullying and self-esteem. The popular conception of minority achievement will also be explored, using President Barack Obama and rapper T. I. as two different models of achievement. We will also view a few popular music videos to determine what types of messages are being presented and/or reinforced, and the impact they have on how you think about your own success, in the classroom and in life. Youth will also have an opportunity to share their successes, with the hopes of inspiring their peers.

**6. "STILL I RISE"**

**PRESENTER:** Mr. Ron Johnson, Former Philadelphia Eagle, Ron's Rising Stars Youth Football Camps, Philadelphia, PA  
**ROOM:** University 2

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:** Former Philadelphia Eagle defensive end Ron Johnson speaks about the obstacles and challenges that he had to overcome throughout life to reach his ultimate lifelong dream of playing in the National Football League. Growing up he excelled in every sport he played, but did not excel nearly as well in the classroom. At the age of eighteen he had to make some important decisions and learn how to be accountable and responsible for his actions if he was going to succeed in life and achieve his dreams. Mr Johnson will share his strategies for overcoming adversity, striving to be the best on and off the field, and the importance of your education. Throughout life we will all get knocked down just like in the game of football, but you must keep getting up and Rise towards accomplishing your goals and dreams.

11:30-12:15 LUNCH/MIX & MINGLE

*Ben Franklin Ballroom 2-3-4-5*

12:15-1:30 BREAKOUT SESSIONS II

**1. "NO BOYS ALLOWED: UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES OF BEING A YOUNG WOMAN OF COLOR IN HIGH SCHOOL"**

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Crystal Lucky, Associate Professor of English, Africana Studies and Women Studies, Villanova University, Villanova, PA  
**ROOM:** University 1

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:** Today, the media messages aimed at girls and young women are mixed. You can be and do anything you want! The sky is the limit for women to achieve! But there seem to be many models from which to choose for examples. It is not uncommon for young women to wonder if they should try to be like Michelle Obama or Beyonce, Oprah or Sanaa Lathan. Is it possible for young women of color to be smart, strong, sexy and responsible all at the same time? In this session, we will talk about all these questions and the challenges of knowing the best choices to make to achieve success.

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