Fourth Annual Males of Color Higher Education Conference
April 11-12, 2013


Featured Speakers

**Marcellus Davis** is a husband, father of two, big brother, son, and active community member. Marcellus has five years of K-12 experience in the Minneapolis area school districts, and he has 6 years in higher education as an adjunct professor, advisor, Director of Diversity and Multiculturalism and currently Program Director of Equity and Integration and American Indian Education for the Robbinsdale School District. He has created a number of after school and summer school programs focusing on diminishing the achievement gap, getting youth prepared and interested in higher education and STEM Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics. Marcellus has a B.A in Sociology, and he holds an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis on Youth Development. He has recently completed his course work for his doctorate degree in Higher Education Administration. His focus of study for his dissertation is Black Student Activism.

**Cedric R. Harris.** Born and raised in Mississippi, Cedric carries a passion for education and value it brings to one’s life. He is a counselor, advisor, mentor, advocate, big brother, cousin, uncle, and numerous other titles when it comes to encouraging black males. He is currently the Program Director of Information Technology with Fortis Institute, and carries over 10 years experience in private career college education. Previous roles include professional development training for faculty, classroom instruction, and academic administration. Cedric excels in environments where he is tasked with varied challenges and has been successful in creating and implementing programs that foster improved student engagement and success.

Some of these successes include:
creation of a student recognition program to recognize students who achieved various success traits, and served as Advisor to the National Technical Honor Society;

• a student peer support program recognized for improving academic success, and improving student retention;

• implementation of an at-risk student program to increase academic support through counseling session, and hosting targeted workshops to increase subject matter retention;

• coordination of a volunteer program for students to encourage community support and the value of uplifting others in overcoming obstacles.

Cedric holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics from Alcorn State University, and a Master of Science in Management of Information Systems from Bowie State University. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and several other social and educational organizations. While he enjoys immense satisfaction from his professional work, his most noteworthy accomplishments are being the husband of a wonderful wife for ten years, the father of three angels, and the son two cherished parents. He is guided by his favorite quote, “I am the 2nd leg in a relay race, to help others help someone else.”

Paul C. Harris. Paul is married to his bride of seven years, Taylor Harris, and the couple has two children, Eliot Mae (23 months) and Christopher Luc (5 months). He is currently an assistant professor in the counselor education program at the University of Virginia. After receiving his bachelor’s and master’s degree from the University of Virginia, he served as a high school counselor in Newport News, Virginia and Loudoun County, Virginia. While working as a professional school counselor, he completed his Ph.D. at the University of Maryland in Counselor Education.

Dr. Harris’ professional research interests include issues related to equity, access, and social justice in schools, school counselors’ role in the college and career readiness of students, with an emphasis on Black male student-athletes, and pre-service school counselor training. On a personal note, he enjoys spending time with his family, playing basketball, and watching collegiate and professional sports. Go HOOS!

Alexander Hines is currently the Director of Inclusion and Diversity at Winona State University. He served in the United State Air Force as a non-commissioned officer for 12 years. He has earned a B.S. in Management Studies, minor in History and Psychology from the University of Maryland, University College, European Division, Heidelberg, Germany and a Masters of Education Degree in Counseling and Guidance Services from Clemson University with an emphasis in Student Affairs.
He has 21 years of experience in higher education in student and academic affairs working with traditional, non-traditional, first-generation, underserved and underrepresented high school and college students and their parents. Being a first generation college student and a male of color, his passion is assisting high school students to gain access to higher education and helping them to become successful in pursuing their dreams of obtaining a postsecondary degree. He is very active in communities where he has worked and considers himself to be a change agent. He currently serves as a Commissioner on the Winona Human Rights Commission, Commissioner for the Winona Housing & Redevelopment Authority, a board member with Minnesota Minority Education Partnership (MMEP) and a board member with Home and Community Options of Winona. Alex is also the recipient of the 2007 Human Rights Award from the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions, 2009 Human Rights Organization Award from the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions and the recipient of the 2012 Minnesota Campus Compact Presidents’ Civic Engagement Steward Award.

Colonel Edward C. Jackson, Retired
Baltimore City Police Department

Professor Jackson is currently a criminal professor at the Baltimore City Community College and a retired police officer who joined the Baltimore Police Department on March 10, 1983. After graduating from the Baltimore Police Academy, he was assigned to patrol as a foot officer in Northeast Baltimore. Professor Jackson has worked many assignments during his 22 year career in the police department. During his career, he ascended the ranks from a foot patrolman to full Colonel where he retired as the Chief of the Administrative Division that included the Baltimore Police Academy and the Personnel (Human Resources). Colonel Jackson received his Bachelor
of Science Degree from Coppin State College in Criminal Justice. He also received a Certificate from the Senior Management Institute for Police from the Police Executive Research Forum in addition to earning his Master of Science Degree from the Johns Hopkins University in the applied behavioral sciences with a concentration in community development.

Recently, Professor Jackson completed his coursework for his PhD in Public Safety at Capella University's school of Public Service Leadership. He is currently writing his dissertation on the impact of absentee fathers in the lives of their children at it relates to crime, delinquency, and anti-social behavior. His duties working as a full time assistant professor include teaching criminal justice courses, advising and mentoring many students, and serving as program coordinator. Professor Jackson and his wife Sandy, a Baltimore County special education teacher, have two sons Keith and Craig, both graduates of Morehouse College. Professor Jackson is a lifelong resident of Baltimore City.

**Kenneth Turner** is an administrator, advisor, lecturer and professor and born in St. Paul, Minnesota. He currently serves as Assistant Principal at North St. Paul School District 622. He has also served as the Program Director for Integration & Equity, Robbinsdale Area Schools ISD 281. As a faculty member in Metropolitan State University’s Urban Education program his primary focus will always be empowerment and inclusion to empower and prepare future teachers to deliver culturally relevant pedagogy within the urban communities as well as exposing those who are considered privileged to cultural exploration to advance race relations. He says “education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. Kenneth is married with three children and resides in the Twin Cities.

**Dr. Said L. Sewell**, a native of Houston, Texas, entered Morehouse College at the age of 16 in 1988 as an early admission scholar. Sewell excelled academically graduating from Morehouse in 1992 with a B.A. in Political Science. Dr. Sewell received his Master of Public Administration in Public Policy from Texas Southern University at the age of 21, becoming the youngest person in the program’s history to complete all requirements for the degree in a year and a half. He continued his academic pursuits in Georgia by earning a Ph.D. in Political Science from Clark Atlanta University in 2000. Sewell has done post-graduate work at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and School of Divinity.
Professor Sewell is an Assistant Provost at Kent State University. Prior to this appoint, Dr. Sewell was the Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Kent State. Professor Sewell is the author of several articles on faith-based initiatives, community and economic development, religion and politics, and juvenile issues. He is currently completing work on two books on his work: Empowering Black Males Students to Greatness (forthcoming) and editor of Let Us Make Man: A Conversation with Black Men on Saving Black Boys (forthcoming). He is co-author of Georgia State Politics, and the editor of two American Government readers: Conflicting Democracy: A Critical Analysis of America’s Political Process and We the People: Reflections on American Politics.

Because of his work as a scholar and an exceptional professor, he has received numerous awards: The University System of Georgia’s African-American Male Initiative Best Practices Leadership Award (2007), The Doris Harris Humanitarian Award from the Tau Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (2007), The Visionary Award from the Follow Me Foundation, Inc., and The National Conference of Black Political Scientists’ Teacher of the Year Award for 2004. The University of West Georgia’s Student Government Association awarded Sewell its highest award -- the Dr. Jim Mathis’ Outstanding Faculty Member for 2006-2007 and 2002-2003. The American Political Science Association and the Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society bestowed upon him its 2003 Outstanding Teaching Award in Political Science. Other awards include the 2010 Diverse: Issues in Higher Education—Top 12 Emerging Scholar in America, 2010 Alpha Lambda Delta-National Honor Society for First Year Students, and 2009 Georgia Trend Magazine—Top 40 under 40: Georgia’s Best and Brightest, 2011 University System of Georgia’s Executive Leadership Institute—Scholar, and 2012 Southern Regional Brother of the Year for the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Sewell is active in several professional, civic, and social organizations. He is a Life Member and the former National Chairman of Leadership Development and Citizenship Education Institute in his fraternity—the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the 100 Black Men, and the NAACP. Dr. Said L. Sewell, a native of Houston, Texas, entered Morehouse College at the age of 16 in 1988 as an early admission scholar. Sewell excelled academically graduating from Morehouse in 1992 with a B.A. in Political Science. Dr. Sewell received his Master of Public Administration in Public Policy from Texas Southern University at the age of 21, becoming the youngest person in the program’s history to complete all requirements for the degree in a year and a half. He continued his academic pursuits in Georgia by earning a Ph.D. in Political Science from Clark Atlanta University in 2000. Sewell has done post-graduate work at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and School of Divinity.

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