

6th ANNUAL

DELAWARE VALLEY MINORITY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT CONSORTIUM
MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



November 29, 2012

A.C.T.: Accomplish Challenges Together

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



Working Together
Achieving Together

Delaware Valley Minority
Student Achievement Consortium

Penn Center for
Educational
LEADERSHIP



Graduate School of Education
PennGSE

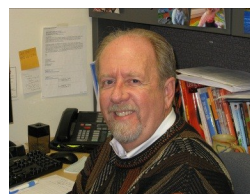
8:15–8:45 REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Lower Lobby

9:00–9:15 WELCOME

Ben Franklin Ballrooms

*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 Ballrooms



*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 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.

10:10–11:05 MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1. "BULLIES, PARENTS & TEACHERS – OMG: HOW TO FIND MY OWN VOICE"

PRESENTER: Dr. Chuck Williams, Associate Teaching Professor,
School of Education and Department of Psychology,
& Founding Director,
Center for the Prevention of School-Aged Violence

MODERATOR: Ms. Kimberly Ruizsingh
Spring-Ford Area School District
Royersford, PA

ROOM: University 2

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Students will explore and discuss issues related to bullying, self-esteem and peer pressure. Issues related to belonging and wanting to "fit in" will also be examined. We will also view a few videos of youth discussing some of the challenges which they face; this will provide the basis for interactive group activities. Youth will also have an opportunity to share their successes, with the hopes of inspiring their peers.

10:10–11:05 MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS (CONTINUED)

2. *“LESSONS WE HAVE LEARNED: FINDING & MAKING TIME FOR SUCCESS”*

PRESENTER: Abington Senior High School Student Leaders —
 Robert Boggs · Deja Bradley · Brandon Houston ·
 Jazmin Jarvis · Maurice Jenkins · Kion Smith ·
 Cristal Bruce · Danae Reid
 with Ms. Nicole Williams, School Counselor
 Abington School District, Abington, PA

ROOM: Fairmount 1

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Student leaders from Abington Senior High School will come together to share the do’s and don’ts of navigating the sometimes slippery slopes of high school. The panel will discuss their own successes and struggles as well as give survival tips geared toward how their middle school audience might learn from their experiences. This workshop is student-centered, and will include interactive discussion and time for questions.

3. *“KA-POW—IT’S ME!”*

PRESENTER: Mr. James Wilson, Jr., President
 SuccessConnect
 Philadelphia, PA

MODERATOR: Ms. Deanna Mason
 Rose Tree Media School District
 Media, PA

ROOM: William Penn 2

SESSION DESCRIPTION: The way we see things around us, is largely based on how we see ourselves. Whether we see ourselves as a failure or success will determine how far we go in these areas. However, switching from failure to success in any area doesn’t take monumental changes, but small incremental shifts. This workshop will equip you with tools to experience these small “KAPOW” moments and help you develop a healthy self-image. During this candid workshop you will be empowered to break through barriers of insecurity, and destructive habits to form a self-image that is both healthy and beneficial to you and the world around you. Come have fun and learn how to “KAPOW” into your future!

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 & Parent
 Mrs. Robyn Tucker, Parent
 Abington School District, Abington, PA

MODERATOR: Ms. Krysten Brown
 Southeast Delco School District
 Folcroft, PA

ROOM: Chestnut

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. *“POWER OF YOUTH”*

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

MODERATOR: Ms. Annie Williams
 Downingtown Area School District
 Downingtown, PA

ROOM: Fairmount 2

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.

Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium

10:10–11:05 MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS (CONTINUED)

6. *"RE-EVAL-YOU-8"*

PRESENTER: Step Above — Mr. Mena Badros,
Assistant Vice President
and Mr. Jonathan Jimenez
CoolSpeak

MODERATOR: Ms. Marissa Emerson
Upper Merion Area School District
King of Prussia, PA
ROOM: William Penn 1

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Through this workshop, students will be challenged with asking themselves difficult questions about identity. They will explore what drives and motivates them and, as a result, the students will be able to better identify how their personal needs, desires, and wants can help guide their path toward reaching goals.

7. *"YOU HAVE TO DO YOU!"*

PRESENTER: Dr. Thomas Butler, Educational Consultant and
Former Executive Director of Project GRAD Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

MODERATOR: Mr. Merchant Wiggins
Lower Merion School District
Ardmore, PA
ROOM: University 1

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Middle grade years are a wonderful time for exploring who you are and what you can become. This workshop will explore leadership through preparation for college. Now is the time to get to know yourself. During this session you will learn about the "tools you'll need in your toolbox." Understand why what you do now prepares you for a promising future in college and then careers. Your future is in your control—we'll discuss how to navigate the process.

Thomas Butler is a College Access and Success expert that has helped guide hundreds of students toward a successful life in college and beyond. His words of wisdom and encouragement have elevated young and old.

11:15–12:10 LATE MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1. *"KA-POW—IT'S ME!"*

PRESENTER: Mr. James Wilson, Jr., President
SuccessConnect
Philadelphia, PA

MODERATOR: Mr. Spencer Tomlinson
West Chester Area School District
West Chester, PA
ROOM: William Penn 2

SESSION DESCRIPTION: The way we see things around us, is largely based on how we see ourselves. Whether we see ourselves as a failure or success will determine how far we go in these areas. However, switching from failure to success in any area doesn't take monumental changes, but small incremental shifts. This workshop will equip you with tools to experience these small "KAPOW" moments and help you develop a healthy self-image. During this candid workshop you will be empowered to break through barriers of insecurity, and destructive habits to form a self-image that is both healthy and beneficial to you and the world around you. Come have fun and learn how to "KAPOW" into your future!

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Southeast Delco School District
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ROOM: Chestnut

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School of Education and Department of Psychology,
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Center for the Prevention of School-Aged Violence
Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

MODERATOR: Ms. Kimberly Ruizsingh
Spring-Ford Area School District
Royersford, PA
ROOM: University 2

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MODERATOR: Mr. Merchant Wiggins
Lower Merion School District
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ROOM: University 1

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6. *“RE-EVAL-YOU-8”*

PRESENTER: Step Above — Mr. Mena Badros,
Assistant Vice President
and Mr. Jonathan Jimenez
CoolSpeak

MODERATOR: Ms. Mayra Guerra
Colonial School District
New Castle, DE
ROOM: William Penn 1

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Through this workshop, students will be challenged with asking themselves difficult questions about identity. They will explore what drives and motivates them and, as a result, the students will be able to better identify how their personal needs, desires, and wants can help guide their path toward reaching goals.

Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium

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7. "POWER OF YOUTH"

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MODERATOR: Ms. Annie Williams
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Downingtown, PA

ROOM: Fairmount 2

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12:15–1:10 GENERAL SESSION — FEEDBACK AND LUNCH

Ben Franklin Ballrooms

1:15–2:00 GENERAL SESSION — STEP ABOVE PRESENTS: DETENTION

Ben Franklin Ballrooms

DETENTION unfolds the story of high school students who find themselves forced to interact for the first time. Step Above takes students through the varying life experiences of the students, where, at a twist, the students find themselves faced with the same questions and concerns about identity and the roads each is traveling. The performance **DETENTION** tackles the major issue of identity and engages students in an entertaining and unique way in order to inspire and guide the students to positively develop their identity.



2:00–2:15 BUSES DEPART

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, Lindenwold
Nichole Mitchell, Norristown
Bill Murray, Lenape
David Poindexter (Retired), Cheltenham
Adam Slavin, Upper Merion
Joseph Tagliaferro, Abington
Eleanor Watts, Abington
Nicole Williams, Abington
Andrea Wilson-Harvey, Lower Merion*

2012-13 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

Bensalem Township School District

David E. Baugh, Superintendent
Bensalem, PA

Brandywine School District

Mark Holodick, Superintendent
Claymont, DE

Burlington Co. Institute of Technology

Donald Lucas, Superintendent
Westampton, NJ

School District of Cheltenham Township

Darlene Davis, Superintendent
Elkins Park, PA

Cherry Hill Public Schools

Maureen Reusche, Superintendent
Cherry Hill, NJ

Chester County Intermediate Unit #24

Joseph O'Brien, Executive Director
Downingtown, PA

Colonial School District

Dorothy Linn, Superintendent
New Castle, DE

Downingtown Area School District

Lawrence Mussoline, Superintendent
Downingtown, PA

Hatboro-Horsham School District

Curtis Griffin, Superintendent
Horsham, PA

Lenape Regional High School District

Carol Birnbohm, Superintendent
Shamong, NJ

Lindenwold Public Schools

Geraldine Carroll, Superintendent
Lindenwold, NJ

Lower Merion School District

Christopher McGinley, Superintendent
Ardmore, PA

Methacton School District

Timothy 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

Michael Crossey, President
Jerry Oleksiak, Vice President
Harrisburg, PA

Red Bank Regional High School District

James Stefankiewicz, Superintendent
Little Silver, NJ

Red Clay Consolidated School District

Mervin Daugherty, Superintendent
Wilmington, DE

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

Spring-Ford Area School District

David Goodin, Superintendent
Royersford, PA

Upper Dublin School District

Michael Pladus, Superintendent
Maple Glen, PA

Upper Merion Area School District

Melissa Jamula, Superintendent
King of Prussia, PA

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District

Richard Noonan, Superintendent
Wallingford, PA

West Chester Area School District

James Scanlon, Superintendent
West Chester, PA

Wissahickon School District

Judith Clark, Superintendent
Ambler, PA