# The Black, Brown, and Beyond Male Summit

## Building Stronger Men for a Better Tomorrow

### Program

**Jean Hower Taber Student Union**  
**Friday, April 8, 2022**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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| 8–9 a.m.   | **Admissions Information Session**  
Courtney Johnson-Benson, M.A. Ed., CDP  
Senior Assistant Director, Admissions  
The University of Akron  
Gardner Theatre |
| 9–11:45 a.m. | **Compassion Fatigue & Burnout**  
Dr. Aaron Thomas Ellington, LPCC-S, LICDC-CS  
Director of Ambulatory Clinical Programming  
University Hospitals' Department of Psychiatry  
Student Union 312 |
| 9:45–10:55 a.m. | **Introduction**  
Charles Guthrie, M.S.  
Director of Athletics, The University of Akron  
Student Union 312 |
| 11–11:45 a.m. | **Plenary**  
Paris W. McCurdy  
Director of Community Diversity Initiatives, Ball State University, Former NFL, NBA, and international athlete  
Student Union 312 |
| 11–11:45 a.m. | **Machismo: Toxic Masculinity**  
Josh Panchana  
President, UA Latinos  
The University of Akron  
Student Union 308 |
| 11–11:45 a.m. | **Boss Made Mentality**  
Ace Epps  
Director of Inclusive Entrepreneurship  
Bounce Innovation Hub  
Student Union 310 |
| 11–11:45 a.m. | **Let's Talk About "12"**  
Christian (C. J.) Howse  
Police Officer, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Student Union 312 |
| 11–11:45 a.m. | **Culturally Based Resiliency**  
Dr. Curtis Kwodwo Williams II  
Community Programs Coordinator and Psychotherapist  
Minority Behavioral Health Group (MBHG)  
Student Union 314 |
| 11–11:45 a.m. | **Supporting the APIDA Community**  
Naomi Sigg, M.S.  
Senior Associate Dean of Students  
Case Western Reserve University  
Student Union 316 |
| 11–11:45 a.m. | **They Can Be What They See - Mentoring the 100 Way**  
Thomas L. Peebles, Jr., M.S., PMP  
Sr. Manager of Lean Operations, Americas  
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company  
Student Union 335 |
| 11–11:45 a.m. | **They Can Be What They See - Mentoring the 100 Way**  
Tyrone A. Johnson  
President, Collegiate 100  
UA Ambassador, The University of Akron  
Student Union 335 |
**LUNCHEON**

**Host:** Dr. Sheldon B. Wrice, VP Inclusion & Equity/Chief Diversity Officer, The University of Akron  
**Greetings:** The Honorable Daniel Horrigan, Mayor, City of Akron  
**Invocation:** Pastor Robert DeJournett, Vice President, Opportunity & Inclusion, Greater Akron Chamber  
**Welcome:** Dr. Gary L. Miller, President, The University of Akron  
**Keynote Speaker Introduction:** Joshua Panchana, President, UA Latinos, The University of Akron  
**Keynote:** John Quiñones, ABC News Veteran, Creator & Host, What Would You Do?  
**Black, Brown, and Beyond Male Summit Scholarship Award presenters:**  
Dr. Rita Klein, UA Retirees  
Willa E. Gibson, Associate Dean of Student Engagement and C. Blake McDowell, Jr. Professor of Law

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| 11:50 a.m.–1:55 p.m. | Ballroom  
LUNCHEON  
Host: Dr. Sheldon B. Wrice, VP Inclusion & Equity/Chief Diversity Officer, The University of Akron  
Greetings: The Honorable Daniel Horrigan, Mayor, City of Akron  
Invocation: Pastor Robert DeJournett, Vice President, Opportunity & Inclusion, Greater Akron Chamber  
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Black, Brown, and Beyond Male Summit Scholarship Award presenters: Dr. Rita Klein, UA Retirees  
Willa E. Gibson, Associate Dean of Student Engagement and C. Blake McDowell, Jr. Professor of Law |
| 2:15–3 p.m.    | Concurrent 2 Professionals  
|               | Student Union 308  
|               | LENSES OF IDENTITY: BEST PRACTICES FOR SERVING BIPOC LGBTQ STUDENTS  
|               | Harry Hawkins, M.S.  
|               | Director, LGBT Center, Case Western Reserve University |
|               | Student Union 310  
|               | MICROAGGRESSIONS: WHAT YOU SAY MATTERS!  
|               | Lisa G. Belcher-Nelson, M.S. Ed.  
|               | Assistant Professor and Counselor  
|               | Cuyahoga Community College |
|               | Student Union 312  
|               | ENGAGING LATIX MALES IN PROGRAMMING DESIGNED TO MEET THEIR PERSONAL NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS  
|               | Victor Ruiz, M.Ed.  
|               | Executive Director, Esperanza, Inc. |
|               | Student Union 314  
|               | ADVISING YOUNG MEN OF COLOR: HOW TO REDIRECT WITHOUT CRUSHING THE DREAM  
|               | Gregory Freeman, M.Ed.  
|               | Director, Upward Bound Math-Science Program TRIO  
|               | Interim Associate Director Diverse Male Initiatives  
|               | Stark State College  
|               | Terry Vance, M.Ed.  
|               | Office of Multicultural Development  
|               | The University of Akron  
|               | Emeka Obinnakwelu  
|               | Graduate Assistant Office of Multicultural Development  
|               | The University of Akron |
|               | Student Union 335  
|               | CHANGING THE ACADEMY TO CREATE A MORE INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR MEN OF COLOR  
|               | Dr. John E. Queener, Jr.  
|               | Professor, Counseling Psychology  
|               | The University of Akron |
| 2:15–3 p.m.    | Concurrent 2 Students Theatre  
|               | DIVERSE MALE STUDENT EXPERIENCE PANEL  
|               | Moderator: Brittany Ferguson-Mike, Assoc Dir Campus Programs, The University of Akron  
|               | Jose Garcia Barahona, President Phi Gamma Delta, member of The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, The University of Akron  
|               | Gideon Boamah, President of Xi Xi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, VP African Students United (ASA), The University of Akron  
|               | Adetutu Daranjo, Football Player, The University of Akron  
|               | Freedom Harper, Peer Mentor, Office of Multicultural Development, Secretary of Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB), The University of Akron  
|               | Joshua Panchana, President, UA Latinos, The University of Akron |
| 3:05–4:25 p.m. | Professionals  
|               | Student Union 312  
|               | CALL TO ACTION: BUILDING STRONGER MEN FOR A BETTER TOMORROW  
|               | Moderator: Dr. Sheldon B. Wrice, VP Inclusion & Equity/Chief Diversity Officer, The University of Akron  
|               | N.J. Akbar, President, Akron Public Schools Board of Education  
|               | Charles Guthrie, M.S., Director of Athletics, The University of Akron  
|               | T. Lee J.D., Professor of Law; Assistant Dean of Diversity & Social Justice Initiatives, The University of Akron  
|               | Marco Sommerville, Deputy Mayor, City of Akron  
|               | Terry Vance, M.Ed., Executive Director, Esperanza, Inc. |
| 3:05–4:25 p.m. | Professionals  
|               | Student Union 312  
|               | CAMPUS TOUR  
|               | CONFERENCE EVALUATION/CLOSING REMARKS |
**OPENING SESSION**

**Presenter:** Dr. Aaron Thomas Ellington, LPCC-S, LICDC-CS  
**Title:** Compassion Fatigue and Burnout  
**Objectives:**  
- Define compassion fatigue and burnout  
- Discuss identification of symptoms of compassion fatigue and burnout  
- Discuss the role the pandemic has played in complicating compassion fatigue and burnout  
- Discuss possible solutions for compassion fatigue and burnout  

This presentation will offer participants an understanding of how compassion fatigue and burnout complicate their everyday work. The presentation will do this by defining what these two concepts are, how to identify when you are suffering from either one, the role the pandemic plays, and resources and solutions to help individuals who may find themselves suffering from either one of these concepts.

**Presenter:** Courtney Johnson-Benson, M.A. Ed., CDP  
**Title:** The Transformative Power of Rejection: “How I Yeeted Myself Into a Career in Higher Education.”  
**Summary:** During this session, you will have the opportunity to think critically about your failures and wins and how to effectively use education to determine your personal and professional success. Bring your notebook and grab a tissue – as this session takes a deep dive into the psyche of one person who was born to win but prepared to fail.

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1**

**Presenters:** Joshua Panchana and Mateo Fajardo Trujillo  
**Title:** “Machismo: Toxic Masculinity”  
**Summary:** Machismo, also known as toxic masculinity, has a big impact on men in the Latino and Hispanic community. This trait not only affects the individual, but also those around them. We will discuss the other impacts of machismo and how one can unlearn it to create a better version of themselves.

**Presenter:** Ace Epps  
**Title:** Boss Made Mentality  
**Summary:** This workshop discusses the entrepreneur mindset and how it can be used to be successful in life and business.

**Presenter:** Christian (C. J.) Howse  
**Title:** Let’s Talk About “12”  
**Summary:** During this session, we will discuss the role law enforcement plays in all of our lives on a daily basis. We will briefly go over the criminal justice system as a whole, discuss specific recent events involving the police, and end with a discussion about personal experiences and best practices.

**Presenter:** Dr. Curtis Kwodwo Williams II  
**Title:** Culturally Based Resiliency  
**Summary:** This presentation will cover culturally based resiliency. Psychological resilience is the ability to cope with life “challenges,” mentally and emotionally. Cultural resilience occurs when the person uses his/her/their instinctual “mental, behavioral and spiritual processes to create personal resources that protect “Self” from the potential negative effects of life “stressors.” In simpler terms, resilience exists in people who develop psychological and behavioral coping skills that allow them to navigate the ups and downs of life. Diversity will only be successful if individuals tap into their unique cultural resiliency skills, rather than assimilating into the dominant culture.

**Presenter:** Naomi Sigg, M.S.  
**Title:** Supporting the APIDA Community  
**Summary:** The rise in anti-Asian violence and hate has left many Asian, Pacific Islander, South Asian, and Asian American students feeling fearful, isolated, and further marginalized. Many institutions of higher education are committed to the success of all diverse student populations but sometimes fall short of supporting the Asian, Pacific Islander, South Asian, and Asian American student communities, which can lead to reports of low satisfaction rates as well as a dip in affinity when students become alumni. This presentation will address the current context of racism, hate, and bias faced by students, provide a historical background of racism toward these communities, as well as identify opportunities for your institution to stand in solidarity with the Asian, Pacific Islander, South Asian, and Asian American students in ways that are meaningful, intentional, and equitable.
Presenters: Thomas L. Peeples, Jr., M.S., PMP and Tyrone Johnson

Title: They Can Be What They See - Mentoring The 100 Way

Summary: 100 Black Men of America, Inc. is committed to the intellectual development of youth and the economic empowerment of the African American community based on the following precepts: respect for family, spirituality, justice, and integrity. In this 45 minute program, Tyrone Johnson, a 3rd year Computer Engineering student at The University of Akron (president of the newly formed 100 Black Men of Akron, Collegiate chapter) and Thomas Peeples, Sr. Manager of Lean Operations, Americas at The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company (At-large Board of Directors of the 100 Black Men of Akron, Inc.) will spend time sharing their stories of their personal journeys (so far) as well as focus on key concepts for future success. In this frank discussion, Tyrone and Thomas will share some of the highlights and challenges they have faced being Black men here in Ohio and abroad.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2 - PROFESSIONALS

Presenter: Harry Hawkins, M.S.

Title: Lenses of Identify: Best Practices for Serving BIPOC LGBTQ Students

Summary: When we talk about the intersections of sexual orientation/gender identity with race, we must understand that the same "isms" that affect our society still apply in the LGBTQ community. The Black and Brown experience when we talk of “coming out” or providing resources must be seen through the lenses of how race interacts and affects QTPOC folx. As a Mixed race, a gay man from the South, I live and breathe the intersections in intersectionality. I will talk about best practices for LGBTQ folx on your campus, but also how do you adequately meet those students in a way that affirms all of their identities.

Presenter: Lisa Belcher-Nelson, M.S. Ed.

Title: Microaggressions: What You Say Matters!

Summary: Have you ever found yourself wondering, “did he just say...” or “did I just hear what I thought I heard”? You may have experienced Racial Microaggressions. Microaggressions are everyday verbal/nonverbal insults or slights that communicate hostile, derogatory, or harmful messages towards another person or group. Whether intentional or unintentional, the impact is genuine! This workshop seeks to provide practical information on recognizing, addressing, and coping with microaggressions to promote healthy psychological well-being.

Presenter: Victor Ruiz, M.Ed.

Title: Engaging Latinx Males in Programming that is Designed to Meet Their Personal Needs and Aspirations

Summary: This workshop will focus on the challenges and opportunities of mentoring and working with Latinx/Hispanic males. We will also discuss strategies to recruit, retain and engage Latinx males in culturally competent programming that is designed to help them define their own success and achieve their desired goals.

Presenters: Gregory Freeman, M.Ed., Terry Vance, M.Ed., and Emeka Obinnakwelu

Title: Advising Young Men of Color: How to Redirect without Crushing the Dream

Summary: Oftentimes, students select “attractive” majors, such as pre-med, pre-law, engineering, computer science and the like, because of the potential of earning a high salary. However, such majors require extensive math and science, and students may find themselves struggling academically in these subject areas. This session will discuss strategies for helping young men of color to strengthen their academic skills and abilities to achieve their academic goals. More specifically, this session will cover 1) the critical need for career awareness and guidance; 2) available support systems in place to serve the holistic needs of young men of color; and 3) ways to empower young men of color with help seeking skills and strategies.

Presenter: Dr. John E. Queener, Jr.

Title: Changing the Academy to Create a More Inclusive Environment for Men of Color

Summary: This presentation will highlight the disparities for men of color at predominately white institutions. There is also a discussion of research-based interventions that can be used to reverse the current disparities. Finally, a discussion on overcoming the barriers to institutional change will be provided.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2 - STUDENTS

Diverse Male Student Experience Panel

Moderator: Brittany Ferguson-Mike, Assoc Dir Campus Programs, The University of Akron

Panelists: Jose Garcia Barahona, Gideon Boahmah, Adetutu Daranijo, Freedom Harper, and Joshua Panchana

Summary: High school summit attendees will hear first-hand advice from college upper classmen of color about real world college experiences and the do's and don'ts for succeeding as a college student. The panel will consist of representatives from student organizations and fraternities sharing effective strategies on how to successfully make the transition from high school to college.