THE DELAWARE VALLEY MINORITY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT CONSORTIUM

SPRING 2009
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

“EMBRACE YOUR CULTURE: EMBRACE YOUR SUCCESS”

March 13, 2009

University of Pennsylvania
Sheraton University City Hotel
Philadelphia, PA
## 2008-09
### SPRING HIGH SCHOOL
### STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
### PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:15-8:45</td>
<td>REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST</td>
<td>Lower Lobby</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-9:15</td>
<td>WELCOME</td>
<td>Ben Franklin Ballroom 3-4-5</td>
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<td>9:15-10:00</td>
<td>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</td>
<td>Ben Franklin Ballroom 3-4-5</td>
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</tbody>
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**Dr. Robert L. Jarvis, Director**
Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium
Penn Center for Educational Leadership
Graduate School of Education
University of Pennsylvania

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**Keynote Address**

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

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

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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.

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 Mr. 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. **“LIVING AND LEADING WITH PURPOSE”**

PRESENTERS: Mr. Marlon Smith, CEO
Success By Choice, Inc.
Charlotte, NC

Nasser Jones and Brian Smith
Omni Leadership Alliance
Jenkintown, PA

ROOM: Chestnut

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session is designed to make you think more deliberately about your life. No more sleep-walking! No more being unconscious to the choices that you are making. What you do today will dictate where you will be tomorrow. Mr. Smith will inspire you to maximize your true potential, learn real-life strategies and leadership skills that work and be challenged to make a difference by helping others be their best.

2. **“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

ROOM: Ben Franklin 2

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.

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

ROOM: Fairmount 2

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Mr. Lopez is a Texas native from 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 Latino 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

ROOM: Ben Franklin 1

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. Further attention will be paid to developing a personal approach at the collegiate and professional levels that help transition you from “the streets” and “the grind” to successful and prosperous lives and careers without compromising yourself.

5. “CODE SWITCHING OR KEEPING IT REAL? A CONVERSATION ON STANDARD ENGLISH VS ETHNIC SLANG AND HOW IT MAY AFFECT YOU”

PRESENTERS: Mrs. Andrea Lawful-Trainer, Educational Consultant and Parent
Mrs. Robyn Tucker, Account Manager for GMAC and Parent
Abington School District
Elkins Park, PA

ROOM: William Penn Suite

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.

6. “FOLLOW THE LEADER”

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

ROOM: University

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!

7. “THE ART AND SCIENCE OF TEACHING: THINKING ABOUT TEACHING AS A CAREER”

PRESENTERS: Mrs. Lynne Partridge, Gifted Support Teacher
Mrs. Andrea Wilson-Harvey, Special Education Teacher
Mr. Jason Fritz, HS English Teacher
Lower Merion School District
Ardmore, PA

ROOM: Fairmount 1

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Teaching is a special calling that demands intellect, commitment and caring. Think about a teacher who has touched your life...do you have some of those qualities? This workshop will focus on thinking about teaching as a career, and discussing the top ten reasons to teach. Participants will also learn about a number of specialties in teaching at the preschool, elementary, secondary and post secondary level. If you enjoy helping others, come find out if you have what it takes to teach and make a difference in someone’s life!
11:30-12:15  LUNCH/MIX AND MINGLE  
Ben Franklin Ballroom 3-4-5

12:15-2:15  SPECIAL SESSION  
Ben Franklin Ballroom 3-4-5

“REAL MEN TALKING”  
A Multimedia Theater Production

Real Men Talking (RMT) is a multimedia and theater production that helps young men and women combat the challenges they face and empower them to be successful in all areas of their lives by showcasing specific principles of leadership.

True change is a process, not a one-time event. It is not enough for you to be stimulated by the RMT theater production without follow-up discussion and reflection. Facilitators will help empower you to produce outstanding results in your own lives and in the lives of others.

The production and workshop will engage you in creating a movement of accountability and responsibility, so you can maximize your true potential.

Co-Producers  
Marlon Smith and Flemuel “Fleetwood” Brown

Mr. Marlon Smith is a man on a mission. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Virginia in electrical engineering and worked for IBM and Hewlett-Packard. As a college student, Marlon’s proudest moment came when he founded Street Academics, a high school youth mentoring program, where college students provided student leadership development for younger students. This was the beginning of Marlon’s youth ministry. On January 15, 1992, Marlon listened to his heart and resigned from Hewlett-Packard to follow his passion of inspiring more youth through student leadership programs.

In addition to being one of the authors in the best-selling “A Second Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul,” Marlon has written numerous books on leadership and is CEO of Success By Choice, Inc. Because of Marlon’s “Success Is Your Choice” radio program and his “Motivational Monday’s” television programs in South Africa, he was featured in the November 2004 edition of Essence Magazine.

Marlon has been blessed with opportunities to inspire, entertain and motivate thousands of individuals in 45 states and 13 countries including, the former Soviet Union, Canada, Mexico, Japan, England, the Caribbean, Botswana, LeSotho, Ghana,
Swaziland, and South Africa. Today, Marlon is one of the executive producers of "Real Men Talking," the multimedia stage performance, which is currently touring throughout the United States so more students, families and communities are inspired to maximize their potential.

Flemuel “Fleetwood” Brown, III is inspired to be one of Philadelphia’s most prolific creative minds to hit the scene. As a producer, songwriter and director, he is so unique that people are paying close attention to his vision. To listen to his music reveals a range of music genres and styles so diverse, it’s difficult to believe the songs and production could actually come from the same person, yet they do. That veracity for creating music has allowed Mr. Brown to gain major notoriety as a producer and songwriter.

His vast knowledge of music production and music technology has allowed him to work with various recording artists such as Boyz II Men, C-Knowledge of Digable Planets, Roy Ayers, Mystical and Gerald Levert, just to name a few. He had a top-ten single on Billboard charts as well as on European charts.

Mr. Brown has his sights set on having a hand in every facet of the entertainment industry. His vast track record shows that he is indeed on his way to achieving that goal. He is making his directorial debut with “Real Men Talking.”

2:15- 2:30 FINAL REFLECTIONS

2:30         BUSES DEPART

Special thanks to Mrs. Bernice Green and Mrs. Lynne Partridge from the Lower Merion School District along with Mr. David Poindexter, Cheltenham Township School District and Mrs. Alyce Halpin, Kennett Consolidated School District, for their 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.
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<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>Superintendent Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abington School District</td>
<td>Amy Sichel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brandywine School District</td>
<td>James Scanlon</td>
<td>Claymont, DE</td>
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<td>Sandy Horney, Interim</td>
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<td>David Campbell</td>
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<td>Christopher McGinley</td>
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<td>Linda Antonowich</td>
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<td>Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22</td>
<td>Barry Gallaso</td>
<td>Doylestown, PA</td>
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<td>Delaware County Intermediate Unit #25</td>
<td>Lawrence O'Shea</td>
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<td>James Lombardo</td>
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<td>Rudy Karkosak</td>
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<td>Lenape Regional High School District</td>
<td>Emily Capella</td>
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<td>Judith Clark</td>
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<td>West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District</td>
<td>Victoria Kniewel</td>
<td>Princeton Junction, NJ</td>
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Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium
Member School Districts and Affiliate County Intermediate Units

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
Downingtow, PA