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Los Angeles, California

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19th Annual Families & Fathers National Conference

FEATURED TALK PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Alisha Griffin is the Director of the California Department of Child Support Services. She has been with the child support program for more than 17 years and came to child support with many years in public and private family services, including child welfare, child protection, rehabilitation and therapeutic service systems. She most recently assumed leadership of the California Child Support program after leading New Jersey, since the implementation of PRWORA. While in New Jersey, she successfully led the design, procurement, implementation and management of the first second-generation national model child support automated system, including substantial pre-and post-change management strategies. Additional focus on practice improvements and ensuring efficient and effective service delivery resulted in a comprehensive streamlining of all collections and disbursement systems and overarching fiscal management coordinated with revamping customer service through creating a centralized comprehensive, one-stop, quality driven service model, with comprehensive performance metrics. She also has a strong portfolio of experience in direct service programming, policy analysis and development and advocacy focused on quality service delivery to children and families.

Ms. Griffin has chaired, participated and worked on many national workgroups and designed several model programs, both in the child support and child welfare arenas. She has served as past President of the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) and the National Council of Child Support Directors (NCCSD). She currently serves on NCSEA's International and Policy and Government Relations committees. She serves on the Executive Council of NCCSD and the chair of the subcommittee on Medical Support, which

addresses issues related to child support and the impact of implementation of the Affordable Care Act. She represented NCSEA for all five years as a member of the delegation to The Hague Private Law Convention on Child Maintenance and Family Support and served as an observer/program advisor to NCCSUL on the revisions to UIFSA to incorporate the new convention into US laws. Because of her expertise, she was invited to testify to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on The Hague Convention and its benefits to the US children and families.

Ms. Griffin continues her dedication to families and community on several other levels. She has also served as President and Senior Advisor for the National Family Preservation Network (NFPN), providing leadership on grant acquisition, media relations and fatherhood services and helped NFPN acquire numerous grants to further the work of preserving and strengthening families. Ms. Griffin has a Masters in both Clinical and Community Psychology.

Camille Maben, Executive Director of First 5 California. In that role, she is responsible for staffing the California Children and Families Commission, in addition to directing the work of the agency and its staff. Through her leadership, first 5 California is implementing several evidence-based and results-driven Signature Programs targeted to children, parents and teachers that focus on quality. Prior to her appointment at First 5 California, Ms. Maben served as the Division Director of the Child Development Division at the California Department of Education (CDE). Responsibilities in that role included providing leadership and oversight to over 700 early care and education contractors with a 1.7 billion-dollar budget. She most recently served as Co-Chair of the State Advisory Council on Early Learning and Care, and

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helped win and implement the \$52.6 million federal Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge Grant.

She was previously appointed by the Governor to serve as Chief of Staff for the Office of the Secretary of Education. She worked closely with the Secretary on the coordination and development of the Governor's education policy agenda. In earlier work at CDE, Ms. Maben served as Division Director of the School and District Accountability Division. Her division included the No Child Left Behind Office, oversight of the Categorical Program Monitoring process, the Title I Policy and Partnerships Unit, and the English Learner Accountability Unit. She served as the Superintendent's representative to the California Interscholastic Federation. Ms. Maben also served as Senior Advisor to former State Superintendent Delaine Eastin and has worked as a consultant to the Assembly Education Committee. She currently serves as a school board member for the Rocklin Unified School District. She has served on the Rocklin Board for over 20 years.

Rick Miller is the founder and CEO of Kids at Hope, an international child and youth development organization that studies family, school and community cultures to better understand the dynamics of success and failure. Mr. Miller has spent 48 years in the field of child and youth development as a practitioner, researcher, teacher, public policy expert and author. His research is revolutionizing the understanding of child and youth development and cultures.

Mr. Miller's work is modeled in 21 states and Canada, cited by the American Academy of Pediatrics and adopted by the Arizona Supreme Court to help redefine the juvenile justice system from risk to hope. He is the author of three books and two comic books. He has

received Arizona State University's Visionary Award; the City of Phoenix, Martin Luther King, Jr. Living the Dream Award; and the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge George Washington Medal. Included in his many keynotes, workshops, seminars and symposiums is a TED Talk. In addition to his work with Kids at Hope, Mr. Miller is a Professor of Practice at Arizona State University's Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics. He lives in Phoenix with his wife, Esther. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Dr. Jacqueline Del Rosario has developed proven tools to help couples delve through their quarrels and discover healthy approaches to marital circumstances across all borders. As a marriage coach and wife for over 20 years, Dr. Del Rosario continues to travel coast to coast speaking on and discussing the plights attached to the institution of marriage and under privileged families. Dr. Del Rosario's mantra derives from the idea that the foundation of any society starts in the individual homes of people. In her mission to improve individuals' likelihood for marital success, she also founded ReCapturing the Vision (RTV), a globally recognized nonprofit dedicated to helping the youth and their families overcome negative trends that lead to generational cycles of failure and dependency, a veracity far too common within inner-city neighborhoods of America. ReCapturing the Vision's programs have received over \$20 million in federal, state and local funding. The organization has, to date, steadily propelled empowerment into the lives of the adolescents, their families in school, at home and within their respective communities.

As a marriage coach and certified state-approved premarital course provider, Dr. Del Rosario has developed proven tools to help couples talk through their problems and find healthy solutions in support of her vision to

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break generational cycles of hardship that have crippled so many families.

Her newest tool, *BestMarriageKeys.com*, is a top website for interactive marriage preparation and training. On *BestMarriageKeys.com*, Dr. Del Rosario shares her experience of over 15 years as a marital counselor and 20 years in a happy marriage to help individuals improve their likelihood for marital success. She continues to work tirelessly to pave the way for social reform, a new mindset and, most importantly, lighting the path towards an enriched life.

As a recognized public speaker, Dr. Del Rosario has dynamic topics for singles, married couples, professional associations, universities and churches. One of her most popular topics *Dating Rules with Dr. D*, provides laughter, healing and training to help singles work on themselves and understand the keys to building long lasting and healthy relationships. As an educator, author, advocate, counselor and visionary, Dr. Del Rosario holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, a Master's in Education, and a Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership. She resides in Miami, FL with her husband of over 20 years and two sons.

Dr. Ronald B. Mincy, Sr. is the Maurice V. Russell Professor of Social Policy and Social Work Practice and Director, Center for Research on Fathers, Children, and Family Well-Being at Columbia University. Professor Mincy's past research has focused on the effects of policies and programs on the roles that young, disadvantaged (especially Black) men play as fathers and workers. Two recently published studies, supported by the Ford Foundation (with Dupree, and with Carlson, Garfinkel, McLanahan, and Wendell Primus), counter the conventional wisdom by showing that higher welfare benefits are associated with more—not less—involvement of unmarried fathers in the lives of their

children and partners, if one broadens the definition of families to include unmarried parents not living in co-residential unions. Income pooling by these fragile families can result in increased visiting by non-resident fathers. However, higher welfare benefits do not encourage cohabiting fathers to marry the mothers of their children, because it is more difficult for married couples to conceal income-pooling. Two other recent papers examine the effects of child support enforcement policies on paternity establishment, child support compliance and father involvement. One paper (with Nepomnyaschy and Garfinkel) uses city-level data to show that unwed fathers are more likely to establish paternity for their children if they live in jurisdictions with more aggressive in-hospital paternity establishment programs and that establishing paternity in the hospital increases visitation. Another paper (with Huang and Garfinkel) shows that the child support obligations faced by low-income fathers are so high that they, in fact, reduce compliance.

Dr. Mincy is a co-principal investigator (with Garfinkel, McLanahan, and Brooks-Gunn) on the recently-awarded grant from NICHD that is supporting collection of the 6th wave of data for the Fragile Families and Child Well-being Study, when the focal children become pre-adolescents (around age 9). He plans to use these data for follow-up studies of the earnings trajectories of unmarried fathers and the effects of union transitions (especially marriage) on earnings trajectories. He also plans to seek support from the Administration for Children and Families to study child support, visitation and health trajectories of unmarried fathers, and the effects of re-partnering by mothers or fathers on these trajectories. Dr. Mincy also plans to study the effects of visitation and child support payments by fathers on mothers re-partnering and on fathers' subsequent fertility. Finally, he plans to evaluate a program that equips non-

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resident fathers to reduce violence, substance abuse and early sexual debut among their early adolescent sons (ages 8-12).

Lisa M. Najavits, PhD is Professor of Psychiatry, Boston University School of Medicine; and adjunct professor, University of Massachusetts Medical School. She is a research psychologist at Veterans Affairs (VA) Boston Healthcare System and the Bedford VA; and Director of Treatment Innovations. She was on the faculty of Harvard Medical School for 25 years. Her major clinical and research interests are substance abuse, trauma, co-morbidity, behavioral addictions, veterans' mental health, community-based care, development of new psychotherapies and outcome research. Dr. Najavits is author of over 190 professional publications, as well as the books *Seeking Safety: A Treatment Manual for PTSD and Substance Abuse*; *A Woman's Addiction Workbook*; and the upcoming self-help book, *Recovery from Trauma, Addiction or Both: Finding Your Best Self*, as well as the new treatment manual, *Creating Change: A Past-Focused Treatment Manual for Trauma and Addiction*. She has served as President of the Society of Addiction Psychology of the American Psychological Association and is on various advisory boards including the *Journal of Traumatic Stress*; the *Journal of Gambling Studies*; the *Journal of Dual Diagnosis*, and *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*. She has received various awards, including the 1997 Young Professional Award of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, the 1998 Early Career Contribution Award of the Society for Psychotherapy Research, the 2004 Emerging Leadership Award of the American Psychological Association Committee on Women and the 2009 Betty Ford Award of the Addiction Medical Education and Research Association. Dr. Najavits is a licensed Psychologist in Massachusetts and conducts a psychotherapy practice. She received

her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Vanderbilt University and her Bachelor's with Honors from Barnard College of Columbia University.

Dr. Obie Clayton, Jr., is the Edmund Asa Ware Distinguished Professor and Chair of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Clark Atlanta University. Since 2011, he has been serving as the Donald L. Hollowell Distinguished Professor of Social Justice and Civil Rights Studies at the University of Georgia's School of Social Work. Previously, he was director of the Morehouse Research Institute and served on the faculty at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Massachusetts at Boston. He is the editor of *An American Dilemma Revisited: Race Relations in a Changing World* (Russell Sage Foundation, 1996) and co-editor of *Black Fathers in Contemporary American Society: Strengths, Weaknesses and Strategies for Change* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2003). Professor Clayton holds a Master's and a Ph.D. in Sociology from Emory University in Atlanta. Dr. Clayton received his undergraduate degrees in Religion and Sociology from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi and the Master's and Doctoral degrees from Emory University. Dr. Clayton has held teaching positions at the following institutions: Millsaps College, Atlanta University, the University of Massachusetts at Boston and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. His research and teaching interests are primarily in the areas of family studies, stratification and crime and delinquency. Dr. Clayton's current funded research is in health disparities and teenage sexuality. He has received funding in the past from the Office of Population Affairs/DHHS to train young men in safe sex behavior and responsible health practices. Dr. Clayton is also the Principal Investigator for the National Minority Male Health Project funded by the Office of Minority Health/DHHS. Other research activities include studies of urban inequality and he was part of a research team that studied this

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problem in four American cities: Atlanta, Boston, Detroit and Los Angeles. This study was funded by the Ford and Russell Sage Foundations. Other research projects which Dr. Clayton is involved include: (1) A study of the impact of immigration on the Atlanta workforce (funded by the Bureau of the Census) (2) Jobs and Job Training for African Americans (funded by the Department of Labor) and (3) The impact of Mass Transit in Atlanta (funded by the Department of Transportation). Dr. Clayton also received a grant from the National Science Foundation to expand the infrastructure of Morehouse College to conduct basic and exploratory research on the etiology of violence and asocial behavior.

Dr. Delia Robinson Richards' Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees are in early childhood education. She has presented at many education conferences in the United States, the Caribbean and Central America. She is a Fulbright Scholar who developed and implemented an early childhood program at the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine, Trinidad. Her research is on multiple intelligences in the early childhood curriculum, identifying the perceptions of Black fathers about the responsibility for their children's education, urban education - a perspective from University students, and children's first experiences in school. Dr. Richards is an Assoc. Professor in Early Childhood Education and CEO of BEEK3 (Beyond Expectations in Education) an educational consulting company that provides services to educators, families and caregivers of children between the ages of 3 to 8 years or from Prekindergarten to Third Grade.

Debra Samples is the Regional Program Manager for Children's Bureau Region 9 in San Francisco, CA. She and her team provide oversight to States and Tribal federal Child Welfare Programs in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and the

outer pacific territories of American Samoa, Guam and Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands. Ms. Samples has more than 30 years of child welfare experience, including state and county-level work across two states— Georgia and California. She has spent the last 15 years with the Children's Bureau Region 9 office and brings a wealth of knowledge about the policies and requirements needed for grantees to operate the federal child welfare programs.

She has devoted her career to ensuring good outcomes in the areas of safety, permanency and wellbeing of children and families touched by the child welfare system. Ms. Samples worked for many years providing direct work with children and families and as an adoption worker and managing a foster adoptive parent recruitment project. Most recently, during the first and second rounds of the federal child and family services reviews, Ms. Samples served as a member of the Children's Bureau National Review Team and was site lead in many reviews across the country assessing states conformity with meeting outcomes and program systemic factors. She has also participated as a panelist during a National Child Abuse and Neglect Conference on the overuse of psychotropic medication of children in foster care. Ms. Samples received a MA in Psychology from the Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN.

Kimberly Dent is the Executive Director of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood. She has more than 13 years of government service and has held various positions with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Prior to joining the Commission as Executive Director she served as then ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin's designee to the Commission. She has extensive experience and knowledge of Ohio's Child Support policies and procedures having served as a Human

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Thursday Evening: National Gala

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Services Program Administrator 3 in the Office of Child Support for many years.

Director Dent does extensive community outreach and public speaking about the message that promoting responsible fatherhood is much less costly than paying for the consequences of father absence. When fathers acquire the skills, they need to be responsible fathers, children are better off and better positioned to build their own strong families; families are better off because of fathers' love, care and emotional and financial support; and taxpayer dollars are saved as families are more likely to be well-functioning and self-sufficient.

Ms. Dent serves as Co-Chair of the Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality Fatherhood Involvement Workgroup, a member of Ohio's Child Support Strategic Workgroup and a member of Ohio's Ex-Offender Re-Entry Coalition. She holds a Bachelor's in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh, a Master's in Public Policy and Admin from Ohio University and is a candidate for her Doctorate in Law and Public Policy at Walden University.

Professor Thalia González teaches and writes in the fields of restorative justice, juvenile justice, education, civil rights, domestic human rights, law and society and public interest practice. She is an expert in the field of restorative justice and conflict transformation and her work on restorative practices, race and inequality, the school-to-prison pipeline and public policy has been utilized by educators, policymakers, county safety councils, think tanks and bar associations. Her recent publication, *Restorative Justice from the Margins to the Center* (2017), is the first article to trace the emergence of school-based restorative justice in the United States and its subsequent cascade and institutionalization as a new school discipline norm.

Professor González seeks to engage contemporary questions at the intersection of law, society, inequality and systemic reform. She has published articles, book chapters, policy reports and issue briefs in a variety of publications including *New York University Review of Law and Social Change*, *Howard Law Journal*, *Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Fordham Urban Law Journal*, *Ecology Law Quarterly* and the *Journal of Law and Education*. She is a frequent expert speaker at conferences and a commentator on legal issues and educational and juvenile justice policy. Professor González is co-author of *Girlhood Interrupted: The Erasure of Black Girls' Childhood* (with Rebecca Epstein and Jamilia Blake), the groundbreaking study examining the adultification of Black girls, finding that adults perceive Black girls as less innocent and more adult-like than their white peers.

Professor González has been recognized for her excellence in teaching, including being awarded the Linda and Todd White Teaching Prize, the Loftgordon Teaching Award and selected as a Mortar Board Last Lecture speaker. She was a member of the Research to Practice Collaborative of the Civil Rights Project at UCLA and has worked as a consultant for the National Institute of Justice. She has been a Visiting Scholar at Berkeley Law, UCLA School of Law, and Georgetown University Law Center. Prior to joining the faculty at Occidental College, she was a practicing attorney and held appointments at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and Arizona State University. She has chaired and been a board member of numerous organizations and is currently Board Chair of CADRE and serves on the national leadership team of the Yoga and Body Image Coalition.

Walter Simpkins is the Executive Director of Community Fathers Inc. in Schenectady NY. Community Fathers Inc. is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit

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organization that was legally incorporated in 2009. It is a grassroots support and empowerment group for men who are committed to strengthening their role as fathers. From what began as a once per week support group has evolved into a full-service father's program. Mr. Simpkins holds a BA Degree from the City College of New York. His credentials also include a Master's from the State University at Albany. He was awarded the Commission of Human Rights Individual Achievement Award and the New York State Citation for Community Contributions.

Anthony Mossburg, a musician with four original albums in four years left the stability of a full-time job to chase after the only thing that made him feel alive - music. What followed over the next four years was a series of accolades, achievements, risks, near misses and setbacks that indefinitely shaped him as an artist and a person. Now, he is squaring his sights on introducing his soulful voice, gutsy lyrics and melodic tones into a new direction that will push his creative talent.

Dr. Baranda Fermin is a Professor for the University of North Texas at Dallas. Her work is embedded within community development and her life experiences make her a champion for living a life of service, cultivating peace and building platforms for advocacy. As the daughter of an immigrant, an Army dependent child, first generation college student and a woman who has lived with grace and humor through domestic violence, infertility and pregnancy loss she is no stranger to navigating transitions and working through challenges until they lead to success. Her career in research, writing and training focused on issues of social identity and citizenship, navigating urban social environments and barriers, mental health and wellness access, and urban education innovation from cradle to career. Dr. Fermin is an

advocate, storyteller and builder with a track record of successful system innovation, capacity building and revitalization. Her current work builds resilience and capacity in faith communities and social justice work by evaluating and designing strategic solutions for sustainability, scalability and stability. Dr. Fermin's focus is on the issues that immigrants and the children of immigrants' face concerning persistence and completion of education.

Jeffery M. Leving, LTD, The Law Offices of Jeffery M. Leving, Chicago, Illinois, is a Chicago divorce attorney and author who specializes in matrimonial and family law. He is known primarily for his vocal advocacy of fathers' rights and hosts two radio shows. His television and radio commercials are well known in the Chicago area. More than 30 years ago, Mr. Leving helped pioneer the Fathers' Rights Movement when he discovered a gap in the judicial system. It was at that point that he started seeking equality and due process for fathers everywhere. Mr. Leving's accomplishments include the co-authorship of the Illinois Joint Custody Law, Illinois Virtual Visitation, Right to DNA Testing Notice, and Unlawful Visitation or Parenting Time Interference Laws. He also delivered testimony before both branches of the Illinois Legislature on Joint Custody, Grandparent's Visitation and Child Support Accountability bills.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Honorable Arthur L. Burnett, Sr., Retired Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia and the first African-American United States Magistrate Judge in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (June 26-1969 - December 1, 1975). He is as a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Howard University School of Liberal Arts and an honor graduate of New York University School of Law in 1958 following which he entered the U.S. Department of Justice as a

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Criminal Division lawyer. After a two-year break in the United States Army on active duty, he returned to the U.S. Department of Justice where he served as a Special Assistant to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy on major criminal cases and as a monitor of the Civil Rights Movement. In April 1965, he became a Senior Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Columbia where he served for almost four years before becoming the Legal Advisor (now called General Counsel) for the Metropolitan Police Department following the aftermath in the District of Columbia resulting from the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. In the interval between serving as U.S. Magistrate Judge (1969-1975) and (1980-1987), he served as the Chief Legal Advisor for the Civil Service System and Legislative Counsel to President Jimmy Carter on all civilian personnel and government reorganization matters. In 1987, he was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia by President Ronald Reagan and served as a full-time active Judge until October 1998, at which time he took Senior Judge status, but continued to sit full-time and serve in a volunteer capacity as Judge-in-Residence to the Children's Defense Fund. In April 2004, he was one of the Principal Founders of the National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. under the leadership of Clyde E. Bailey, Jr., then President of the National Bar Association.

In March 2017, he was selected by the International Association of Top Professionals as Top Judge for 2017 from over 50 judges considered from all over the world. In April 2017, he was chosen by Who's Who in America for the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award, named after the founder of Who's Who, the highest recognition given by that organization. Finally, in June 2017, co-authored the book *Pieces Never Missing Required in a Child's Life*, dealing with the idea

of what fathers' engagement should be in their children's moral values development and education in America for the future of this Nation.

Allen E. Lipscomb, Psy.D, LCSW is an Assistant Professor at California State University Northridge, in the Social Work Department. Dr. Lipscomb is a Clinical Psychologist and has his license in Clinical Social Work in the state of California. Dr. Lipscomb received his Doctorate in Psychology (Psy.D.) with a clinical emphasis in marriage, family and child psychotherapy from Ryokan College and his MSW from the University of Southern California. He specializes in providing anti-oppressive mental health services to individuals, children, youth and families of color. His areas of research are centered on the psychiatric epidemiology among racialized/marginalized individuals who have experienced trauma (i.e. complex trauma, traumatic-grief and race-based trauma). He is currently working on his next research project, which explores the utilization of E.M.D.R. psychotherapy to reduce the psychological effects of race-based trauma among people of color. Dr. Lipscomb published his first book last year titled: *Black Male Grief Reaction to Trauma: A Clinical Case Study of One Man's Treatment*.

Clay Rojas, is the Founder and Executive Director of Prison Families Aftercare, Inc. He is a former police officer and decorated United States Marine with 13 years of professional experience and distinguished service. Mr. Rojas brings a perspective that is extremely rare and beneficial. He served three years in Federal Prison after a federal indictment in 2010. Mr. Rojas has been on both sides of the law. Now, his passion is to reach at-risk youth and help repair broken families. He holds a Bachelor's in Psychology and Theology Minor from William

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Jessup University School of Professional Studies
in Rocklin, CA.

LaTasha C. Watts is an award-winning child advocate, speaker and Author of *I'm Not Broken Just a Little Twisted*. She spent her entire childhood in the foster care system living in a variety of foster homes, until eventually aging out of the foster care system at the age 18. After exiting foster care, Ms. Watts would then find herself struggling to survive - facing poverty, homelessness and multitude of health issues, including battling cancer. Despite her adversities, she maintained a determination to change the negative outcomes of children in the foster care system and beyond. Currently, Ms. Watts has over 15 years of experience in working with youth, families and professionals in a variety of settings. She prominently holds the positions of Founder and Executive Director of The Purple Project and The Aging Out Foundation both dedicated to addressing the needs of current and former foster youth. She is also Founder and CEO of Cummings Watts & Associates, a child welfare consulting and professional training firm and serves as the CEO for Speak Up Speak Loud, a nationwide personal branding firm. Ms. Watts has received numerous recognitions, including Proclamations from Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland in honor of her immeasurable contributions to the foster care and adoption communities. She has worked on multiple nationwide charity campaigns and has been featured in several magazines and textbooks. Ms. Watts travels nationwide consulting, educating and motivating youth, professionals and families through her workshops, panel discussions and keynote addresses.

Dr. Diana Culver, is an adoptive parent, biological parent and has been a kinship placement for the seven children she adopted.

She is currently raising her last three children/grandchildren with intergenerational support from her adult children. Dr. Culver presently owns and manages an early learning center in a poor community, as well as a small low-income apartment complex. More than 60 percent of her families in both businesses have had extended cases with child welfare agencies. She has many families, grandparents or other kinship placement, raising grandchildren or other family members to which she offers support and resources. Dr. Culver was a member of the Arizona Supreme Court Foster Care Review Board for several years. It was during this time when she developed an interest in promoting intergenerational placement as opposed to traditional foster care. She also became sensitive to the unique challenges of grandparents and great grandparents raising grandchildren and their specific challenges. During her Master's program, she focused on ways to dismantle the school to prison pipeline. In her dissertation she hyper-focused on the earliest level of prevention (School to Prison Pipeline) - social-emotional kindergarten readiness. She also has a lengthy background in conflict resolution.

Dr. J.D. Sanders, Counselor and Empowerment Coach; DFMT, NCC. The innovative, limitless, no boundaries, motivational, inspirational speaker and minister had great impartation and sound wisdom from his grandparents Quentin and Zoma Sanders. He has embraced their words of wisdom and discipline. Dr. Sanders prides his ability to counsel, coach and mentor others not only from his extensive education and background, but from his previous many mistakes, lack of self-confidence, lack of identity and lack of trust. As a result, Dr. Sanders has become an awesome visionary and is admired by many for his outstanding integrity.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, February 19, 2018 – **Pre-Conference Institute**
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Dr. Katrina Akande is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies. Her research interests include father involvement among incarcerated fathers and fathers with children not residing in the home. Dr. Akande received her Ph.D. in Family Sciences from the University of Kentucky, Department of Family Sciences. She also earned a Bachelor of Science in Corrections and Juvenile Justice and a Masters of Art in Community Counseling from Eastern Kentucky University.

Dr. Kenya M. Cistrunk serves as an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Mississippi State University. For 15 years, she has served many clients in the juvenile justice system and child protective services. Dr. Cistrunk earned a Doctorate in Adult Education from the University of Georgia. She received a Bachelor's of Social Work from Mississippi State University. Dr. Cistrunk earned a Master of Social Work from the University of Alabama. Her research focuses on service provisions for marginalized and/or oppressed populations, faith-based organizations and community organizing and planning.

Edwin Gonzalez- Santin, M.S.W., Director, Office of American Indian Projects School of Social Work, Arizona State University. Mr. Gonzalez-Santin has worked extensively with Native communities creating policies to advocate and empower Tribal families, assisting with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

Melissa Funderburk-Harris, M.A., B.S.W., Executive Program Director of Iswa Head Start serving the Catawba Nation is a member of the Catawba Nation of South Carolina and former ICWA Director for the Catawba. She is an advocate for Tribal children and families. She serves on the Board of Directors for the National Indian Head Start Director's Association.

Dr. Randal Henry is the Founder and Chief Intelligence Officer of Community Intelligence - a community oriented research and evaluation consulting firm. Dr. Henry is an expert in utilizing policy, programmatic, institutional and community improvements to improve public health, increase health equity and reduce health disparities in vulnerable populations. His organization, Community Intelligence, is focused on strategic planning, multisite evaluation, policy analysis, data collection and analysis, community engagement, health promotion, health impact assessment strategic planning, multicultural research and executive coaching. Community Intelligence's quantitative and qualitative expertise in community needs assessment and asset mapping, health service delivery, fund development, coalition facilitation and program evaluation has been applied in diverse settings including community/faith-based organizations and local/federal government and to a breadth of issues including injury/violence prevention, nutrition and physical activity, chronic diseases, improving healthcare and creating healthy in diverse communities. Dr. Henry has served as principal investigator on national multi-site research and demonstration projects and has published research findings in peer-reviewed journals. He served on national advisory and expert panels and is an alumni member of RWJF's New Connections program. Dr. Henry is a graduate of Cal Poly (1990) and received his Master's (1997) and doctoral (2006) degrees in public health from the School of Public Health at the University of California at Los Angeles where he received numerous fellowships, was a graduate instructor in health policy and administration courses.

Rodney Hamright has over 20 years of experience in the field of multicultural parenting and family dynamics. Mr. Hamright is employed by the Lancaster County School

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

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District as Prevention/Parenting Director. He is known for his energetic and enthusiastic Power Source presentations and class sessions. Using humor and real-life applications, along with outcome based training materials and parenting modules in a non-judgmental setting, parents and teens are encouraged to share their day-to-day experiences. Over the past 16 years, Mr. Hamright has been able to serve over 1,000 families nationwide.

Dr. Thelma Scott is the Founder and Chairman for the Barbara Jordan Endeavors Corporation (BJEC). The organization was founded in December of 2000. In her research, Dr. Scott discovered that students with disabilities throughout school districts and the community were underserved. Since then, Dr. Scott has dedicated her life, time and passion as an advocate and mentor to reduce the dropout and suicide rate for students with disabilities and save them from human trafficking. She was the first African-American woman with a disability to be appointed in 2008 by the Governor's Office Rehabilitation Council for the State of Texas (RCT) that is established by the federal law to provide community input to vocational rehabilitation agencies in Texas. She was nominated by First Lady Michelle Obama for The United State of Woman, Houston Women Magazine Community Angel 2017, Honored with the 2017 Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from the Pendleton Chapel Seminary School, Texas Diversity First Leadership Award - the first African-American woman to receive this award, WSN Community Outreach Advocate of the Year Award 2015, Texas Rehabilitation Association Justin Dart (ADA) Advocate of the Year Award 2015 (only one person in Texas is honored with this award) and Texas GFSC Self-Advocate of the Year Award 2015 (only one person in Texas is honored with this award).

Sharon C. Jenkins is a Doctoral candidate at Oral Roberts University and an advocate for people with disabilities. She has served as an advisory board member for several organizations that provide support services for the disenfranchised, including BJEC.

Alvaro Llanos, family support worker, at CentroNia Institute QIN Initiative Early Childhood Program where he establishes partnerships with families, supports families' efforts to reach their goals to provide opportunities for children and families to participate in family literacy services; coordinates and integrates Early Head Start services to enhance effectiveness; supports families in accessing to community resources; and assists them in crisis. Mr. Llanos serves as a liaison between children, homes, family services, doctors and others to help children who face problems such as disabilities, abuse, or poverty of families mostly composed of single/teen mothers. Mr. Llanos holds an M.S. in Conflict and Dispute Resolution from the University of Oregon, an M.A. in International Studies from the University of Oregon and Juris Doctorate Law Degree from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Luke Nelson is Market Development Director for PREPARE/ENRICH. As a Master trainer for P/E, Mr. Nelson brings a wealth of experience and practical insights into every training setting. With 25 years of Pastoral ministry and 15 years as a relationship educator, Mr. Nelson brings a unique end user understanding to each session. He works with clients and agencies to deliver quality relationship and marriage education and consulting services. He facilitates effective and goal-oriented outcomes in various community, Church and corporate settings. Luke and his wife, Deb, just celebrated 42 years of marriage. They live in the Seattle area and have two grown children and four grandchildren.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, February 19, 2018 – **Pre-Conference Institute**
Tuesday, February 20 - Thursday, 22, 2018 **Conference Days**
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Cedric Nelms was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. He graduated from St. Bernard High in Playa Del Rey, CA. He attended Morehouse College, where he Majored in Biology, with a Minor in Psychology. Mr. Nelms has been in the ministry for 18 years and has been working in different areas of ministry, from youth to men's ministry, teaching, community development, social justice and civic engagement. Over the last three years, he has been the lead Pastor in planting the Chosen Generation Fellowship Church in Los Angeles. In addition, he has been working as an associate with World Impact and working with LA Voice and the Christian Community Development Association. Pastor Nelms was the radio host of the Chosen Generation Ministry Radio Show, an internet program/podcast that deals with the intersection of culture, life and faith. He has his own financial coaching business, where he helps people build their financial house.

Randall Hinton's life story and career opportunities are the key to understanding why his role as a parent educator is filled with passion and enthusiasm each day. As the saying goes - it takes a village. Mr. Hinton's village was vast. His family gave full support to his mom as she balanced life as a single mom, student and working woman. His father was killed in 1974, and despite the difficulties of adjusting to life without his dad, he attributes the man he is to the role of his grandfather. Mr. Hinton earned his Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Missouri.

Dallyda Tachi-Banda, Parent Educator, once was a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo where her family fled the country in December 1992. Because of her father's outspoken criticism to the violence against women and girls during the fight between the government and the rebel forces, her family was in danger. Fortunately, her family escaped to a

refugee camp in neighboring Lusaka, Zambia where they lived in constant food shortage, no sanitation facilities and in overcrowded housing units. In 1994, a group of church members sponsored her family in Kingsport, TN. Ms. Tachi-Banda's life in the refugee camp opened her eyes to the struggles women and children of our communities face each day. Ms. Tachi-Banda has a Bachelor's in Child and Family Studies.

Neil Campbell Pastored at New Life Community Church in Calgary for 13 years before becoming the Canadian and USA Director of Family Foundations International. He completed his Master's in Transformational Leadership where he researched the impact of a parents blessing upon their children. Pastor Campbell's mission is to create a culture of blessing in North America by training and equipping fathers to bless their sons and daughters with identity and purpose. He has taken hundreds of fathers and sons on a Rite of Passage weekend where he has designed an intentional time of impartation identity and destiny in the sons' lives. Pastor Campbell is currently working on completing his *Father Son Rite of Passage Handbook* to help equip hundreds of dads to lead a Father-Son ROP in their part of the U.S. Pastor Campbell has been married to his wife, Annette, for 38 years, has three beautiful daughters, two son-in-laws and two amazing grandsons.

Tory High, a Personal Trainer and Health Coach lost his father to a sudden heart attack in 2006. He began to recognize his own mortality and questioned his life and career choices. He addressed his own health and learned to teach others about fitness. Mr. High now works in corporate wellness. In 2014, he and his wife were blessed with twins after which fatherhood became his passion and he began to journal his experiences and feelings throughout their development. Mr. High decided to turn that into a blog, but quickly realized that there is not a

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Monday, February 19, 2018 – Pre-Conference Institute

Tuesday, February 20 - Thursday, 22, 2018 Conference Days

Thursday Evening: National Gala

Friday, February 23, 2018 – Post Conference Trainings



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lot of material out there for fathers by comparison to mothers. To become a part of the solution, Mr. High authored the book, *The High-Powered Dad: Becoming A Superhero for Your Family*. This book is an effort to validate the feelings and experiences of the new and expecting father, while giving tools for success in shaping the culture of the home, addressing health and fitness and building a legacy to be proud of. Mr. High's goal is to set the standard and spread a culture of High-Powered Dads that set out to achieve these ideals.

Dr. Sandra Murphy is a triumphant survivor of incest, rape and dating/family violence. At age 18, her husband shot her in the face at close range with a 12-gauge shotgun. Miraculously, she survived! She is the Founder and Executive Director of the non-profit Fair Care Center Inc., Building Better Families Counseling & Training Services, along with a violence prevention education team who assist the Cooling Room Project to provide school-based, workplace and church-based Anger Management, Violence Intervention/Prevention, and Mental Health Educational Series. Dr. Murphy is the Chancellor/Founder of Elect Lady Sons of Thunder School of Ministry & Mentoring Academy and Producer & Host of *Dr. Keeping 'It REAL Radio Show*. Dr. Murphy is the publisher of 22 leadership and self-help books. She has been speaking professionally for over 40 years. Through the professional gifts of teaching and administration, Dr. Murphy is a Consultant, Educator, Mentor, Ministry Midwife and Trainer to develop leadership with schools, colleges, police academies, churches, businesses, prisons and others in professional development for leadership, family-bonding, violence prevention/intervention for individual/family, workplace public and community safety for family and community wellness. Dr. Murphy is the mother of two adult children and the grandmother of five beautiful granddaughters.

She has over 40 years of community education, training and outreach services.

Kelly R. Little has over 20 years of public administration experience. At MCCSE, he leads an Intake team, a team at the Clerk of Court, the Self-Service Center, a DSS co-location and the HS/Collegiate Internship/Mentoring Program, the Responsible Fatherhood, Veterans/Outreach and the Mom as Gateway initiative. He has helped build strategic partnerships that help fathers obtain visitation, build skills and earn a livable wage. His work has helped shift the paradigm of Child Support service delivery in North Carolina. MCCSE's holistic approach has galvanized support and credibility within a previously skeptical community. Mr. Little's passion for this work is a direct result of his experiences growing up in Philadelphia, where he faced many of the same challenges that current Child Support customers face. His community involvement is focused on fatherhood education, healthy relationships, workforce development, strengthening families, inspiring youth and advocating for catalyzing change and dismantling racism. He has presented at Federal, State and Local conferences and is also the CEO of The Legrande Little Group, where he consults with non-profits on engaging at-risk youth, facilitates the strengthening of families and promotes father engagement. Mr. Little is a 25-year Veteran of the U.S. Army where he served Honorably in numerous wars and is a decorated service member who was medically retired in 2013. He has a M.B.A from Pfeiffer University with a concentration in Government and a Master's in Science and Leadership in Change Management. He is a 2015 graduate of NCSEA U and a 2016 Practitioner Leadership Institute Fellow.

Howard Lee III a.k.a. The Motivational Poet, is a Master Spoken Word Artist, published Author, youth empowerment champion, community

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, February 19, 2018 – Pre-Conference Institute

Tuesday, February 20 - Thursday, 22, 2018 Conference Days

Thursday Evening: National Gala

Friday, February 23, 2018 – Post Conference Trainings



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relationship pioneer and an exuberant orator who has improved the living conditions of hundreds of families and youth with mentorship in parenting, connecting community resources and promoting healthy relationships. He launched a dynamic Youth Empowerment platform that instructs poetry and business modeling concepts to promote entrepreneurship in *Storybook Xtreme* at www.storybookxtreme.com. He is also a voice in radio. Mr. Lee has written 5 Op-Ed articles for the *Telegraph Herald* newspaper surrounding the topic: Community Relationships, Youth Empowerment and Community Activism. Mr. Lee has impacted hundreds of youth and their families in 5+ years within the community. He has taught the nationally recognized and respected by community-based organizations, schools and faith-based organizations curriculum known as Dare to Be King. He also has taught The Phoenix Curriculum, an evidence-based program recognized by National Gang Center/OJJDP/Bureau of Justice Assistance, a gang intervention curriculum for middle school, high school and alternative school students. Mr. Lee has training in the Nationally Recognized Aggression Replacement Training (ART), a research-based, a proven-effective approach for working with challenging youth. He has a curriculum of over 30 years of use in schools, community agencies, juvenile institutions and other settings. He is training within the Nationally Recognized, evidenced-based Trauma Informed Care.

Dr. Annette Miles, Assistant Professor of Human Development, specializes in the growth and development of children from infancy to Third Grade. Dr. Miles is a retired educator who has experience working with students across the Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia areas, especially those with disabilities. She is a specialist in teaching and assisting individuals with disabilities achieve educational, career and

life goals. She earned a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Special Education (Non-Categorical) from the University of the District of Columbia, an Educational Specialist (E.Ds.), Master of Arts (M.S) degrees in Transition Special Education from The George Washington University (D.C) and a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in Human Development from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Dr. Miles holds endorsements in Intellectual, Learning and Emotional disabilities. She volunteers with teens and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Her area of research focuses on public policy issues impacting children.

James Poindexter, a former foster kid who entered the system at age 10 and aged out without being adopted. At age 15, a family took him in and allowed him to take Martial Arts and Army ROTC. Mr. Poindexter went on to win several awards in ROTC and became a 7-time National Karate Champion and the Team USA Captain and World Martial Arts Champion. Mr. Poindexter has an Associate's in Nutrition and a Bachelor's in Exercise Science. He now owns JH Brands where he speaks, coaches and trains on many different subjects.

Tom Krause, Author, has a reputation as in the motivational speaking circuit. Mr. Krause currently presents for hundreds of clients nationwide and overseas and is the Author of *Touching Hearts-Teaching Greatness*, *A Teen's Guide to NOT Being Perfect*, *The Little Boy's Smile* and a Co-Author to many books in the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* book series. His published articles on parenting, leadership, business and education have appeared in international and national publications such as *The School Administrator*, *Global Study Magazine*, *Leading Today Magazine*, *Leadership Values*, *Academic Leadership Today* and others. Mr. Krause has spread his inspiring message at conferences including the International Lion's

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, February 19, 2018 – **Pre-Conference Institute**
Tuesday, February 20 - Thursday, 22, 2018 **Conference Days**
Thursday Evening: **National Gala**
Friday, February 23, 2018 – **Post Conference Trainings**

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Club Leadership Conference, European Council of International Schools, National Speakers Association Convention, Future Business Leaders of America, Insurance Leaders Conference, National SADD, National TREND, Missouri Department of Secondary Education, Missouri State Teachers Association, U.S. District Attorney's Victim Conference, and Central States/Canada Regional 4H Leadership Conference. Many of Mr. Krause's motivational quotes have been used worldwide in publications.

Talibdin El-Amin, is a former State Legislator, father of five and formerly incarcerated individual. He is a Publisher of the *St. Louis Argus* newspaper, (Missouri's oldest African-American paper) Author, columnist and radio host. Mr. El-Amin is a U.S. Navy Veteran (Operation Desert Storm). He is passionate about working with community youth in what he refers to as a pre-entry focus and engaging youth to provide tools to avoid the traps of youthful indiscretions that lead to the penal pathway. Incarcerated in 2010 in a Federal Institution in Alabama, he endured the personal challenges of temporary loss of family and the arduous task of re-establishing a presence and place with family and re-integrating back into a society. Mr. El-Amin is committed to sharing his experience in the hopes of helping others navigate the challenges of pre-and post-incarceration.

Michael Freeman grew up in Compton, CA. He attended Georgia Tech in Atlanta, GA. In 1978, Mr. Freeman joined World Impact (an urban mission's organization). He worked in urban ministry with World Impact for 23 years. Between 1988 and 1997, he served as Director of World Impact's ministry in Chester, an urban community in the Philadelphia area. Mr. Freeman and his wife, Glynette, with a team of missionaries, planted Refuge in Christ Church in McCaffery Village, a housing project in Chester.

They also established Frederick Douglas Christian School - a Christian elementary school for urban children. After returning to Los Angeles in 1997, Mr. Freeman worked with the Watts Ministry of World Impact, developing partnerships with churches to train and coach them in ministering to urban residents through The Nehemiah Team Project. In 2002, he resigned from World Impact and became the co-founder and executive director of Elevate Your G.A.M.E., which conducts mentoring programs at urban high schools. Mr. Freeman is also the Author of the book, *Seven Days in the Hood*. He and his wife have raised two children, Isaiah and Eboni.

Troy Burgher, a Microsoft Certified Professional, MOS Certified Trainer and MCT Alumni teaches and helps individuals overcome their fear and anxiety of technology and computers. Mr. Burgher is a former high school dropout and resident of Edgemere Houses, which is part of the New York City Housing Authority, located in Far Rockaway, Queens [New York City]. Mr. Burgher developed a passion for sharing his knowledge of computers and software applications with residents of inner-city communities where, oftentimes, inner-city communities lack technology and computer literacy resources, overshadowed by sports and craft-related activities. Mr. Burgher's lifelong pursuit is to bridge the technology literacy gap that exists in the inner-city community. He has developed into a creative problem solver that designs simple and user-friendly solutions incorporating Microsoft Office Suite applications as the core learning component.

Charles L. Perry, MPA strengths are in project management, organizational development, strategic planning, program evaluation and fund development campaigns. Mr. Perry has more than 25 years of professional consultant experience. He is a 20-year Air Force retiree (1972-1992), who holds a Bachelor's in Political

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National 2018 Conference

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, February 19, 2018 – Pre-Conference Institute

Tuesday, February 20 - Thursday, 22, 2018 Conference Days

Thursday Evening: National Gala

Friday, February 23, 2018 – Post Conference Trainings



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Science from Mercer University, a Master's in Administration from Georgia College and a Doctorate of Management Degree from the University of Maryland University College. Since 1992, Mr. Perry, an academician, consultant, resource developer and entrepreneur has provided leadership in helping to start, build the capacity, lead, manage, sustain and evaluate public and private, large and small organizations. As a project manager, he has managed multi-million-dollar projects delivering training and technical assistance in many states that have reached and impacted more than 25,000 people. Mr. Perry has served as an Adjunct Professor for three schools/universities: Central Texas College, University of Maryland University College and Prince George's Community College. He is an active and dedicated member of Metropolitan Baptist Church. Additionally, Mr. Perry has served on three nonprofit boards: East River Family Strengthening Collaborative (www.erfsc.org), PERICO Institute for Youth Development and Entrepreneurship (www.perico.comcastbiz.net) and National Center for Children and Families (www.nccf-cares.org).

Dr. Ricardo McKinney began his career of service at the San Diego Urban League and Planned Parenthood. Later, he worked for the Department of Defense and ran a Drama Club for 10 years. Hundreds of performances in five states focused on significant social issues and personal growth. He earned a Bachelor's of Art in Theology (Oakwood University), a Masters in Special Education (University of Miami) and a Doctorate in Special Education and Psychology (University of Michigan). As an educator, he has taught disabled and non-disabled students from Kindergarten through 12th Grade in Florida, Michigan, Puerto Rico (territory) and California. As a Professor, Dr. McKinney has taught at various universities and served as Special

Education Department head at Chapman University College.

Sam Mehaffie was a High School varsity basketball coach, a youth pastor and Teen Challenge board member until he retired. His greatest passion is reaching out to fatherless boys and young men, a subject fast becoming a major crisis in America. He was once told, find out what breaks your heart, then break your back changing it and he's been doing that ever since, volunteering as a mentor for over 25 years and as a CASA (Court Appointed Advocate) in the Kansas City Family Court when he retired. Mr. Mehaffie's professional background is in the Christian music industry. In 1980, he started his own business, Royal Marketing, Inc., which he successfully ran for 25 years. Mr. Mehaffie now speaks to men across the United States challenging them to reach out to the fatherless in their cities, communities and churches. He encourages them to volunteer with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), Big Brothers and other local organizations, as well as starting mentoring groups in their own churches. Mr. Mehaffie has authored two books: *Every Man's a Mentor* and *Fatherless America and the Church*.

Marvin and Jeanett Charles are the Co-Founders and Directors of Divine Alternatives for Dads Services (D.A.D.S.). In the process of rebuilding their lives after addiction and incarceration, Mr. and Mrs. Charles worked to regain parental rights of their four younger children and recognized how the challenges of raising children required new skills in managing family change and development. D.A.D.S. was founded in 1999 to help men gain these skills and navigate through barriers such as child support orders and lack of parenting plans to regain a positive parenting role in the lives of their children. D.A.D.S. has served over 3,000 clients since its opening and today serves over 500 men per year, impacting more than 1,300

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, February 19, 2018 – **Pre-Conference Institute**

Tuesday, February 20 - Thursday, 22, 2018 **Conference Days**

Thursday Evening: **National Gala**

Friday, February 23, 2018 – **Post Conference Trainings**



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children. Mrs. and Mrs. Charles are widely respected as direct service providers, advocates for the needs of men and women working on family reunification and trusted partners of public and private agencies servicing the reentry population.

Dr. Nicoline Ambe is an International Speaker, Educator and (#1 Best Selling) Author of several books. She has taught in several elementary schools, colleges and universities across Canada and the United States for the past two decades. Dr. Ambe has made numerous public television and radio appearances including ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC.

Dr. Ambe's primary mission is to help parents raise high achievers. Through teaching, speaking and training, Dr. Ambe has helped many parents develop great relationships with their children, resulting in academic excellence. She believes that with the right structure and support at home, every single child has the potential to excel in school and life. She has given several keynotes and presentations to large and small audiences at conferences, school districts, schools and churches to share her message of educational excellence, parent involvement and teacher excellence.

Emil Ekiyor was born in Lagos, Nigeria and belongs to the historical and rich Ijaw Tribe in Patani in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Mr. Ekiyor left his family in Nigeria at the age of 15 to pursue educational opportunities in the United States. He played football and basketball in U.S. athletics, which played a role in his ability to adapt and understand the new culture. Through experiences as a collegiate football player, team captain, six years of playing experience in the National Football League (NFL) and 10 years coaching, he developed leadership and team building skills. Post NFL, the exposure to high expectations, teamwork, professionalism and extreme scrutiny as an athlete has assisted

him in making a natural transition to the for-profit and non-profit worlds where he gained over 10 years of experience as a business owner, Executive and Administrator. Mr. Ekiyor currently serves in leadership positions as Co-Owner of *Supereaglesfootball.com*, Vice President of the Indianapolis Chapter of Indiana Black Expo, President of Indy Youth Sports, Co-Chair Voices for School Choice and Indianapolis Prayer Breakfast Leadership Team. Within the Indianapolis community, he has worked to identify key issues, develop a coalition of stakeholders to generate solutions and create a team of qualified individuals and organizations to execute the plan to solve societal issues.

Anthony Kelley is currently Senior Pastor of the Greater First Church Baptist in Baker, LA. He received his Master's of Divinity degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary located on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Pastor Kelley has served other churches to include Mount Zion First Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, LA succeeding Dr. T.J. Jemison, former President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and several other churches in Illinois and Indiana. He is the Founder and former Executive Secretary of the Prison Ministry and Criminal Justice Commission, Instructor on Prison Ministry for the National Baptist Congress and past Lecturer for the December Conference of Christian Educators, all the National Baptist Convention. Pastor Kelley is also Author of three books all published by Townsend Press to include: *How Shall They Hear*; *A Strange Silence from the Pulpit*; and *Jailhouse Religion*. His fourth book titled, *What the Spirit is Saying to the Church: A Twenty-first Century Progressive Ministry Vision Plan for the Church-in-the-Black-Experience*, is to be released in the Fall of 2017.

Gregory Johnson, a lifetime human services specialist, from Healthcare Administrator to

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National 2018 Conference

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, February 19, 2018 – Pre-Conference Institute

Tuesday, February 20 - Thursday, 22, 2018 Conference Days

Thursday Evening: National Gala

Friday, February 23, 2018 – Post Conference Trainings



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President of several nonprofit operations to State Director of a national nonprofit. Mr. Johnson is also a Leadership Development Specialist as an Executive Coach guest lecturer on various forms of Leadership. Credentials from Benchmark Executive Coaching, Human Synergistic and Psychological Associates Resources. He has graduate degrees and post graduate credentials from University of Michigan, Case Western Reserve University, Dartmouth University and Barkley University. He received recognition through FFCA as a distinguished volunteer service recipient; member of Appreciative Inquiry Association; member National Association of Distinguished Professionals and member of Psychological Association of America. He is the owner of leadership development consulting business titled Concentric Leader Institute and owner of the nonprofit titled Global Parenting Network.

Ronin A. Davis oversees the Community Initiatives technical assistance team providing support to Second Chance Act grantees running reentry programs focused on mentoring, fatherhood, motherhood and family-based support. Mr. Davis's work focuses on the partnership between community-based organizations and corrections and juvenile justice agencies. Prior to the CSG Justice Center, he worked on the Strong Fathers, Stronger Families program at Seedco and on alternatives to incarceration for vulnerable populations through internships at the Legal Aid Society and the Center for Court Innovation in New York. Mr. Davis began his career working in juvenile detention in Colorado. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and Psychology from the University of Colorado Boulder and a Master's of Science in Social Work from Columbia University.

Dr. Qiana R. Cryer-Coupet is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work at

North Carolina State University, where she teaches research methods and program evaluation courses in the MSW program. Her program of research focuses on the various contexts and impacts of nonresident fathering. She is currently engaged in a project which explores best practices for engaging nonresident fathers in family centered practice and a project funded by the Fatherhood Research and Practice Network that explores fathering in the context of kinship care. Dr. Cryer-Coupet earned her MSW at the University of Maryland-Baltimore and her PhD at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Naomi Natale, MSW, ABD, has a long history of working with children and families - Fathers and Fatherhood Initiatives. She was a 2002-2003 National Head Start Fellow, social service mental health supervisor for two trilingual Head Start programs, served for 12 years as an on-site non-federal program reviewer and 16 years as grant reviewer for multiple Federal bureaus. For the past six years, Ms. Natale has been a Georgia State Approved Trainer providing training and technical assistance for organizations and staff at a variety of levels such as Strengthening Families GA, Program Design and Management, as well as staff development and motivation. *NOW WHAT* was conceived, authored, designed and implemented, by Ms. Natale. *NOW WHAT* is an innovative and highly relevant approach to traditional Co-Parenting, but intended to address the unique needs of parents and children of never coupled parents with co-presenter Tyree Ricky Davis who played 12 years in the NBA and is now the co-captain of the Ghosts Team in the New Big 3 League. Both are dedicated parents and dedicated to helping other parents who were never coupled, but want the best for their children.

Jason Vitello is the Behavioral Health Coordinator at Denver Public Health, The Director of Health Equity for the Colorado Public

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Health Association, a facilitator of the Family Leadership Training Institute in Denver Five Points, a member of the East5ide Unified Leadership Council and an adjunct professor and member of the Advisory Council on Racial Diversity at the University of Denver. He is also a speaker on issues related to social justice, inclusivity, adversity and resilience, strategic partnerships, collective impact, mental health, father engagement and conscious masculinity. As a social worker and therapist, Mr. Vitello has provided advocacy, mentorship, case management and clinical services to specialized and general populations. He has performed these interventions at the individual, family, community and population levels in multiple settings from small non-profits to county and federal level systems. It should be noted that before he was a provider of human services or family assistance, he was a recipient. His ultimate interest is in the betterment of the human condition through fierce compassion, difficult conversations, collaboration across struggles, the peaceful obliteration of structural inequalities and comprehensive paradigm transformation.

Patrick J. Patterson, MSW, MPH is Manager of President Obama's National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse in Washington, DC. In this role, Patrick manages a project that provides oversight, training and technical assistance to federally funded fatherhood programs to help them provide services that connect and strengthen the relationship between fathers, their children, and families. He also serves as the NRFC liaison with faith based and community based organizations in the US and internationally.

As a national fatherhood leader and speaker, Patrick has effectively delivered more than 750 fatherhood trainings, keynotes, consultations &

workshops with public/private agencies around the world.

In 2014, the National Partnership for Community Leadership (NPCL) awarded the prestigious "International Fatherhood Practitioner of the Year" to Patrick for the impact of his fatherhood work as an advocate and practitioner globally. Patrick is also an NFL Players Association consultant, where he trains current and former NFL players with fatherhood, co-parenting, and healthy relationship skills. He earned a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Benedict College (Columbia, SC) and dual Masters degrees in Social Work and Public Health from the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Meredith Jones is an Associate Professor in the Leadership, Advocacy, and Policy for Young Children program at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She received her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 2017, where her research focused on father engagement in Head Start programs. Before joining UNC- Chapel Hill, Dr. Jones was a Title 1 pre- kindergarten teacher and completed her undergraduate and Master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Dr. Jones is passionate about father and family engagement in the early childhood years and has seen firsthand how valuable fathers are to their children's development and early childhood programs.

Sherida Morrison is an Organization Development Practitioner with 15+ years of experience developing and strengthening individuals, teams, programs and organizations. She has directed regional workforce development programs, coached and developed C-level executives, management and frontline staff members domestically, and globally. She has maintained a solid track record in helping organizations to improve performance,

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particularly in nonprofit, government and the private sector businesses. Ms. Morrison earned her Master's of Science in Organization Development from American University.

Richard S. Zizian JD., Founder and CEO has 30+ years of executive-level financial services experience in the property/casualty, specialty lines, warranty, and finance/leasing industries as an underwriting and product development pioneer. He is also the originator of many specialty line insurance and financial services programs for the consumer, manufacturing, automotive, security and energy industries. Mr. Zizian served in executive capacities at the insurance company, managing general agency, retail brokerage, finance and risk management companies. He is highly successful in identifying new market niches, voids and opportunities. Mr. Zizian has been rewarded and recognized in many industries for developing and directing cutting edge insurance and warranty product, financial structures and marketing Employment History to include Critical Period Insurance Agency, Inc., Founder and CEO; Zizian-Reilich Insurance and Risk Management Consultants president; Lease Express Corporation; President Brookland Financial/BFC Insurance Agency, Inc, President/COO; Cooperative Insurance Marketing Associates, Inc.€ President; Avco Financial Insurance Group â€ National Director of Marketing; and Aetna Insurance Company Marketing and Sales District Office. Mr. Zizian's education includes La Verne University College of Law, Juris Doctor Degree, California State Polytechnic University, Bachelor of Science Degree, M.A.P. Executive Management School - Certification, California School of Insurance Certification and 30+ years of continuing education, California Community College Instructor Credential in the fields of insurance, finance, banking, industrial relations and law.

Dr. Kay Bennett holds a Master's in Psychology and a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Religion. She is a co-founder of Human Wisdom LLC, integrating these two fields. Dr. Bennett has committed her life to supporting others in breaking through self-imposed obstacles and making the mind-body-spirit connection. She developed The Power Model System a human behavioral developmental model for training individuals and organizations in interpersonal management skills. The model has been integrated with the National Diagnostic Mental Health Manual (DSM IV). Dr. Bennett trained therapists how to integrate the model with client diagnosis. She holds certifications ranging from Community Health and Wellness, to Domestic violence, Sexual Abuse, and Chemical Dependency. Dr. Bennett is Author of the book, *The Power Model Systems, The Natural Path of Human Wisdom*.

Raymond Castonguay has over 30 years of optical industry experience and has seven patents on national award-winning optical technology. He founded Engineering Synthesis Design focusing on metrology products for the optical, aerospace and astronomy industries. Mr. Castonguay Majored in Aerospace Engineering and was a Research Associate at the University of Arizona Optical Sciences Center. As an altar boy in the Catholic Church, he realized people were searching for life's answers, regardless of their position in life. He spent his life exploring many realms of human growth including Buddhism, Christianity, Meta Physics, Adult Children of Alcoholics Programs, Dale Carnegie Courses and world travel. Mr. Castonguay is Co-Author of the book. *The Power Model Systems, The Natural Path of Human Wisdom*.

Kevin Toney, 2-time Grammy nominated musician, composer, speaker and Author gained international recognition as one of the founding members of The Blackbyrds. Their pop hit songs, *Walking in Rhythm* and *Rock Creek Park* rose to

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the top of the Pop, R&B and Jazz charts. As a solo performing artist, Mr. Toney has released 12 acclaimed albums. His song *Kings and Aphrodisiac* has garnered huge national success. His acclaimed book, *The Virtuous Man ~ Breaking the Men's Code* addresses misconceptions that men learn from an early age regarding marriage and family. He shares how God brought him out of infidelity to saving his marriage of then 25+ years and in the process, broke the "Code." Mr. Toney and his wife are celebrating 38 years of marriage this year! His latest book, *Super Glue Your Love Relationship* with forward by Dr. Willie Jolley, intends to help bond, grow and keep your love relationship unbreakable. Mr. Toney is an in-demand speaker across the country with focus on the spiritual health of men and their marital and family relationships. He has shared his powerful message and music at Hour of Power, Praise the Lord (TBN), Fathers and Families Coalition of America, Women N Power International Ministries, Phi Beta Sigma National and Regional Conferences, USC Youth Leadership Conference and more. He is Men's Ministry Leader at Lynwood United Methodist Church in Lynwood, CA. He is also a mentor for the Man formation Project', a Los Angeles faith-based mentoring and Rites-of-Passage group.

Mark Perlman, MA, Family Mediation/Training/ Consulting. Mr. Perlman provides training on many themes related to fathers and families, and provides facilitator training for the Nurturing Father's Program. He is a Florida Supreme Court certified family mediator. Mr. Perlman has 35 years of experience working with parents, children and families in strengthening the family bond. He authored *The Nurturing Father's Program*, a 13-week parenting curriculum for men that has been utilized by thousands of fathers and implemented by organizations such as Prevent Child Abuse, Head Start, Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative, North

Carolina Department of Corrections, State of Michigan. Mark also authored the Marriage & Parenting Program (MA&PA) that helps couples parent successfully as a team. He is the past Executive Director of the Family Counseling Center, The Child Protection Center and Fathers United Network (FUN) of Sarasota, FL. He has served on the Florida Commission on Responsible Fatherhood, Commission on Marriage and Family Support, and currently on the Governor's Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Council. He is the proud married father of two grown sons.

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James Rodríguez is the Chief Executive Officer and President of Fathers & Families Coalition of America, Inc. (since 1996 as a volunteer/part-time), a national and international agency committed to delivering services, education, training and advocacy to make a difference in the fatherhood field headquarter in California. In 2017, Mr. Rodríguez was asked to join Arizona State University School of Social Work - College of Public Service and Community Solutions as member of the faculty to focus on teaching with aspiring social workers the foundations of social work, as well as how policy impacts services for children and families. Mr. Rodríguez has lead the FFCA to support government agencies, community-based organizations, multi-faith based leaders and researchers in the public, nonprofit and private sectors. In 2010, he expanded the FFCA to create an international membership base with an executive leadership of over 50 Affiliates in the U.S., Jamaica, Australia, Puerto Rico, Africa and Bermuda. His vision to champion healthy families through increased professional development led to supportive curricula. Mr. Rodríguez spearheaded the National Families and Fathers Annual Conference, National Fatherhood Practitioner & Healthy Relationship Credential and over 20 regional conferences. He established a Caribbean fatherhood and families conference in Puerto Rico and in Jamaica, as well as into Africa and Australia. These professional development conferences have trained over 20,000 attendees from over 500 U.S. cities and 90 nations with global increase of 10,000 additional using virtual platforms.

Mr. Rodríguez has been awarded several recognitions for his professional service throughout the United States which include: The Presidential Lifetime Call to Service Recipient - Office of the President of the United States of America - Hon. President Barack Obama - the Corporation for National and Community Service

by the Points of Light Institute; Congressional Certificate of Honor - U.S. House of Representatives 18th Congressional District of Texas, Sheila Jackson-Lee; Proclamation of Leadership U.S. House of Representatives 35th Congressional District of California, Maxine Waters; Congressional Certificate of Recognition, U.S. House of Representatives 33rd Congressional District of California, Diane E. Watson; and Congressional Certificate of Recognition, U.S. House of Representatives 13th Congressional District of California, Barbara Lee. He is a Points of Light Recipient for working with youth in gangs while serving active duty in the Armed Forces. These are examples of recognitions for his philosophy of "leadership through following and service" from the Armed Forces. Mr. Rodríguez has been recognized by 100 Black Men for his contributions in developing programs and mentoring young men/boys and the State of California 47th District, California State Senate and County of Los Angeles. Of all honors, Mr. Rodríguez was immensely honored and humbled by Qutekcak Native Tribe an Alaskan Tribe's ceremonial Elder proclamation with several local and other national recognitions.

He has served in leadership on the Board of Directors for 100 Black Men, Black Family Preservation and AGAPE Adoption Agency of Arizona, Fatherhood Corrections Network, Maricopa County Human Services, a founding member of Rehoboth Community Development Corporation, FIBCO Family Services, Inc. and several other community based organizations in service to the community. He served as a member of the White House Office's National Responsible Fatherhood & Healthy Families Network.

Mr. Rodríguez has been honored as featured speaker for the U.S. White House. He was asked to speak at the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus

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Conference; the State of New York Department of Child & Family Services, Cornell University; Delaware Fatherhood & Family's Conference; Association of Black Sociologists Conference; The Du Bois Institute of Clark Atlanta University; (Symposium Examining Voter Participation & Inclusion 50 Years After The Civil Rights Act & In The Shadow Of The Shelby Decision); Howard University, Morehouse College, Orange County Department of Public Health-Breast Feeding Coalition; Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition; The Soboba Band of Luiseno Indian Tribal Tribe; Qutekcak Native Tribe; National Conference of Hispanic Legislators; United States Congress' Ways & Means Committee; Tulsa Healthy Start and local, state, national and international forums to advance the needs of children and families.

He is a consultant for Temple University, School of Social Work for the development of the National Fatherhood Research and Practitioner Network, has served as member of the FRPN Steering Committee, and as Senior Research Specialist for Arizona State University's Hispanic Family Research Project. As an Adjunct Professor for the University of Southern California's School of Social Work he instructed program evaluation and research. He has testified to U.S. Congress, State House of Representatives and Senate. Professor Rodríguez established 20 human development courses for Mesa Community College in Arizona and has served as a Professor for MCC and State Director for Cornell University's Family Worker Development Credential and Faculty at Mesa Community College.

Mr. Rodríguez retired with meritorious honors in 2003, after serving more than 20 years in the Army where he was the Director of Mental Health/Substance Abuse Program, Combat Medic and Law Enforcement with his 21-year commitment to serve the United States through

the Armed Forces. He is blessed with a wonderful family to include his children Antonio, Amber and Jazmín, along with his daughter-in-law Cassandra.



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