

THE DELAWARE VALLEY MINORITY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT CONSORTIUM



**FALL 2008
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

***“EMBRACE YOUR CULTURE:
EMBRACE YOUR SUCCESS”***

December 5, 2008



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

**2008-09
FALL HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
PROGRAM**

8:15-8:45 **REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**
Lower Lobby

9:00-9:15 **WELCOME**
Ben Franklin Ballroom 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

Dr. James R. Roebuck, Jr.
State Representative 188th Legislative District
Chairman, House Education Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Harrisburg, PA

9:15-10:00 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Ben Franklin Ballroom 3-4-5

Introduction: Mrs. Bernice Green, Lower Merion School District

***“I WILL DETERMINE MY OWN
GREATNESS”***



Mr. Salome Thomas-EL, Principal
Russell Byers Charter School
Philadelphia, PA

Mr. Thomas-El grew up without a father in the home, one of eight kids born to a poor inner-city Philadelphia mom. He struggled with his own poverty, as well as the neighborhood's negative attitude towards education. He persisted though, and overcame, returning to his home town to teach middle-school students. Now he is the principal, but still tries to spend time in the classroom, working directly with kids. He constantly drives home the message that **hard work, preparation and lofty goals deliver results**. Arnold Schwarzenegger was so impressed by Thomas-EL during a visit in 1999 that he "came bahhkh" in 2000. His foundation awarded the school a \$20,000 grant.

To parents and educators, he emphasizes involvement in their children's lives, and the setting of a positive role model. This interaction provides what he terms "**the immortality of influence**."

Although he learned the game of chess from an older brother at an early age, he never really did anything with it until he became a teacher, and then decided to pick the game up again as a way to teach his students some of the many life-lessons to be gleaned from the game, including decision-making, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills. And through it all, he maintains a constant drum-beat of a message:

"Education is the only salvation."

His success with his kids in the chess arena has been well documented. Eight national championships in the first year alone. But it's the success helping kids change their lives for the better that most inspires Thomas-El. Many of his kids became motivated to stay in school, graduate and go on to college.

Says Thomas-El of the kid's success, "They had been inspired and motivated by good teachers to know that **if you work hard, there's nothing you can't do**." He now works to spread chess to all school children, working with America's Foundation for Chess. Disney Studios is preparing to film Thomas-El's life story, based on his autobiography, and starring Will Smith.

10:15-11:30 MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1. "WATCHING YOURSELF BEING WATCHED: SCHOOL COMMUNITIES AND THE CHALLENGE OF ETHNIC STEREOTYPES"

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

MODERATOR: Kevin Dougherty
Wissahickon High School
Wissahickon School District

ROOM: Ben Franklin 1

SESSION DESCRIPTION: For minority students the reality of life in predominately white schools highlights students' awareness that they are inevitably being observed and evaluated, often clouded through a lens clouded by racial stereotype. For these young people the resulting experience is often confusing, at times empowering, and always challenging. This session will ask students to reflect on visual and literary examples in their everyday lives and will require some reading, writing, and small group discussion.

2. "THE POWER OF THE SPOKEN WORD"

PRESENTER: Mr. Christo Johnson, Educator and Author
Lansdowne, PA

MODERATOR: Lorenzo Henderson
Bensalem High School
Bensalem School District

ROOM: Ben Franklin 2

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This workshop will focus on the perseverance of African American culture, pursuing goals, and analyzing society through the art of spoken word poetry. Mr. Johnson will perform original poetry and engage students in conversations about their power to create change through poetry. Students will develop and be encouraged to share their poetry at this workshop.

3. "THE WILL AND DESIRE TO SUCCEED: A PERSONAL STORY OF THE AMERICAN DREAM"

PRESENTER: Mr. Hector Lopez, President and CEO, Cimientos & Structure Strategy Group And Associate Vice President for Government, Community and Public Relations for the National Hispanic Institute
Havertown, PA

MODERATOR: Jim Ewart
Truman High School
Bristol Township School District

ROOM: Fairmount Suite 1

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Mr. Lopez is a Texas native of the US border city of El Paso. As a first generation American born of Mexican parents, he will share his amazing story of school and professional success, and his lifelong service commitment to diverse communities in our country and throughout the world. He will share with you critical beliefs, values and strategies that have assisted him in his journey toward achieving the American Dream.

4. "YOUR SKILLS, YOURSELF, YOUR FUTURE..."

PRESENTER: Mr. Marshall Mitchell, Founder
Different Drummer Marketing
Washington, DC

MODERATOR: David Poindexter
Elkins Park School
Cheltenham Township School District

ROOM: Chestnut

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session will focus on marketing and selling yourself in college and beyond. Specific attention will be focused on assisting you in accomplishing your goals in college and beyond based upon your skills and habits.

5. "SEVEN SECRETS OF HOW TO STUDY: MAPPING YOUR STRATEGY FOR BETTER GRADES"

PRESENTER: Dr. Stephen Jones, Educational Consultant, Author, President of SAJ Publishing.
And Associate Dean for Students and Strategic Planning in the College of Engineering

Villanova University
Springfield, PA

MODERATOR: Bernice Green
Harriton High School
Lower Merion School District

ROOM: University

SESSION DESCRIPTION: When some students think about studying, they get frustrated because it seems that no matter how hard they study they can't obtain the grades they would like. It can be confusing when the information you receive in class doesn't appear to agree with what you see on your exams. Some students study long hours but never earn better grades. There is one solution to this problem: You must learn how to study smart.

Come learn about some specific strategies you can use right now that will make a difference your current and future school success. Come learn some new study habits that will reduce procrastination and transform your motivation to learn. The workshop will highlight key ideas from Dr. Jones' book, "Seven Secrets of How to Study".

6. "THINKING ABOUT GETTING INTO YOUR COLLEGE OF CHOICE NOW"

PRESENTERS: Dr. Doreen Loury, Assistant Professor of Sociology
Arcadia University
Glenside, PA

Ms. Laura Reddick, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA

MODERATOR: Ken Kelman
Morrisville High School
Morrisville School District

ROOM: Fairmount Suite 2

SESSION DESCRIPTION: If you haven't already, start your college planning now! Increasingly high school students must have a better, more refined sense of their short-term and long-term goals and futures. College choices have an enormous impact upon the shaping of young people's futures in a way that they did not in the past.

7. "FOLLOW THE LEADER"

PRESENTER: Mr. Salome Thomas-EL, CEO and President
Russell Byers Charter School
Philadelphia, PA

MODERATOR: Edward Hill
Collingswood High School
Collingswood School District

ROOM: William Penn Suite

SESSION DESCRIPTION: In this follow-up to his keynote presentation, Mr. Thomas-EL will discuss with students how they can become leaders in their own schools, families and communities. He will inspire, motivate and celebrate the students, while teaching them the importance of appreciating the adults who choose to stay in their lives. His message will bring hope and practicality to the young adults in a wonderfully accessible manner. He expects every student to leave his session believing that their friends are on the way or in the way!

11:30-12:30 LUNCH/THE SPOKEN WORD WITH MR. CHRISTO JOHNSON/MIX AND MINGLE
Ben Franklin Ballroom 3-4-5

12:45-2:00 AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1. "WATCHING YOURSELF BEING WATCHED: SCHOOL COMMUNITIES AND THE CHALLENGE OF ETHNIC STEREOTYPES"

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

MODERATOR: Cynthia Garvin
Penncrest High School
Rose Tree Media School District

ROOM: Ben Franklin 1

SESSION DESCRIPTION: For minority students the reality of life in predominately white schools highlights students' awareness that they are inevitably being observed and evaluated, often clouded through a lens clouded by racial stereotype. For these young people the resulting experience is often confusing, at times empowering, and always challenging. This session will ask students to reflect on visual and literary examples in their everyday lives and will require some reading, writing, and small group discussion.

2. "TAKING LIFE'S CURVEBALLS AND KNOCKING THEM OUT OF THE PARK!"

PRESENTER: The Honorable Judge Renee Hughes
Court of Common Pleas
The Criminal Justice Center
Philadelphia, PA

MODERATOR: Joe Tagliaferro
Abington High School
Abington School District

ROOM: William Penn Suite

SESSION DESCRIPTION: The objective of this session will be to share strategies with our students for dealing with life's challenges and to help the student use those challenges to leverage the student to a higher and better place. Students should be prepared to ask frank questions and to receive frank answers. Leaders don't wait for opportunity but rather CREATE opportunity!

Students will create a self-inventory of strengths and resources, learn about programs available from the PA Department of Education, and review their school's student services and support efforts through the wellness and resiliency framework.

Participants will work with partners and teams to plan and create mini-action plans for their individual and school improvement next steps. All students will receive a resource packet of materials, and there will be ample time for questions.

3. "THINKING ABOUT GETTING INTO YOUR COLLEGE OF CHOICE NOW"

PRESENTERS: Dr. Doreen Loury, Assistant Professor of Sociology
Arcadia University
Glenside, PA

Ms. Laura Reddick, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA

MODERATOR: Kim Jackson
Upper Merion Area High School
Upper Merion School District

ROOM: Fairmount Suite 2

SESSION DESCRIPTION: If you haven't already, start your college planning now! Increasingly high school students must have a better, more refined sense of their short-term and long-term goals and futures. College choices have an enormous impact upon the shaping of young people's futures in a way that they did not in the past.

4. "THE WILL AND DESIRE TO SUCCEED: A PERSONAL STORY OF THE AMERICAN DREAM"

PRESENTER: Mr. Hector Lopez, President and CEO, Cimientos & Structure Strategy Group And Associate Vice President for Government, Community and Public Relations for the National Hispanic Institute
Havertown, PA

MODERATOR: Michael Barber
Kennett High School
Kennett Consolidated School District

ROOM: Fairmount Suite 1

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Mr. Lopez is a Texas native of the US border city of El Paso. As a first generation American born of Mexican parents, he will share his amazing story of school and professional success, and his lifelong service commitment to diverse communities in our country and throughout the world. He will share with you critical beliefs, values and strategies that have assisted him in his journey toward achieving the American Dream.

5. "YOUR SKILLS, YOURSELF, YOUR FUTURE..."

PRESENTER: Mr. Marshall Mitchell, Founder
Different Drummer Marketing
Washington, DC

MODERATOR: Yanell Holiday
Cherry Hill Public Schools

ROOM: Chestnut

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session will focus on marketing and selling yourself in college and beyond. Specific attention will be focused on assisting you in accomplishing your goals in college and beyond based upon your skills and habits.

6. "THE POWER OF THE SPOKEN WORD"

PRESENTER: Mr. Christo Johnson, Educator and Author
Lansdowne, PA

MODERATOR: Helen Douglass-Garrett
Penncrest High School
Rose Tree Media School District

ROOM: Ben Franklin 2

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This workshop will focus on the perseverance of African American culture, pursuing goals, and analyzing society through the art of spoken word poetry. Mr. Johnson will perform original poetry and engage students in conversations about their power to create change through poetry. Students will develop and be encouraged to share their poetry at this workshop.

2:15

BUSES DEPART

Special thanks to Mrs. Bernice Green from the Lower Merion School District for her leadership in organizing this event with support of many dedicated teachers, counselors and school administrators from our Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium school districts

2008-09

Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium
Member School Districts and Affiliate County Intermediate Units

Abington School District

Amy Sichel, Superintendent
Abington, PA

Brandywine School District

James Scanlon, Superintendent
Claymont, DE

Centennial School District

Sandy Homel, Interim Superintendent
Warminster, PA

Cherry Hill Public Schools

David Campbell, Superintendent
Cherry Hill, NJ

Hatboro-Horsham School District

William Lessa, Superintendent
Horsham, PA

Lindenwold Public Schools

Geraldine Carroll, Superintendent
Lindenwold, NJ

Moorestown Township Public Schools

John Bach, Superintendent
Moorestown, NJ

North Penn School District

Robert Hassler, Superintendent
Lansdale, PA

Princeton Regional Schools

Judith Wilson, Superintendent
Princeton, NJ

Rose Tree Media School District

Denise Kerr, Superintendent
Media, PA

Springfield Township School District

Roseann Nyiri, Superintendent
Oreland, PA

Upper Merion School District

Melissa Jamula, Superintendent
King of Prussia, PA

West Chester Area School District

Alan Elko, Superintendent
West Chester, PA

Bensalem Township School District

James Lombardo, Superintendent
Bensalem, PA

Bristol Township School District

Ellen Budman, Superintendent
Levittown, PA

Cheltenham Township School District

William Kiefer, Superintendent
Elkins Park, PA

Collingswood School District

Scott Oswald, Superintendent
Collingswood, NJ

Kennett Consolidated School District

Rudy Karkosak, Superintendent
Kennett Square, PA

Lower Merion School District

Christopher McGinley, Superintendent
Ardmore, PA

Morrisville Borough School District

Elizabeth Yonson, Superintendent
Morrisville, PA

Norristown Area School District

Janet Samuels, Superintendent
Norristown, PA

Perkiomen Valley School District

Cliff Rogers, Superintendent
Collegeville, PA

Springfield School District

James Capalupo, Superintendent
Springfield, PA

Upper Dublin School District

Michael Pladus, Superintendent
Maple Glen, PA

Wissahickon School District

Judith Clark, Superintendent
Ambler, PA

Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22

Barry Gallaso, Executive Director
Doylestown, PA

Delaware County Intermediate Unit #25

Lawrence O'Shea, Executive Director
Morton, PA

Chester County Intermediate Unit # 24

Joe O'Brien, Executive Director
Downingtown, PA