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# **Smart Choices: Education & Careers in the New Economy**

**13<sup>th</sup> Annual**

## **Black Man's Think Tank Conference**

**Friday & Saturday, April 12-13, 2013**

**Sinclair Community College**

**Building 8 Lower Level**

**Dayton, Ohio**



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**Friday (April 12) Presentations**  
**Bldg 8 - Student Leadership Development Center**

**8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

**Registration/Continental Breakfast /Welcome**

**Location: Building 8, Lower Level, Main Stage Area**

**Marlon Aldridge**

**President/CEO, Black Man's Think Tank**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**Operationalizing the 40 Developmental Assets**

**Darryl Allen, Dr. Rusty Clifford,**

**Location: Building 7, Northwest Loggia (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Library)**

The Centers for Disease Control have identified certain behaviors that lead to premature death, which the root causes are associated with the misunderstanding of human purpose. The Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets® are research-based deterrents to high risk behaviors identified by the CDC. This workshop operationalizes the 40 Developmental Assets through a mentoring paradigm that focuses on the CDC's research and continues through an online support structure that is linked to youth culture. Activities will be presented that promote communication and behavior modification.

**9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**Empowering Youth for Participation in Community Development**

**Michael Manuel and Darius Jordan**

**Location: Building 8, Lower Level, Main Stage Area**

This presentation examines the D.O.I.T. program for community development and youth development. In this program, youth are immersed in the construction trade with hands-on training that teaches them to build a house from the ground up. It provides a mentoring component and an educational component that relates the building of a house to the anatomy of the body and the building of a business. One of the graduates will talk about his experience in the program and the purchase of his first home at 19 years old.

**9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**Rebirth: Life versus Death**

**Lamar Ford**

**Location: Building 4, Room 4-011**

This interactive presentation covers the purpose of making the right choices. Education, regardless of type, requires choices. There are also career choices which must be made. The speaker describes negative choices which he has made, the consequences, and how he remedied the consequences after going through them and becoming a successful business man. He ends his presentation by presenting the audience members with a token of respect. We can all be reborn.

**9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**You're Smarter than You Think You Are: Using Your Skills the Right Way in the New Economy**

**Manicka Thomas and Daryl Davis**

**Location: Building 4, Room 4-225**

This workshop conveys to students that they have greater academic ability than is oftentimes demonstrated. This is evidenced by their ability to navigate the complexities of digital and social media, yet, failing to apply these same skills in an academic setting. It will empower them to better apply these skills in academic contexts.

**10:35 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.**

**Strategies to Engage Black Male Adolescents in Emerging Fields**

**Ralph Farley, Eric Charlton, Harris Tay, Dave Taylor, and Frank Sawyer**

**Location: Building 8, Lower Level, Main Stage Area**

This panel ensemble, with community and education leaders, will discuss strategies to engage the African American male adolescent population into emerging career. They will talk about which career markets are expanding, and the education and criteria required to enter these fields.

**10:35 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.**

**The Journey into Entrepreneurship**

**Tenola Oliver**

**Location: Building 8, Room 8-036**

The strategy of the workshop is two-fold: alleviating the guess work in starting a small business and equipping every attendee with the ability to think like an entrepreneur by learning how to brain storm. Attendees will leave with realistic

expectations of the lifestyle of an entrepreneur. Pitfalls will be discussed.

**10:35 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.**

**Developing Emotional Intelligence**

**Chad Sloss**

**Location: Building 4, Room 4-011**

This interactive workshop discusses conflict and how we emotionally respond to it. Emotional Intelligence is the capacity for identifying your own feelings as well as the feelings of those around you. Participants are given assessments to measure how they deal with conflict and how to measure their own emotional intelligence. This workshop also breaks down emotional liabilities and assets while viewing emotional intelligence characteristics within successful individuals. Participants will discuss ways of controlling impulsivity in given situations. Participants learn how the brain functions, how it changes through conflict and affects memory.

**10:35 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.**

**African American Male 1st Year Experience "I'm here, now what?" 1st Year College Survival Tools for Academic Success**

**Stephen Williams**

**Location: Building 7, Tartan Market Place Rooms B**

The purpose of this presentation is to clearly define some of the factors that influence African American Males to pursue a higher education. More intently, the presenter will bridge these influences by speaking about the challenges that face these young men as well as highlighting strategies and tools that will assist them in their success during their first year away from home.

**10:35 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.**

**Operationalizing the 40 Developmental Assets**

**Darryl Allen, Dr. Rusty Clifford,**

**Location: Building 7, Northwest Loggia (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Library)**

The Centers for Disease Control have identified certain behaviors that lead to premature death, which the root causes are associated with the misunderstanding of human purpose. The Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets® are research-based deterrents to high risk behaviors identified by the CDC. This workshop operationalizes the 40 Developmental Assets through a mentoring paradigm that focuses on the CDC's research and continues through an online support structure that is linked to youth culture. Activities will be presented that promote communication and behavior modification.

**10:35 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.**

**Using a Personal Strategic Success Plan to Make Smart Choices**

**Andrea Foy**

**Location: Building 8, Room 8-037**

In this workshop participants will explore the six steps to the Personal Strategic Success Plan (PSSP). Additionally, they will learn to understand where they want to go in life and why, create better goals and strategies to achieve them, use self-motivation and hard work to keep moving, and make adjustments when things don't go as planned.

**11:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m. Lunch and Entertainment**

**Location: Building 7, Tartan Marketplace**

**12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.**

**Keynote Address – Jasiri X**

**Location: Building 8, Lower Level, Main Stage Area**

**1:20 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.**

**Closing Remarks/Wrap Up**

**Marlon Aldridge et al.**

**Location: Building 8, Lower Level, Main Stage Area**

**Saturday (April 13) Presentations**  
**Bldg 8 – Student Leadership Development Center**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**Registration/Continental Breakfast /Welcome**

**Dr. Bobby J. Beavers, Coordinator, Minority Student Success**

**Location: Building 8, Lower Level, Main Stage Area**

**10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

**A Critical Edge: Conflict Resolution for the Workplace and Beyond**

**Cherise Hairston, Festus Nyiwo, Alphonso Spence, and Rev. Matthew Smith**



**Location: Building 4, Room 4-011**

In a competitive job market, having the required skills for a position often isn't enough. You need skills that go beyond the basics. Conflict Resolution skills can provide you this critical edge. The presenters will share the fundamentals of understanding conflict and core tools for better conflict interaction. They will give real life examples of how these tools were applied in their work experiences and beyond. By gaining these skills, not only can we have an edge in the workplace, but we can have a positive impact on our families, community and society as well.

**10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.****Dare to Be a Millionaire****Dr. Robert Lawson****Location: Building 8, Lower Level, Main Stage Area**

Having been offered at the university level since 2010, this workshop presentation is specifically designed to provide attendees with key empowerment principles, a goal achievement strategy to increase your financial position through sound ideas that cover four specific areas which includes earning money, saving money, investing money and eliminating debt. (ESIE) Tools and strategies are provided.

**10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.****The Business of Mental health****Lamarr Lewis****Location: Building 8, Room 8-036**

This interactive presentation informs the audience about potential growth and stability in the mental health field while inspiring them to get into the human services field as a way of giving back to the community. Furthermore, it addresses the misconceptions, stereotypes, and stigmas attached to mental illness in the Black community.

**10:00 a.m. – 11:15 p.m.****Knowledge is Currency****Shawn Lewis****Location: Building 8, Room 8-037**

The workshop provides information on financial literacy which includes topics like starting a home-based business online successfully, how to save and spend money, and achieving financial freedom (hourly income versus passive income).

**11:25 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.****Healthy Living, Healthy Life****Shawn Lillard****Location: Building 4, Room 4-011**

The African American community continues to be disproportionately plagued with obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and other chronic diseases that can be prevented by improving education about the importance of nutrition and exercise. Participants will be provided an overview of healthy eating practices, along with discussion about the importance of making exercise a part of life. The presenter will also do demonstrations of exercises that can be done without having to go to a gym.

**11:25 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.****The Components of a True (Liberating) Education****Bakari Lumumba****Location: Building 8, Room 8-036**

This workshop will explore what education is and how the current educational system is failing the black community particularly black males. Additionally, it will cover the components of a true liberating education while also discussing plausible solutions to the school to prison pipeline in African America.

**11:25 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.****How They Made It: An Overview of the Motivation and Success Factors of African American Entrepreneurs in Dayton, Ohio****Ty Stone, PhD****Location: Building 7, Northwest Loggia (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Library)**

The economic downturn has disproportionately impacted African Americans through the loss of homes, jobs, and overall financial security. Those preparing for success and growth in the new economy should consider entrepreneurship as a career option. Historically, entrepreneurship for African Americans has been considered the "great equalizer," although many AA businesses have failed. Based on the presenter's research, this session provides an overview of the motivation and success factors of successful African American entrepreneurs in

Dayton, Ohio.

**11:25 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.****The Journey into Entrepreneurship****Tenola Oliver****Location: Building 8, Lower Level, Main Stage Area**

The strategy of the workshop is two-fold: alleviating the guess work in starting a small business and equipping every attendee with the ability to think like an entrepreneur by learning how to brain storm. Attendees will leave with realistic expectations of the lifestyle of an entrepreneur. Pitfalls will be discussed.

**12:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch Location: Building 8, Stage Area****2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.****Keynote Address – Stephen Hightower, President, Hightowers Petroleum, Co.****Location: Building 8, Lower Level, Main Stage Area****3:10 p.m. – 4:25 p.m.****The Time and What Must Be Done: What Subjects Are Required to Build a Nation****Quinn X****Location: Building 4, Room 4-011**

In this lecture we will address the necessity of studying nation building subjects: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), the need for land, acquiring the knowledge of agriculture and will address some of the reasons for the decline of America's education system.

**3:10 p.m. – 4:25 p.m.****Need a Job? Then Do SUMthing!****Tiffany Reynolds****Location: Building 8, Lower Level, Main Stage Area**

Seeking a new job or need a Job? Then, this workshop offers proven techniques that will guide and direct you in the right direction to secure the job that's right for you. You'll learn how to define the perfect employment match, how to select your employment type, how to seek jobs that match your skill sets; and what type of employer you attract - and, you'll learn how to rise to the top of the candidate pool!

**3:10 p.m. – 4:25 p.m.****Empowering Youth for Participation in Community Development****Michael Manuel and Darius Jordan****Location: Building 7, Northwest Loggia (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Library)**

This presentation examines the D.O.I.T. program for community development and youth development. In this program, youth are immersed in the construction trade with hands-on training that teaches them to build a house from the ground up. It provides a mentoring component and an educational component that relates the building of a house to the anatomy of the body and the building of a business. One of the graduates will talk about his experience in the program and the purchase of his first home at 19 years old.

**3:10 p.m. – 4:25 p.m.****Going It Alone: Single Parenting- The New Normal****Lashon Williams****Location: Building 8, Room 8-036**

The single parent household is no longer the minority in America...it is now the new normal. Also becoming the new normal is the number of households headed by single dads. Can dads be just as good at single parenting as moms? Author and professor LaShon Williams talks about dads going it alone as single parents in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Dads aren't just taking out the garbage but they're making dinner too!

**3:10 p.m. – 4:25 p.m.****Get Paid to Get an Education, Enjoy a Lifelong Career (If You Are Willing to Work)****John Morris****Location: Building 8, Room 8-037**

Working in construction and in manufacturing is not the dirty hard labor you see in the movies and there are thousands of openings today and in the near future. The presenter talks about the need for diversity in the construction industry and about paid "in full" training opportunities in the skilled trades. Find out how to get trained and certified in the skilled trades without incurring debt. People willing to work hard need only apply.



## Dayton Book Expo

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Saturday, April 27, 2013

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

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# Keynote Speakers and Acknowledgements

## Friday Keynote Speaker—Jasiri X



Emcee and community activist Jasiri X is the creative force and artist behind the ground breaking internet news series, This Week with Jasiri X, which has garnered critical acclaim, thousands of subscribers, and millions of internet views. His videos have been featured on websites as diverse as Allhiphop.com and The Huffington Post and Jasiri has been a guest on BET Rap City, The Michael Baisden Show, Free Speech TV, Left of Black, and Russia

Today.

A six time Pittsburgh Hip-Hop Award winner, Jasiri recently became the first Hip-Hop artist to receive the coveted August Wilson Center for African American Culture Fellowship. A founding member of the anti-violence group One Hood, Jasiri started the New Media Academy to teach young African-American boys how to analyze and create media for themselves.

Jasiri X signed a record deal with Wandering Worx Entertainment and is currently working on his album, Ascension with acclaimed producer Rel!gion.

## Saturday Keynote Speaker— Stephen Hightower



Since 1957 the Hightower Family has continued to operate as a privately held corporation in various business endeavors. In 1984 Steve Hightower started Hightowers Petroleum Co. (HPC) as a licensed Motor Fuel Dealer. With foresight and continuing innovation, HPC developed a "Virtual Market Place"

throughout the United States with the ability to provide gasoline, diesel, biodiesel, ethanol, lubricants, oils and greases nationally.

HPC's customer base includes Ford Motor Company, Duke Energy, Progress Energy, General Motors Corporation, General Mills, Waste Management, The Kroger Company, UPS, AK Steel Corporation, Halliburton, FedEx, Border States, University of Miami, Mashuda Corporation, Midwest Cars, The State of Ohio, Columbus Airport Car Rental Companies, Honda/TRC and many others.

Steve has remained active in the international community since 1984, primarily in Nigeria. HPC maintains relationships with most of the major oil companies in the U.S. continuing to be a leader in the industry while providing value to their customers.

HPC, through the leadership of Steve Hightower, continues to provide its customers with unique processes and has built a supply chain that "Exceeds Expectations" while "Fueling America's Petroleum Needs" one customer at a time!

## Special Thanks

### Conference Committee Members

Marlon Aldridge  
Darryl Allen  
Dr. Bobby Beavers  
Michael Carter  
Juanita Darden-Jones  
Lamar Ford  
Dr. Michael Gaines  
Yamika Leeper  
Timothy McKinney  
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