Discovering the Power of You:

Design Your Plan, Work the Plan

University of Pennsylvania
Sheraton University City Hotel
36th & Chestnut Sts.
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

Ben Franklin Ballroom 2–3–4–5

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<tr>
<th>Mr. Carlos Ojeda, President &amp; CEO</th>
<th>CoolSpeak</th>
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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.”

Carlos’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 entrepreneurism 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.

10:10–11:20  MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

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

MODERATOR: Ms. Jasmin Porter
Salem City School District
Salem, NJ

ROOM: University 2

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.
### 2. “ONE SCHOOL’S JOURNEY: BLACK SCHOLARS”

**PRESENTER:** Cheltenham High School Student Leaders — Christian Michel · Jazara Morales · Ally Oliver · Brittany Perry · Jessica Vaden · Jordan Williams · with Dr. Jill Parker–Clark, Assistant Principal and Mr. Craig Metcalfe, Teacher  
School District of Cheltenham Township  
Elkins Park, PA

**ROOM:** Fairmount Suite

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:** So often students are inundated with homework assignments and the daily grind that they lose sight of the big picture – which is their future and their ability to meet with success. Meet students from Cheltenham High School’s Black Scholars Program who will share key components of their success and how they have changed the face of the school. Hear about their respective journeys and what they are planning for their futures. You can learn from their mistakes and forge ahead to your tomorrow! This session will enlighten you! Scholars will share various activities that you can mimic at your school and make school a place that you look forward to attending. Explore the various ways that you can create your own destiny and have fun at the same time. In this session you can look forward to interactive games and tips to take back to your school tomorrow!

### 3. “GOING FOR THE GOAL”

**PRESENTER:** Mr. Mario Henry, Former Wide Receiver  
New England Patriots and Founder, HALO America  
Mt. Holly, NJ

**MODERATOR:** Ms. Shayla Farmer  
Lenape Regional High School District  
Shamong, NJ

**ROOM:** William Penn 2

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:** Pro football is an amazing goal: only 1 in 248,000 make it to the NFL. It also represents an end for most athletes that make it to this level. Former wide receiver Mario Henry will use football as a metaphor for setting goals towards success, and using that success to create additional goals. He will also share an array of stories, including moving from the field to the boardroom once his career was over. This interactive session will allow you to visualize your dreams, and set a robust tone for long–lasting self–determination.

### 4. “DISCOVERING YOUR PURPOSE AND PASSION”

**PRESENTER:** Mr. Omar Barlow, CEO & Principal, Eastern University Academy Charter School and Mrs. Jeneen Barlow, CEO & Co–Founder, Barlow Enterprises  
Cheltenham, PA

**MODERATOR:** Mr. Kaiyiid Freeman  
Lindenwold Public School District  
Lindenwold, NJ

**ROOM:** Chestnut

**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. “POWER OF YOUTH”

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

**MODERATOR:** Ms. Erica Rutledge  
Norristown Area School District  
Norristown, PA

**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.
6. “YOU ARE WHAT YOU THINK YOU ARE”

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Griselda Rodriguez, Assistant Director
International Studies Program
The City College of New York
New York, NY

**MODERATOR:** Ms. Christie Bradley
Lower Merion School District
Ardmore, PA

**ROOM:** William Penn 1

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:** This interactive and educational workshop uses an array of tools to guide students as they learn to explore the power of their sense of self. Existing academic and medical research illustrates that high levels of self-esteem are positively correlated with high levels of educational achievement and leadership. A strong sense of self, therefore, is essential to creating leaders. Students will feel prepared to believe that they have more control over their futures than they may have thought.

7. “INTO THE FUTURE”

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Robert R. Jennings, President
Lincoln University, PA

**MODERATOR:** Mr. Dasaan McCrimmon-Green
Abington School District
Abington, PA

**ROOM:** University 1

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:** This 70-minute workshop is designed to help participants explore some of the social, technological, environmental, economic and political trends and events that are likely to occur over the next 20 years; and focus on the impact these trends and events may have on life’s functioning. Participants will view a short film and discuss the impact of it on their life’s mid and short-term future. Participants will also develop a mid-range plan for the next five to seven years with attendant actions that may help them develop strategies and actions toward goal attainment and a preferred future as opposed to a probable or possible future.
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Villanova University  
Villanova, PA  

**MODERATOR:** Ms. Mary Pollard  
Cherry Hill Public Schools  
Cherry Hill, NJ  

**ROOM:** University 2  

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**1:40–2:15**  
**GENERAL SESSION — PROCESSING THE WORKSHOPS: WHAT’S YOUR PLAN?**  

**Ben Franklin Ballroom 2–3–4–5**

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:** Group Leaders will assist their students in reflecting upon the day’s activities and message. Direct students to complete a thorough road map for success that includes long-term and short-term goals, steps to success, potential barriers, and ways to overcome the barriers.

**2:15–2:30**  
**BUSES DEPART**

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*Thank you to ALL of 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!*

**Special thanks to:**

- **Pat Alford, Southeast Delco**  
- **Jill Clark, Cheltenham**  
- **Carla Coleman, Lower Merion**  
- **Marjorie Diegue, North Penn**  
- **Yanell Holiday, Cherry Hill**  
- **David Hunt, Salem City**  
- **Michelle Jones, Colonial**  
- **Doug Kent, Spring-Ford**  
- **Jessica Knier, Downingtown**  
- **Cheryl Langdon, Lower Merion**  
- **Melanie Martin, Lindenwald**  
- **Nichole Mitchell, Norristown**  
- **Bill Murray, Lenape**  
- **David Poindexter (Retired), Cheltenham**  
- **Adam Slavin, Upper Merion**  
- **Joseph Tagliatella, Abington**  
- **Eleanor Watts, Abington**  
- **Nicole Williams, Abington**  
- **Andrea Wilson-Harvey, Lower Merion**
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