7th ANNUAL

DELAWARE VALLEY CONSORTIUM FOR EXCELLENCE & EQUITY

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

YOU HAVE THE POWER:

BLAZING YOUR TRAIL TO SUCCESS

November 15, 2013

Graduate School of Education
Penn GSE
Delaware Valley Consortium *for*
EXCELLENCE & EQUITY

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

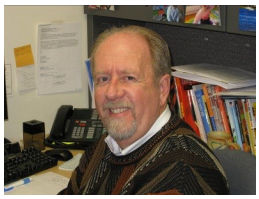
8:15-8:45 REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Lower Lobby

9:00-9:15 WELCOME

Ben Franklin Ballrooms

Dr. Robert L. Jarvis, Director
Delaware Valley Consortium for Excellence & Equity
Penn Center for Educational Leadership
Graduate School of Education
University of Pennsylvania



9:15-10:00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Ben Franklin Ballrooms

Marlon Smith
Founder and Owner
Success By Choice, Inc.
Charlotte, NC

Marlon Smith is on a mission! As a college student, 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 life-long commitment to making a positive difference with his life.

As a keynote motivational speaker, Marlon has had the opportunity to inspire, teach and motivate thousands of individuals in 45 states and 14 countries throughout the world. Because of his unique presentation style and inspirational messages, Marlon has traveled abroad on numerous speaking tours. He has worked in South Africa where he produced the "Motivational Mondays" television series and the national "Success is Your Choice" radio program.

Some of Marlon's highest honors has been a feature in ESSENCE Magazine as one of the top motivational speakers, being a contributing author to the international best-selling "Chicken Soup for the Soul", and being a semi-finalist for Oprah's BIG GIVE program.

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
School of Education, Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA

ROOM: **Chestnut**

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. "GETTING BUSY AND WIL'N OUT"

PRESENTER: Ms. Jonice Arthur,
Founder and CEO, Regna Services, LLC
"Together We CAN Turn Things Around"
Feasterville, PA

ROOM: Fairmount 2

SESSION DESCRIPTION: You will discuss very relevant issues that have entrenched the teenage population. This is a nonjudgmental dialogue about hooking up at the party or at the mall, friends with benefits, texting, and facebook. What are you thinking, doing, and talking about? How do I make smart choices in the midst of trying to fit in? Come ready to tell ALL!

3. ""CODE SWITCH FOR JUSTICE… KEEPING IT "REAL" MAY COST YOU"

PRESENTER: Ms. Andrea Lawful-Trainer,
Educational Consultant & Parent
Ms. Keir Bradford-Grey, Chief Public Defender of
Montgomery County Norristown, PA

ROOM: William Penn 1

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Be ready for an engaging discussion about teens who are often feeling targeted because of many popular behaviors in school and community. You will meet an Educator and a Chief Public Defender who will discuss among other things, the justice system and criminalization of what used to be considered basic adolescent mistakes and give participants positive strategies to combat it.

*4. *"EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED: THE 14 DAY LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE" **

PRESENTER: Mr. Marlon Smith, Founder & Owner
Success by Choice
Charlotte, NC

ROOM: University 2

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Students may or may not seek the help that they need in order to reach their goals in life. When they do or when we as advisor recognize that they need help, this workshop will give you the tools to handle what comes next. Participants will walk away from this workshop armed with successful strategies for teachers, advisors, parents and administrators to be more effective in helping ALL students reach their true potential.

5. "CHANGE YOUR SONG, CHANGE YOUR LIFE!"

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

ROOM: University 1

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!

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

6. "COLLEGE READINESS 101: WHAT DO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW "

PRESENTER: Dr. Marcal Graham, Associate Director
University of Maryland Educational Opportunity Center
Lanham, MD

ROOM: William Penn 2

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Fact is college readiness starts long before students attend college. The seeds of preparation must be planted and nurtured, if your dreams of attending a college are to become a reality. Understanding the financial aid process, knowing the difference between loans, grants, and how to find scholarships are important for getting into and graduating from college. This interactive workshop shows you how to navigate through the financial aid process and reminds you of the importance of meeting deadlines. In addition, we look at differences between 2-year & 4-year colleges, vocational & technical schools and why you need to plan today for college tomorrow.

7. "THE POWER OF THE SPOKEN WORD"

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

ROOM: Fairmount 1

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This workshop will focus on the perseverance of African American culture, pursing 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 the spoken word. Students will be encouraged to begin writing and sharing their own poetry at this workshop.

8. "LESSONS WE HAVE LEARNED: FINDING & MAKING TIME FOR SUCCESS"

PRESENTER: High School Student Leaders
Abington Senior High School

ROOM:

Student leaders from Abington Senior High School will come to share the do's & don'ts of navigating the slippery slopes of high school. The panel will discuss their 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 & time for questions.

11:15-12:10 LATE MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1. CHANGE YOUR SONG, CHANGE YOUR LIFE!"

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

ROOM: University 1

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!

2. "CODE SWITCHING FOR JUSTICE… KEEPING IT "REAL" MAY COST YOU"

PRESENTER: Ms. Andrea Lawful-Trainer,
Educational Consultant & Parent
Ms. Keir Bradford-Grey, Chief Public Defender of
Montgomery County Norristown, 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.

11:15-12:10 LATE MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS (CONTINUED)

3. "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
Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

ROOM: **Chestnut**

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.

4. COLLEGE READINESS 101: WHAT DO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW "

PRESENTER: Dr. Marcal Graham, Associate Director
University of Maryland Educational Opportunity Center
Lanham, MD

ROOM: **William Penn 2**

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Fact is college readiness starts long before students attend college. The seeds of preparation must be planted and nurtured, if your dreams of attending a college are to become a reality. Understanding the financial aid process, knowing the difference between loans, grants, and how to find scholarships are important for getting into and graduating from college. This interactive workshop shows you how to navigate through the financial aid process and reminds you of the importance of meeting deadlines. In addition, we look at differences between 2-year & 4-year colleges, vocational & technical schools and why you need to plan today for college tomorrow.

5. "THE POWER OF THE SPOKEN WORD"

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

ROOM: **Fairmount 1**

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This workshop will focus on the perseverance of African American culture, pursing 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 the spoken word. Students will be encouraged to begin writing and sharing their own poetry at this workshop.

6. "GETTING BUSY AND WIL'N OUT"

PRESENTER: Ms. Jonice Arthur, Founder
Regna Services
Feasterville, PA

ROOM: **Fairmount 2**

SESSION DESCRIPTION: You will discuss very relevant issues that have entrenched the teenage population. This is a nonjudgmental dialogue about hooking up at the party or at the mall, friends with benefits, texting, and facebook. What are you thinking, doing, and talking about? How do I make smart choices in the midst of trying to fit in? Come ready to tell ALL!

11:15-12:10 LATE MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS (CONTINUED)

7. "EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED: THE 14 DAY LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE"

PRESENTER: Mr. Marlon Smith, Founder & Owner
Success by Choice
Charlotte, NC

ROOM: University 2

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Students may or may not seek the help that they need in order to reach their goals in life. When they do or when we as advisor recognize that they need help, this workshop will give you the tools to handle what comes next. Participants will walk away from this workshop armed with successful strategies for teachers, advisors, parents and administrators to be more effective in helping ALL students reach their true potential.

8. "LESSONS WE HAVE LEARNED: FINDING & MAKING TIME FOR SUCCESS"

Presenters: High School Students

ROOM:

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Student leaders from …….. High School will come to share the do's & don'ts of navigating the slippery slopes of high school. The panel will discuss their 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 & time for questions.

12:15-1:00 GENERAL SESSION — LUNCH

Ben Franklin Ballrooms

1:00-2:00 GENERAL SESSION — CLOSING KEYNOTE

Ben Franklin Ballrooms

2:15-2:30 BUSES DEPART

Thank you to ALL of the dedicated teachers, guidance counselors, and school administrators from our Delaware Valley Consortium for Excellence & Equity school districts or their extraordinary leadership and support in organizing this event!

2013-14 Delaware Valley Consortium for Excellence & Equity

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

Bethlehem Area School District
Joseph Roy, Superintendent
Bethlehem, PA

Brandywine School District
Mark Holodick, Superintendent
Claymont, DE

Burlington Co. Institute of Technology
Donald Lucas, Superintendent
Westampton, NJ

School District of Cheltenham Township
Natalie Thomas, Superintendent
Elkins Park, PA

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
Cheryl Simone, Superintendent
Lindenwold, NJ

Lower Merion School District
Christopher McGinley, Superintendent
Ardmore, PA

Methacton School District
Jeffrey A. Miller, Acting Superintendent
Eagleville, PA

Morrisville School District
William Ferrara, Superintendent
Morrisville, PA

Neshaminy School District
Robert Copeland, Superintendent
Langhorne, PA

Norristown Area School District
Janet Samuels, Superintendent
Norristown, PA

Pennsylvania State Education Association
Michael Crossey, President
Harrisburg, PA

Pennsbury School District
Kevin McHugh, Superintendent
Fallsington, PA

Red Clay Consolidated School District
Mervin Daugherty, Superintendent
Wilmington, DE

Rose Tree Media School District
James Wigo, Sr., Superintendent
Media, PA

Salem City School District
Amiot Patrick Michel, Superintendent
Salem, NJ

Southeast Delco School District
Stephen Butz, Superintendent
Folcroft, PA

Spring-Ford Area School District
David Goodin, Superintendent
Royersford, PA

School District of Springfield Township
Nancy Hacker, Superintendent
Oreland, PA

Upper Dublin School District
Michael Pladus, Superintendent
Maple Glen, PA

Upper Merion Area School District
Jane Callaghan, Superintendent
King of Prussia, PA

West Chester Area School District
James Scanlon, Superintendent
West Chester, PA

Wissahickon School District
Judith Clark, Superintendent
Ambler, PA