

ARCHITECTS OF ACHIEVEMENT

THE PENNSYLVANIA BLACK CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION



CHARTING OUR FUTURE

Dr. John Craig, President
(*Annual Conference
Presidential Address*)

The Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education was founded in 1970 by the late

Honorable K. Leroy Irvis with major clerical and administrative support from his Legislative Assistant Mrs. Mary Davis Baltimore. The mission of the conference is to serve as an advocate for equal access and equity for Black students and professionals and other students and professionals of color throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Affectionately known as (BCOHE), our organization has enjoyed great relationships with politicians, corporations and other organizations who support our fight.

When we were founded, I'm told, it was stated by those who were leading the organization that our work would be done within a decade. Such that, by 1980, we would have effectively accomplished our mission. Well, more than 4 decades later, we are still working to ensure that our students are supported, our faculty are recruited and supported through the tenure process and that our administrators are provided with opportunities for advancement. Over the years, as an organization, we have supported faculty who were being discriminated against. We supported by writing letters to deans, presidents and faculty unions. We supported by having our members who had relationships with people of influence at the institutions in question making phone calls and advocating. You see, BCOHE is a relational organization. It's an organization where you're more than just a member, you're part of the family. And, the family that prays, fights and celebrates together, stays together! Can I get an Amen!

In recent years, we have experienced decreases in membership due to retirement, relocation and tran-

scendence. Therefore, it is with a renewed sense of purpose, and a laser-like focus on rebuilding our organization and grooming the next generation of leaders, that I present to you 5 aspects of my vision for the next several months:

I have appointed a special advisory committee to the President which will be tasked with advising me on matters which pertain to the elements of the Futures Report, and other relevant matters of conference administration. The members of this committee are: Dr. Judith Thomas, Dr. Brenda Dede, Mr. Larry Dowdy and Dr. Richard Arnold. This committee will be critically important in helping to support me during this, my second time as President of this wonderful organization. Let me just say, I love PBCOHE. I have learned so much over the years about how to lead effectively, how to navigate through the bureaucracy on whichever campus I was currently working and how to meaningfully leverage relationships to meet the goals and objectives of this organization. I served 3 terms as Eastern Region Director from 2002 – 2008. During those 6 years, I got bit by the PBCOHE bug. I've grown professionally and personally by being affiliated with this organization. To those of you joining us this year, please take the opportunity to network with others here. I promise you that you will be edified and blessed by the relationship.

Using the recommendations from the Futures Report, we will develop an aggressive membership and fundraising/sponsorship campaign which will help to increase our membership and increase our funding so we can continue providing deserving students with Scholarships to support their pursuit of undergraduate and graduate degrees. It is imperative that we deepen our bench, as it were, to begin to groom our younger faculty and administrators within the conference for positions of leadership within this organization. It is not wise to not have people in the pipeline who can continue to carry the torch.

CHARTING OUR FUTURE

In consultation with the SLDI leadership, I plan to develop the PBCOHE Student Ambassador Program (SAP). Beginning this year, we will select students from each participating university to serve as our ambassadors on their respective campuses. They will be supported by the corresponding regional director and others in the respective region. I envision our ambassadors setting up informational booths on their campuses at strategic times in the fall and spring semesters with information about PBCOHE and soliciting membership from faculty and staff, regardless of their hue. Certainly, we want faculty and administrators of color to join; however, anyone who supports our mission is welcome and encouraged to join our organization.

Reclaiming our place in the Commonwealth among the legislature as being the preeminent voice on issues related to the higher education policies which directly and indirectly affect black and brown students, faculty and staff. We will do this by continuing our relationship with the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus and other legislators (regardless of their political party or hue) from the House and Senate. Programs like ACT 101, which is our sister program must be supported. We have to fight for that program, which is why last year we pressed the Legislative Black Caucus to keep up the pressure on the legislature to ensure that the funding remains in place for these programs. As a result of our urging, State Representative Kinsey hosted a hearing at Drexel University on the state of ACT101. ACT101 directors, representatives from PHEAA and other state legislators from across the Commonwealth attended. It was because of our intervention that this hearing took place. ACT101 has not only provided access to higher education for students of color over the years, for many administrators and some faculty of color, it was the vehicle by which they entered higher education and served as the springboard for their career trajectory into higher levels of responsibility on our college/university campuses. Thus, we have to keep up the fight, so PHEAA (which is also a sister organization) must be encouraged to keep funding ACT101.

Maintaining a mutually beneficial relationship with PASSHE, the PASSHE universities, our State-related universities, other public and private universities across the state is paramount. Also, I would like for us to develop a more robust relationship with our K-12 schools across the Commonwealth. We do a wonderful job each year at our annual conference visiting schools, reading to elementary school children and donating books and awarding high school scholarships; however, I would like to explore other ways by which we can more formally develop our relationship with our K-12 schools.



In closing, there are other areas of focus which are part of my vision; in the coming months you will hear more about the vision for the future of this wonderfully relevant organization. I have never been one to back down from a challenge. As a native of South Philadelphia, I don't know the meaning of the word "can't," my Bible tells me in the book of Philippians the 4th chapter and the 13th verse that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Therefore, I'm ready for the challenge, are you? If you're up for the challenge of continuing the great work of this organization, let me here you say, we got this!

That's what I'm talking about! We got this, so let's roll up our sleeves and continue to work. Thank you!



Congratulations
PBCOHE's Robert D. Lynch
Student Leadership Development Institute
on 30 Years of Cultivating Student
Leaders in Pennsylvania

OUTSTANDING FIRST-YEAR STUDENT ADVOCATE HONORED



Dr. Brenda Sanders Dede was recently recognized as an Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate at the 35th Annual Conference on The First-Year Experience in Orlando, Florida, February 20-23.

Dr. Dede was honored along with nine other award recipients from across the United States. The ten honorees were selected from a field of 85 nominees. Her nomination was supported by the President and Provost at Clarion University and other faculty and administrators. Her work at Clarion as a student advocate has significantly increased the retention of 1st year students in particular and all students in general.

Dr. Dede has worked at Clarion for two decades. She has been a member of PBCOHE for 20 years and served as the president from 2006 to 2008. "It is my calling to serve others."

WHAT GREAT LEADERS DO

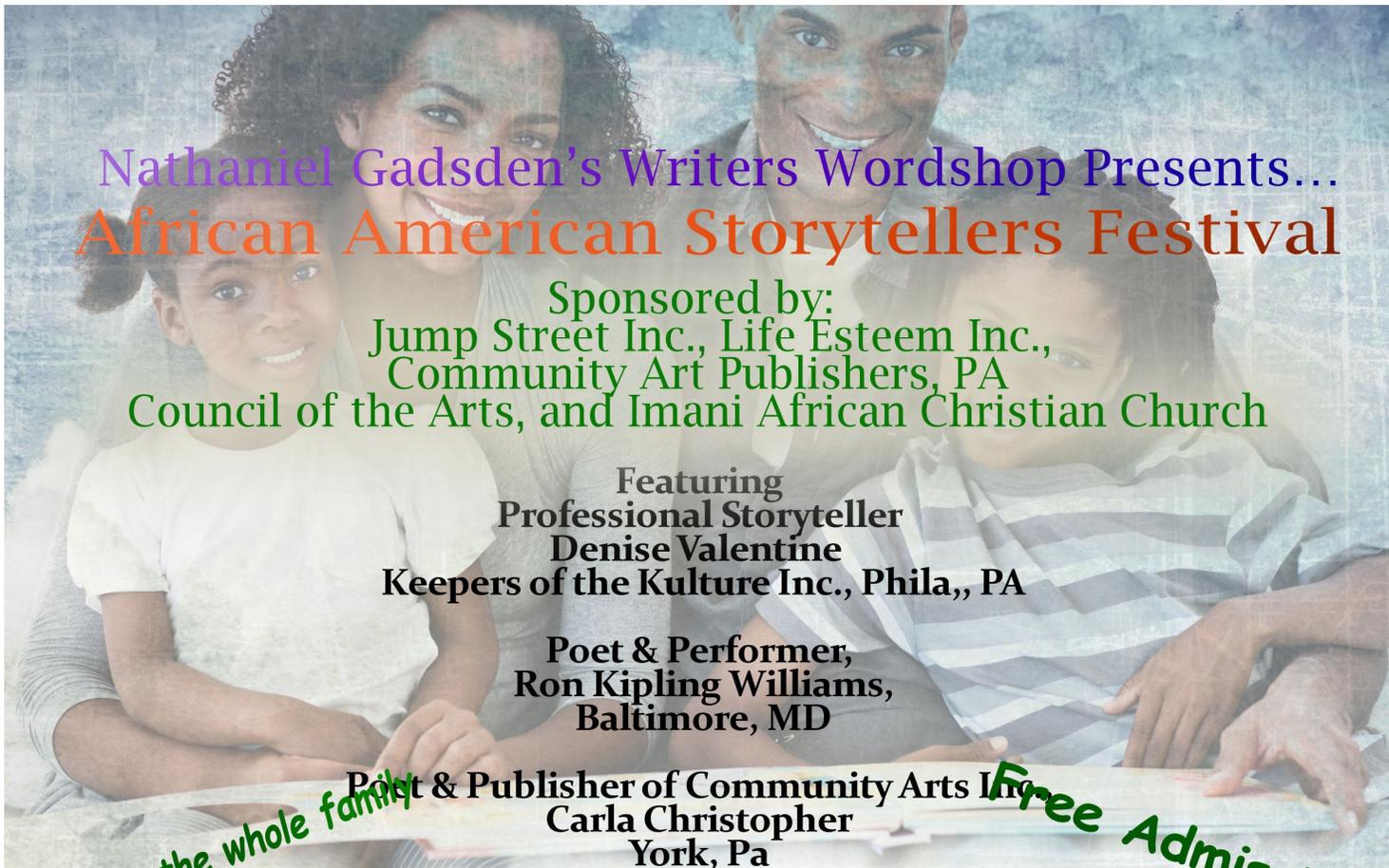
By Valdijah Q. Brown, MSW, MSHE

The 30th Annual Robert D. Lynch Student Leadership Development Institute provides the opportunity to reflect on the character of great leaders. At the root of leadership is the concept of grit. Grit is the passion and perseverance for very long term goals. There are few great leaders that have accomplished life changing works overnight. Take Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King as an example. During the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Dr. King he was mentored, every day for more than a year, by Bayard Rustin to advance the collective goal of integration.

What Dr. King and many others implored was grit. Grit is sticking with your goal, day in and day out...it's running a marathon and not a sprint. So, you may ask, "How does one develop this thing called grit?" A growth mindset helps to build grit. Why is growth mindset important to young and seasoned leaders alike? In his acclaimed work, "What the Best College Students Do", Ken Bain defines growth as, "the discovery of the dynamic power of the mind. That you must find out who you are and how you work if you expect to unleash the powers of your own

mind." Great leaders have mastered this understanding to unleash the power of their mind. Growth mindset is the ability to improvise, invent, and overcome unexpected obstacles.

Great leaders have the ability to implore critical thinking, creativity, and cultivate adaptive expertise. The growth mindset leader has the ability to embrace challenges; persists in the face of setbacks; believe that consistent effort is the path to mastery; learn from criticism; and finds lessons and inspiration in the success of others. As a result of a growth mindset, you are able to reach ever-higher achievements both inside and outside the classroom, in a professional, and in all facets of your life.



Nathaniel Gadsden's Writers Wordshop Presents...
African American Storytellers Festival

Sponsored by:
Jump Street Inc., Life Esteem Inc.,
Community Art Publishers, PA
Council of the Arts, and Imani African Christian Church

Featuring
Professional Storyteller
Denise Valentine
Keepers of the Kulture Inc., Phila., PA

Poet & Performer,
Ron Kipling Williams,
Baltimore, MD

Poet & Publisher of Community Arts Inc.
Carla Christopher
York, Pa

Fun for the whole family

Free Admission

Kaaba Brunson
Director of NAACP ACT-SO Competition,
will discuss his trip to Egypt

“The Let Me Tell You Corner” –
Audience participants will have 5 minutes
to tell a part of their story

“The Sankofa Corner for Children” –
Stories will be read to children,
along with refreshments and Arts & Craft activities

1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 16, 2016
State Museum of Pennsylvania
300 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

For more information contact:
Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Gadsden, (717) 608-2312 or pgadsden@aol.com

I KNOW YOU TOO

Poem by Rev. Dr. Nathaniel

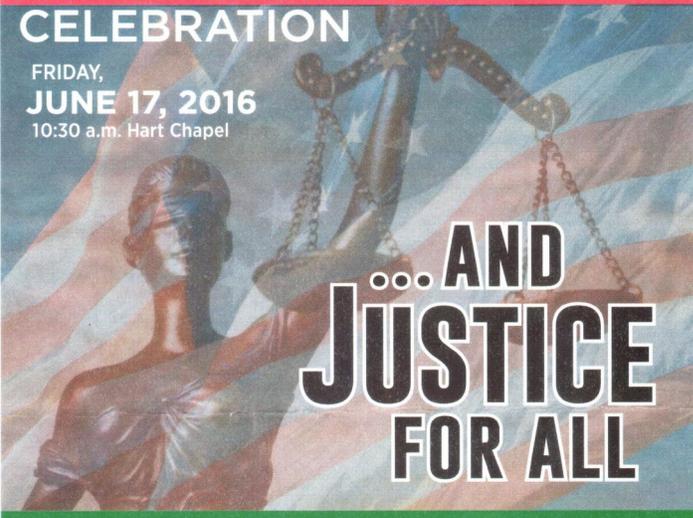
A Fierce force wind of achievement and honor
A steel rod in the center of police dogs and fire hoses, unmoved
Academic excellence achieved in poorly rated schools
A measure of pride, patience, and persistence, overflowing from the inside, unseen and unspoken, but on full display
You are the aftermath of a dream determined not to be deferred
You are the highest note in an operatic oratory that brings the crowd to its feet
You are the reaffirmation of our linkage with our ancestors who live again through you, with you, because of you
You are an answered prayer
You are the libation, poured for the dead who walk among us, giving them hope even though they sleep
You are the sound of Harriet Tubman, I can, send me, I will
You are the feet of Martin, ain't gonna let nobody turn you around
You are the strength of Malcom, by any means necessary you shall be free
I know you
Iron smelting, basket weaving, pyramed building traveler of the universe
From dungeons and barracoons you rose
From Caravans of Captivity you sprang
From Hot fields and cold landscapes you emerged
Branded as a Beast of Burden and wrapped in the spirit of death you flourished
You are the striving, driving essence of our ancestor's dreams
You are the definition of the forward flow of human history
You are the maintaining fiber of collective work and responsibility
You are the reflection of our economic reality when we build and profit together
You are the purpose of all that we do, in spite of all that we have gone through just to survive
You are the reminder of our creative beauty that we inherited from the rocks on which we stand
You give us faith in the righteousness and victory of all human struggle
I know you
You are the first hand up when the question is asked
You are the late night reader for the next day exam, leaving nothing to chance
You are the reason that we are here, in this place, at this time, as blessed as we are
Yes, I know you

...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

PBCOHE Past President, Albert W. Jones' keynote at Clarion University

14th ANNUAL
JUNETEENTH
CELEBRATION

FRIDAY,
JUNE 17, 2016
10:30 a.m. Hart Chapel



...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Keynote Speaker: Albert W. Jones



Albert Jones serves as director of Human Resources at First Quality Products in Lock Haven. Jones, who earned his business management degree from LHU, also earned a master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix. Formerly, he served as Assistant to the President for Social Equity and Associate Director of Human Services at Lock Haven University and was president of the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education.

SPECIAL MUSIC • POETRY • LUNCH IN EAGLE COMMONS

Sponsored by:
Clarion University of Pennsylvania
Clarion University African American Caucus
Clarion University NAACP Student Chapter
Clarion Chamber of Business and Industry

CLARION UNIVERSITY

Clarion University is an affirmative action equal opportunity employer.

Albert W. Jones was the keynote speaker at the 14th Annual Juneteenth Celebration held at Clarion University on June 17, 2016. The theme of the program was "...And Justice for All".

Jones along with other program participants expanded on the theme as relates to current affairs and future activities. Jones reminded the audience that they have control of their future. Included in the program was a tribute to Prince.

Following the program, all in attendance were treated to lunch in Eagle Commons.

Dr. Brenda Sanders Dede is the founder and chairperson of the Juneteenth Celebration at Clarion.

In photo left to right:

Seated: Tracey Becker, Clarion Chamber of Business and Industry; Tammy LaCross, Clarion Chamber of Business and Industry; Randall Stom, Kiwanis Club of Clarion.

Standing: Dr. Brenda Sanders Dede, Albert W. Jones, and Dr. Francene Haymon-Phillips.





REV. DR. NATHANIEL GADSDEN

Pastor of Imani African Christian Church
Founder of the Writer's Wordshop, Inc.
Founder of the Life Esteem Chaplain's Training Institute
Published Poet/ Author
Certified Christian Counselor
Host of the "Consider This" Radio Show
on www.TheVoice17104.com
Co-Host, with my wife Patricia,
of the "Life Esteem Television Show

Available for
Speaking
Engagements
& Workshops

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