Two days of uplift with African-American sister friends featuring top speakers. Gain valuable information on opportunities for educational and career advancement.

Oct. 27-28, 2017
Cuyahoga Community College
Metropolitan Campus
Agenda

FRIDAY, OCT. 27, 2017

8 a.m.  Registration/Check-In  Auditorium/Atrium
9 a.m.  Welcome/Plenary Session  Auditorium
10:15 a.m.  Concurrent Session I  MLA, ATTC
11:30 a.m.  Educational and Occupational Sessions  ATTC, MTC
12:30 p.m.  Lunch  MRC/GYM
1:15 p.m.  Concurrent Session II  MLA, ATTC
2:45 p.m.  Panel Session: Power Tools  Auditorium

SATURDAY, OCT. 28, 2017

8 a.m.  Registration  Auditorium/Atrium
9 a.m.  Welcome/Plenary Session  Auditorium
10 a.m.  Concurrent Session III  MLA, ATTC
11:15 a.m.  Concurrent Session IV  MLA, ATTC
12:30 p.m.  Lunch/Resource Fair  MRC/GYM
2 p.m.  Event Concludes
Message from the President

Welcome to the Black Diamonds Conference and Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C'). It is my hope that you will benefit from this experience educationally, professionally and personally. Please take the time to engage with the caring professionals who have taken time out of their busy schedules to equip you, a new generation, to rise to even greater heights.

These women recognize that when you succeed, we all succeed. When you shine in the classroom, our entire community benefits from the life of the mind that is so central to a civil society. When you excel in your career, our region benefits from a dynamic and growing workforce that competes nationally. When you thrive personally, our communities benefit from strong connections and a healthy society.

I am particularly glad that you are able to experience Tri-C through this conference, because these are the beliefs that drive us every day as well. Enjoy this experience. On behalf of the entire Tri-C family, I wish you the very best in all of your future endeavors.

Warmly,

Alex Johnson, Ph.D.
Cuyahoga Community College President

Warmest welcome to the Black Diamonds Conference and Cuyahoga Community College.

The Black Diamonds Conference has been a collaboration between colleges and community agencies in Northeastern Ohio. The committee brings you a conference, which will uplift, encourage and empower you to be your best you.

Thank you to our workshop presenters, speakers and sponsors who believed in this conference and its purpose.

We eagerly await your feedback as you interact, network, and bond with young women of like mind and purpose.

Linda Lanier
Asst. Professor, Cuyahoga Community College
Black Diamonds Committee

Linda Lanier  
Asst. Professor  
Cuyahoga Community College (Chair)

Contae Bentley  
Asst. Professor  
Cuyahoga Community College

Teresa Brown-Sayles  
Principal  
Akron Digital Academy

Adriene Bruce  
Vice President  
KeyBank

Donna Buggs  
Admin. Coordinator  
Cuyahoga Community College

Jeanette Davis  
Asst. Professor  
Cuyahoga Community College

Ralonda Ellis-Hill  
Assoc. Dean (Interim)  
Cuyahoga Community College

Yvonne Freeman  
Project Manager  
Ohio Urban Resource Systems

Angela Gaston  
Admin. Coordinator  
Cuyahoga Community College

Yalonda Hawkins  
Project Manager  
Cuyahoga Community College

Lisa Husamadeen  
Student Advisor  
Cuyahoga Community College

Bob Lanier  
Publisher  
The Summit Magazine

Kimberly Liddell  
Transfer Specialist  
Cuyahoga Community College

Calli Mango  
Student Success Specialist  
Cuyahoga Community College

Lisanetta McDade  
Coordinator  
Cuyahoga Community College

Annette McDowell  
Asst. Professor  
Cuyahoga Community College

Tammy Monroe  
Executive Director  
Working In Progress

Judy Olabisi  
Kent State University (Retired)

Katherine Slaughter  
Clinical Risk Manager  
University Hospitals

Amber Smith  
HR Representative  
Cuyahoga Community College

Rebecca Stolzman  
Grants Manager  
Cuyahoga Community College

Zyanya Torres  
Director  
Cuyahoga Community College

Diana White  
Project Manager  
Cuyahoga Community College

Julie Zhao  
Asst. Dean  
University of Akron
**Speaker Bios**

**STEPHANIE M. JOHNSON**  
*Captain, Delta Air Lines*

Stephanie Johnson graduated from Kent State University with a bachelor’s degree in aerospace technology. As a student in the flight program, Johnson earned private, commercial, flight instructor and flight engineer certifications. She also worked as a flight instructor in KSU’s aviation program and, upon graduation in 1991, began instructing at Medina Municipal Airport as well. In 1993, Johnson was hired as an airport operations agent at Burke Lakefront Airport in Cleveland. While continuing to instruct, she worked as an on-demand charter pilot and earned her airline transport pilot certification. In 1995, she was hired as a commercial airline pilot with Mesa Airlines.


Johnson serves as regional director of the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals, where she works to promote aviation and helps empower young people to define and achieve their personal goals. She has participated in many career events for youth, including the Delta Dream Flight and the Detroit, Pontiac and San Juan ACE Academies. She also serves as director of the Cleveland ACE Academy.

Johnson’s husband André is a Delta Air Lines pilot and retired lieutenant colonel/T-38 instructor pilot with the United States Air Force. Their three fantastic children make everyday challenges worthwhile.

**Chandra D. Arthur, MBA**, is an assistant professor of business administration and marketing at Cuyahoga Community College. As an FDIC Money Smart curriculum facilitator for more than 20 years, she has a strong commitment to promoting financial literacy among young adults and small business owners.

Arthur is also an educational consultant who has worked with the Higher Learning Commission in various capacities for the past 14 years. She was recently appointed to the HLC’s Institutional Actions Council. A certified QM Peer Reviewer, she is actively involved in assessment initiatives at Tri-C as well as for outside clients.

Arthur earned a bachelor’s degree in public administration and management from Keuka College, an MBA from Eastern University and a master’s in accounting and financial management from Keller Graduate School of Management. She is currently working on a graduate certificate in institutional research and assessment at Kent State University. The mother of two adult daughters, Arthur resides in Northeast Ohio with her husband of three years.

**The Rev. Joy R. Bostic, Ph.D.**, is an associate professor in the department of religious studies at Case Western Reserve University. She is also a faculty member in CWRU’s Women’s and Gender Studies and Ethnic Studies programs. Her teaching and scholarship focus on such areas as African American religion and culture; religion, healing and social justice; and womanist/feminist theory. She is the author of *African American Female Mysticism: Nineteenth-Century Religious Activism*.

Rev. Bostic earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Indiana University and went on to earn a Juris Doctor and a master’s degree in public policy and management from The Ohio State University. She also attended Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, where she earned a Master of Divinity degree. After graduating from seminary, she was ordained a Christian minister at Second Baptist Church in Evanston, Illinois. While attending Garrett-Evangelical, she worked as a research assistant for the Religion in Urban America Project, an ethnographic study based at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

In 2006, Rev. Bostic earned a Ph.D. in systematic theology from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. While living in NYC, she served as an associate minister at Second Canaan Baptist Church and taught courses in theology and religion as an adjunct professor at Fordham University at Lincoln Center. She also worked as coordinator of the Barnard Columbia Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center and was executive director of the African American Task Force on Violence against Women, a community-based organization in Central Harlem.

An artist at heart, Rev. Bostic is a student of dance, photography and the textile arts.

**Heidi Lehnert-Cressman** is the director of The University of Akron’s Women in Engineering program, where she is responsible for recruiting and retaining women in the College of Engineering. Since she joined the university in 2007, the number of women in the engineering program has more than doubled - resulting in the largest incoming classes of freshman women in the institution’s history.

Prior to joining The University of Akron, Lehnert-Cressman worked for Will-Burt in Orrville, Ohio, where she was granted two patents for mechanical mast designs she developed for the military as a design engineer. She also worked as a project engineer for Air Enterprises in Akron. After 12 years in the engineering field, she chose to become a stay-at-home mom.

Lehnert-Cressman has received many awards, including the 2010 Honor Award and the 2015 Women of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts of North East Ohio; the Jeanne Teeter Memorial Award for her work with Replay for Kids, a local organization that helps children with disabilities modify toys; (continued)
The University of Akron’s Pioneer Award; and the 2013 Outstanding Coach/Mentor award for her First Lego League robotics team.

A lifelong learner, Lehnert-Cressman holds bachelor’s degrees in applied mathematics and mechanical engineering from The University of Akron and is currently pursuing an MBA. She is also an active member of her church, a First Lego Robotics coach and judge, a Girl Scout leader and founding member of the North Canton STEM Alliance.

Lehnert-Cressman lives with her husband and their three daughters in North Canton. She firmly believes in the words of Maria Shriver: “Women can have it all; they just don’t have to have it all at once.”

**Joanne Dowdy** holds a Ph.D. in literacy studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She combines her education in literacy with her theater degree from Juilliard to help teachers become more effective in the classroom.

Dowdy’s primary research interests include documenting the experiences of Black women involved in education, from adult basic literacy to higher education. Her first children’s book, *Olympic Hero: Lennox Kilgour’s Story*, was published in 2014, and an animated film and documentary on the topic have since been screened in the U.S. and abroad.

**Phyllis Dukes-Hopson, Ph.D.,** is a tenured professor of counseling at Cuyahoga Community College’s Metro Campus. She has remained committed to student success since joining the College in 1997.

Dukes-Hopson serves as president of Tri-C’s Black American Council, which provides programming, mentoring and scholarships for African-American students. A former second and third-grade teacher, she is also an advocate for children. She developed the Creative Parenting Program at Tri-C to provide guidance for new mothers and fathers, an effort which was recognized with a League for Innovation Award. She is also a past recipient of the President’s Campus Citation for Excellence.

Dukes-Hopson’s extensive background in community service includes positions as chief program officer at Murtis H. Taylor Service Center, executive director of the Mental Development Center at Case Western Reserve University, executive director of Kirkwood Mental Health Center in Detroit and director of the Children’s Center of Wayne County.

Dukes-Hopson earned a B.S. degree from Central State University, a master’s degree in child development from Case, and a master’s in psychology and Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of Michigan. She is married and a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

**Erica Glover, Ph.D.,** graduated from Warren G. Harding high school in Warren, Ohio, and attended The University of Akron on a full athletic scholarship. There, she completed a bachelor’s degree in education and, later, a master’s in principalship. She is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho.

Glover played in the National Women’s Basketball League for two seasons and was a member of the Girls’ Junior Olympic team. She is currently employed with Akron Public Schools as assistant principal of Buchtel Community Learning Center. She also works as a personal basketball trainer at Springside Fitness Club, teaching elite players throughout northeast Ohio. Glover completed her Ph.D. in urban education at Cleveland State University in May 2017 and is currently working on writing her first book. She is the proud mother of Kylan Richburg, who attends The University of Akron Wayne College.

**Lisa A. Gadson-McCraney, M.Ed., LPCC-S,** is a native of Akron, Ohio. She attended Kent State University, earning a bachelor’s degree in rhetoric and communications and a Master’s of Education in community counseling. Licensed as a counselor by the state of Ohio, she has over a decade of experience working in mental health.

Gadson-McCraney has spent her professional career helping others. In 2014, she founded Healing Hearts Counseling & Consultation Services, an Akron-based nonprofit organization that helps people through the healing process and cares for God’s people through the love of Christ. Healing Hearts desires to start and continue the much-needed and overdue mental health conversations in the African American community and in spaces that typically stigmatize mental illness.

Gadson-McCraney became a licensed minister in 2001, and she is an active member of the New Community Bible Fellowship in Cleveland Heights. She enjoys reading, singing and traveling, and finds peace and solitude in the outdoors. She and her husband Rashawn have been married for 16 years and have three amazing children – Raena, RJ and Ryan.
Yalonda D. Hawkins, M.Ed. serves as completion project manager for the Carl Perkins grant at Cuyahoga Community College. In this role, she provides expertise in developing and coordinating intentional strategies in support of students earning degrees and industry-recognized credentials in the career-technical education programs. Hawkins has eight years of progressive experience in facilitating services for students at the secondary and postsecondary levels to aid in college success and career readiness. A graduate of the University of Toledo, she holds a bachelor’s degree in social work and a master’s in higher education student affairs administration.

Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew, M.D., M.Ed., MPPM, FACOG, is a Cleveland transplant with roots in Pittsburgh. With a professional focus on diversity and inclusion, Dr. Larkins-Pettigrew holds various administrative roles, including chair and director of the Center for Clinical Excellence and Diversity at University Hospital’s Case Western Medical Center and dean of students at Case Western Reserve University. She is also an expert in the care of women living with HIV, serving as an associate professor and head of global health programs in the department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology at Case and as a clinical educator and practitioner at MacDonald Women’s Hospital.

Dr. Larkins-Pettigrew is responsible for promoting continued diversity and inclusion at University Hospitals’ academic institution through ongoing cultural competency programs. She also plays a key role in talent acquisition, retention, mentorship and promotion of underrepresented minority trainees and faculty and works to develop a pipeline to support young leaders’ desire to pursue careers in medicine. She is a leader in developing programs that target health care disparities and an active participant and advocate for community efforts that focus on health equity, literacy and quality social programs that assist the most vulnerable. She has a special interest in educating and empowering women.

Dr. Larkins-Pettigrew is the founder of the WONDOOR (Women and Newborns Diversity, Outreach, Opportunity and Research) program, which aims to educate global medical providers through local and international health care collaborations. In addition to her commitment to local health issues, she also assists in the development of medical, surgical and social programs for volunteer doctors, nurses and health care professionals on medical missions to Western and Southern Africa and South America. Though she delivers health care to all women, her mission is to ensure that women with socioeconomic challenges have access to and receive optimal care.

Dr. Larkins-Pettigrew earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh, a master’s in education from California State University Los Angeles, a master’s in public policy and management and an M.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. She also received Adult Nurse Practitioner certification from California State University Long Beach and earned a second master’s degree in public policy and management. She is a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy, where she cared for active duty members, veterans and their families. Dr. Larkins-Pettigrew has received many honors and awards for her work, including the prestigious Crain’s Women of Note Award, Top Docs by Cleveland Magazine, and YWCA’s Distinguished Woman Award. Her extensive committee and board memberships exemplify the service focus of her personal and professional lives.

Among her greatest accomplishments are her 39-year marriage to her husband, Chenits; raising three successful sons; caring for her grandchildren, Corbin, Chase and Carson; and being godmother to her grandnephew, Zay.

Nikki Marchmon-Boykin, M.Ed., is an Akron native, Kent State University graduate and a master teacher in the Kent City School District. As a social studies educator at Theodore Roosevelt High School, Marchmon-Boykin’s expertise is infusing technology, current events and her love for all things politically and culturally empowering into her American government and African-American history courses. A Hodgkin’s lymphoma (blood cancer) survivor, Marchmon-Boykin uses mindfulness meditation as a means to focus on her recovery and manage the stress of everyday life.

Annette McDowell, M.Ed., was born in Georgetown, Guyana. She holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master’s of Education in curriculum and instruction from Cleveland State.

McDowell began her educational career as a substitute teacher in the Lakewood School District and worked for Catholic Charities Head Start for eight years. There, she became a mentor to Cuyahoga Community College students, training them to be effective teachers through the use of developmentally appropriate curriculum. After leaving Head Start, McDowell taught kindergarten and joined Cuyahoga Community College as an adjunct professor. In 2014, she became a full-time assistant professor in the College’s Early Childhood Education program. She is married to fellow Tri-C faculty member Bilal Bomani, and they have three amazing daughters.

She believes in the words of the great Nelson Mandela: “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
Angela Neal-Barnett, Ph.D., earned a bachelor’s degree from Mount Union College and master’s and doctoral degrees from DePaul University. She also completed a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship in clinical research at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic.

Neal-Barnett is a nationally recognized expert in the area of anxiety disorders among African Americans. Her work is focused on fears and social anxiety in African-American children as well as sister circles for panic disorder and stress in African-American adults. She is a sought-after workshop presenter and speaker, and the author of Soothe Your Nerves: The Black Woman’s Guide to Understanding and Overcoming Anxiety, Panic and Fear.

Neal-Barnett is founder and CEO of Rise Sally Rise®, a company dedicated to helping women overcome anxiety and fear from a psychological, spiritual and black perspective. Her work has been featured on national media, including CNN, NPR and BET.

Neal-Barnett has taught at Kent State for more than 20 years. Her research is supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Mental Health, the Kent State University Foundation and the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. Neal-Barnett, who resides in Tallmadge, is listed in Who’s Who in America, Who’s Who in American Women, Who’s Who in Medicine and Health Care and Outstanding Americans.

Judy Olabisi is committed to helping students and their parents understand and navigate their way through the college financial aid process. She recently retired from Kent State University after 25 years in the student financial aid office.

Olabisi has conducted countless financial aid presentations at high schools, colleges and in communities throughout northeast Ohio. She is currently serving in her third year as a Project Grad mentor and has taught kindergarten Sunday school at The House of the Lord in Akron for many years.

A firm believer in lifelong learning, Olabisi is in the process of completing coursework for her master’s degree from Kent State University. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, traveling and reading.

Niké Olabisi shares her contagious energy and passion for music and movement with everyone she meets. As one of the leading dance fitness instructors in the Greater Cleveland area, she is committed to a lifestyle of health and wellness and encourages her clients to trust the journey. Since achieving certification in 2009, she has created a community where all feel welcome and inspired to realize the best version of themselves.

Olabisi earned a bachelor’s degree in fashion merchandising and an MBA from Kent State University. She holds several licenses from Zumba and looks forward to earning more fitness certifications. Excited to be a part of the revitalization of Cleveland, she co-created the “BelieveLand Besties” podcast to share Cleveland with the world.

Connect with Olabisi online at nolamovements.com or facebook.com/nolamovement.

Tanya Richardson is a revolutionary in the health and fitness industry. Highly credentialed, with more than 18 years of experience in the field, she is a proud product of Cleveland State University where she earned a bachelor’s degree in physical fitness and dance.

Richardson founded Rapid Results Weight Loss, an educational nutritional program that teaches individuals how to “eat better, not perfectly” and assists them in improving their mind, body, spirit and overall health. She equips her clients with a vast knowledge of how to conquer weight loss while becoming educated about foods that cause high blood pressure, strokes and cancer.

When Richardson isn’t saving lives or working her clients out during their rigorous physical therapy sessions, you can find her spreading the word about Rapid Results or spending quality time with her family.

Khalilah A. Shabazz, Ph.D., holds a master’s degree and Ph.D. in higher education from Indiana University. She currently serves as director of the Multicultural Center at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis, where she spearheads efforts to promote the value of diversity, broaden multicultural awareness and advance cultural competence among students, faculty and the community.

Shabazz uses transparency, engagement and holistic approaches to build relationships and encourage learning. Committed to student success through retention efforts and diversity education, she teaches courses on diversity and multiculturalism and conducts cultural competency workshops both on and off campus.
Shanice Settle is an award-winning journalist from Cleveland, Ohio. She most recently worked at Cleveland 19 News as a general assignment reporter where she covered the Republican National Convention, The Cleveland Cavaliers Championship run, and breaking news stories across the city. Settle grew up in Cleveland Heights and studied journalism at Ohio University before going on to pursue a Masters in Journalism at Kent State University. Settle is committed to service in her hometown. She enjoys volunteering and mentoring young women in the community. She also serves as a Downtown Cleveland Advocate, a civic engagement and leadership group sponsored through the Downtown Cleveland Alliance.

Alison Vaughn is an award-winning entrepreneur, author and success and style coach. She is also the founder and CEO of Jackets for Jobs, a nationally recognized, award-winning nonprofit organization that provides career skills training, interview training, work etiquette and professional clothing to individuals seeking employment.

Jackets for Jobs has had a tremendous impact on the community since opening its doors in March 2000. The organization has given hope to more than 21,000 jobseekers by providing professional attire and employment training. The Detroit-based organization became global in 2013, when Vaughn opened an office in Botswana.

Jackets for Jobs has received recognition from ABC’s “The View,” NBC’s “TODAY Show,” and O, The Oprah Magazine. A highlight of Vaughn’s career was the honor of ringing the closing bell on NASDAQ in honor of World Humanitarian Day in 2014 – a coveted opportunity reserved for the world’s most prestigious business leaders.

Vaughn earned a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University and graduated from The Women’s Campaign School at Yale University. The Goldman Sachs Scholar has received many awards, including Martha Stewart’s Dreamers into Doers award and Businesswoman of the Year from The Women’s Campaign School. Vaughn’s award-winning book, Ms. Goal Digger: Success is Sexy, was featured at the 2017 Essence Festival. Ms. Goal Digger is available on Amazon.com along with Vaughn’s other book, Inspired Style.

Monique Umphrey, D.M., is VP of workforce innovation and College-wide dean of the Information Technology Center of Excellence at Cuyahoga Community College. Upon joining Tri-C in 2014, she immediately started implementing ways to improve the College’s computer networking and programming educational tracks. As a result of her efforts, new certificate programs in data analytics, cloud computing and data center management were rolled out in fall 2015 along with a graduate certificate in cybersecurity analytics.

Umphrey was selected for the inaugural class of the Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence, a rigorous, ten-month executive leadership program for aspiring community college presidents. She has more than 20 years of IT experience, with more than eight years leading large-scale projects at Fortune 500 companies. Certified for both online and classroom teaching, she has also served as an adjunct Instructor in information systems management.

Umphrey earned a bachelor’s degree in computer information systems and a master’s in accounting and information systems from Middle Tennessee State University and a Doctor of Management in community college policy and administration from the University of Maryland University College.

Julie Zhao, Ph.D., is assistant dean for international initiatives at The University of Akron. She also serves as director of the Increasing Diversity in Engineering Academics program in the university’s College of Engineering, a position she has held for more than a decade. In this role, she leads initiatives and programs to enhance academic, professional and personal development of underrepresented engineering students at The University of Akron.

Outside the College of Engineering, Zhao is an active member on campus, serving the diversity council and student success team. She previously served on the executive board of the American Council of Education – Women’s Network Ohio, and she is a proud graduate of Leadership Akron Class 30.

Prior to joining The University of Akron in 2006, Zhao worked at Miami University. She has six years of practical experience as a systems engineer and department manager at Changchun Telecommunication Corporation in China. Zhao’s work has been honored with many awards, including Women in STEAM Academy of Leaders, Akron Urban League (2017); Outstanding Minority Engineering Program Administrator Award, National Association of Multicultural Engineering Program Advocates (2013); Women of Professional Excellence Award, Women’s Network (2010); Campus Partner Award, Multicultural Development Office at The University of Akron (2009); and Mentor of the Year, The University of Akron (2008).
FRIDAY, OCT. 27, 2017

8-9 a.m.  Registration/Check-In
(Auditorium/Atrium)

9-10:15 a.m.  Introduction of Shanice Settle,
Mistress of Ceremonies
Linda Lanier
Conference Chair;
Assistant Professor, Counseling

Welcome
Karen Miller, Ph.D.
Provost; Executive Vice President,
Access, Learning and Success

Introduction of Speaker
Ralonda Ellis-Hill
Interim Associate Dean, Student Affairs

Plenary Session
Captain Stephanie Johnson
Delta Airlines

10:15-11:15 a.m.  Concurrent Session I (see below)

1. The Making of a Black Diamond –
Khalilah Shabazz, Ph.D. – MLA 102
Ever wondered what makes a diamond sparkle like it
does, or why diamonds are so valued? This workshop
will explore the diamond-making process, but the
diamond we’re talking about is you – a precious Black
diamond. Participate in an interactive conversation on
self-discovery, successes and challenges, and persisting
through the process to shine – like a Black diamond.
Be ready to explore some of your deepest fears, discuss
the biggest obstacles that young Black women face and
identify ways to navigate through them individually
and collectively.

2. Building a Vision for Success –
Joanne Dowdy, Ph.D. – MLA 111
Using the book Olympic Hero: Lennox Kilgour’s Story,
workshop participants will complete a visioning activity
about their road to success. Participants will leave with a
“to-do list” that connects them with the leaders and
mentors they have identified as important in their next
steps to the dream they want to live.

3. Recruiting Girls to STEM Through National Society
of Black Engineering Student Organizations –
Julie Zhao, Ph.D. and AlRitia Gore – MLA 112
This presentation covers best practices for recruiting
and preparing African-American girls for successful
engineering careers. The recruiting model was created
through a collaboration between the University of Akron’s
College of Engineering and the National Society of
Black Engineers.

4. But Did You Die?: A Conversation About Self-Care
and Survival – Lisa McCraney, M.Ed., LPCC-S
MLA 113
This workshop aims to discuss the misleading messages
women receive about managing life’s struggles. The goal
is to help participants change the dialogue about survival
and self-care, to discuss how self-esteem and self-care
conjoin and to instill the message, “I matter…as much as
and beyond my ability to believe.”

5. Financial Aid 101 – Judy Olabisi, M.Ed. – MLA 174
Need money for college? Want to learn how to apply for
financial aid, how aid is awarded, what types of aid are
available or how to figure out your college costs? If you
are a high school junior or senior, currently in college, or
a concerned parent or college stop-out, you will want to
attend this session conducted by an experienced financial
aid professional.

Interviewing and Soft Skill Development –
Elle A. Blanks, Senior Corporate Recruiter – MLA 114
Soft skills play a vital role in how a candidate performs in
an interview and how an employee performs on the job.
This presentation is designed to build an understanding
of and appreciation for the importance of soft skills.
Participants will learn best practices around displaying
soft skills as well as preparing for and navigating an
interview. They will be encouraged to participate in
exercises and to share challenges they have encountered
during the interview process.

7. “Love is … Love Ain’t …” – Joy Bostic, Ph.D. – MLA 116
All of us have intimate relationships with people who
make up our social worlds and community networks. We
learn about what’s “normal” in love and relationships
by observing interactions between family members and
friends, and by what we see or hear on television and
in other types of media.
Some of the relationships that we see may involve toxic,
abusive or even violent behavior. Unfortunately, we
don’t always receive clear-cut advice about what kinds
of relationships affirm our sense of self-worth and
value, or how to avoid relationships that are abusive
and unsupportive.
In this session, we will talk about what loving and caring
relationships should look like and what behaviors or
attitudes are not acceptable. We will also discuss how to
avoid, or end, a toxic or abusive relationship.

8. Let’s Talk About Weight and Wellness –
Tanya Richardson, B.S. – MLA 117
An introduction to Tanya’s weight loss concept followed
by a short Q&A segment. Participants are encouraged
to seek advice and recommendations on weight
management and healthy living.
9. Training Elite Athletic Minds: The Will to Get it, the Mentality to Conquer and the People Along the Way – Erica Glover, Ph.D. – MLA 110
Minority female student-athletes often face barriers related to sexism, racism and stereotypes. This session will address how female athletes can navigate oppressive systems and structures and change others’ perceptions. We will discuss the struggles of female athletes and ways to build successful support systems.

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Careers Showcase (ATTC)
Engineering
Health Careers
Automotive
Public Safety
Information Technology
Paralegal Studies
Court Reporting

12:30-1:15 p.m. Lunch (MRC)
1:30-2:45 p.m. Concurrent Session II
(see below)

1. Mind FULL or Mindfulness – Nikki Marchmon-Boykin, M.Ed. – MLA 110
Strength and stress is the constant and dual existence of Black women and girls in today’s society. In this session, you will learn the benefits of Mindfulness Meditation as a means of decreasing your stress on the path to a happier, self-accepting and more focused you.

Witness the journeys of five women seeking economic, social, cultural and financial security. According to Professor Rebecca Rogers, Minding Their Own Business: Five Successful Women Entrepreneurs “extends the popular concept of entrepreneurship to include the cultural and social histories and communities of practice that support economic growth and well-being.” The book also offers perspectives for advancing financial literacy education, vocational education and adult literacy studies.

Students entering their first college semester generally spend time determining how they will fit in at their new school. This can be an exciting time of reinvention or a time of concern, as students begin to question whether they have what it takes to make it in their course of study. Self-doubt can lead to a decrease in self-confidence. In engineering, this reduction in confidence can hit female students particularly hard. Female engineering students comprise less than 20 percent of declared engineering majors. Without a strong support structure of peers and mentors, it’s all-too-easy for females to become discouraged and leave engineering. The objective of this discussion is to examine methods that can be used to change the perception girls and women hold about engineering, and to introduce methods that can be used to encourage female students to become more confident in their abilities in STEM. The workshop will also include an interactive component to demonstrate problem-solving and leadership activities for the classroom.

4. Power Play – Yalonda Hawkins, M.Ed. – MLA 116
This interactive, game show-style session will test participants’ knowledge and understanding of college readiness. The presenter will deliver pertinent information on the college enrollment process in a fun and educational format. Anxiety around the college enrollment process eased, participants will leave able to map out their road to college success.

This workshop aims to discuss the misleading messages women receive about managing life’s struggles. The goal is to help participants change the dialogue about survival and self-care, to discuss how self-esteem and self-care conjoin and to instill the message, “I matter…as much as and beyond my ability to believe.”

6. “Ladies, Let’s Get Naked” – Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew, M.D. – MLA 102
A discussion beneath the skin about African-American women’s health. This session is an intimate conversation about real issues facing black women, and how to self-advocate.

7. Things Your Mama Didn’t Tell You – Phyllis Dukes, Ph.D. – MLA 117
A conversation about relationships in everyday life, with a focus on interpersonal relationships and communication. Discussion will focus on parent-child relationships, male-female relationships and techniques to communicate more effectively.

Need money for college? Want to learn how to apply for financial aid, how aid is awarded, what types of aid are available or how to figure out your college costs? If you are a high school junior or senior, currently in college, or a concerned parent or college stop-out, you will want to attend this session conducted by an experienced financial aid professional.
Soft skills play a vital role in how a candidate performs in an interview and how an employee performs on the job. This presentation is designed to build an understanding of and appreciation for the importance of soft skills. Participants will learn best practices around displaying soft skills as well as preparing for and navigating an interview. They will be encouraged to participate in exercises and to share challenges they have encountered during the interview process.

3-3:45 p.m.  Panel Discussion: “Power Tools”
Moderator: Shanice Settle
Panelists: Captain Stephanie Johnson; Monique Umphrey, D.M.; Dr. Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew; and Khalilah Shabazz, Ph.D.

Program Concludes
(Auditorium)

College Pathway Programs

- Youth and Early College Programs
- Innovating and Emerging Programs
- Student Support programs
- Adult Diploma Program
- Saturday Family Academy
- And more!

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2017 Black Diamonds WOMENS CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, OCT. 27, 2017

8-9 a.m.  Registration (Auditorium)
Welcome
Linda Lanier
Asst. Professor, Conference Chair

9-10 a.m.  Plenary Session
How to Act, Speak and Dress Like a CEO
Alison Vaughn

10-11 a.m.  Concurrent Session III (see below)

1. The Making of a Black Diamond – Khalilah Shabazz, Ph.D. – MLA 102
Ever wondered what makes a diamond sparkle like it does, or why diamonds are so valued? This workshop will explore the diamond-making process, but the diamond we’re talking about is you – a precious Black diamond. Participate in an interactive conversation on self-discovery, successes and challenges, and persisting through the process to shine – like a Black diamond. Be ready to explore some of your deepest fears, discuss the biggest obstacles that young Black women face and identify ways to navigate through them individually and collectively.

This workshop aims to discuss the misleading messages women receive about managing life’s struggles. The goal is to help participants change the dialogue about survival and self-care, to discuss how self-esteem and self-care conjoin and to instill the message, “I matter...as much as and beyond my ability to believe.”

3. “Soothe Your Nerves” – Angela Neal-Barnett, Ph.D. – MLA 114
Do you know someone who suffers from bad nerves? Are there people out there who are working on your last good nerve? In this workshop you will learn that nerves are actually another name for anxiety. You will learn common causes and common forms of anxiety. Participants will leave with a tool they can use in their daily lives to soothe their nerves. The workshop is conducted by national award winning psychologist and author Dr. Angela Neal-Barnett.


5. Parenting With Power – Phyllis Dukes, Ph.D. – MLA 115
A discussion relating the important aspects of parenting with emphasis on Black parenting styles, child development and self-empowerment.
Understanding your finances is an essential part of being independent and in control of your life and the decisions you make. In this session, we will discuss managing debt, understanding your credit score, the importance of a budget and common mistakes we make with our money.

7. Training Elite Athletic Minds: The Will to Get it, the Mentality to Conquer and the People Along the Way – *Erica Glover, Ph.D. – MLA 176A*
Minority female student-athletes often face barriers related to sexism, racism and stereotypes. This session will address how female athletes can navigate oppressive systems and structures and change others’ perceptions. We will discuss the struggles of female athletes and ways to build successful support systems.

8. Financial Aid 101 – *Judy Olabisi, M.Ed. – MLA 176B*
Need money for college? Want to learn how to apply for financial aid, how aid is awarded, what types of aid are available or how to figure out your college costs? If you are a high school junior or senior, currently in college, or a concerned parent or college stop-out, you will want to attend this session conducted by an experienced financial aid professional.

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. **Concurrent Session IV**

1. Tiers to Success for Early Childhood Education – *Annette McDowell, M.Ed. – MLA 176A*
Children all over the world are born with the ability to achieve greatness. But the biggest factor leading to future educational and financial success is language and literacy development. Understanding the three tiers of word knowledge will help parents, guardians and educators prepare youngsters from all walks of life to achieve their future educational and professional goals. Mastering the three tiers of words in early development increases the probability of success in both liberal arts and STEM-related careers.

2. Power Play – *Yalonda Hawkins, M.Ed. – MLA 309*
This interactive, game show-style session will test participants’ knowledge and understanding of college readiness. The presenter will deliver pertinent information on the college enrollment process in a fun and educational format. Anxiety around the college enrollment process eased, participants will leave able to map out their road to college success.

3. Mind FULL or Mindfulness – *Nikki Marchmon-Boykin, M.Ed. – MLA 206*
Strength and stress is the constant and dual existence of Black women and girls in today’s society. In this session, you will learn the benefits of Mindfulness Meditation as a means of decreasing your stress on the path to a happier, self-accepting and more focused you.

4. “Soothe Your Nerves” – *Angela Neal-Barnett, Ph.D. – MLA 114*
Do you know someone who suffers from bad nerves? Are there people out there who are working on your last good nerve? In this workshop you will learn that nerves are actually another name for anxiety. You will learn common causes and common forms of anxiety. Participants will leave with a tool they can use in their daily lives to soothe their nerves. The workshop is conducted by national award winning psychologist and author Dr. Angela Neal-Barnett.

5. “Zumba: Let’s Get Physical” – *Nike Olabisi, MBA – TBA*

6. Things Your Mama Didn’t Tell You – *Phyllis Dukes, Ph.D. – MLA 115*
A conversation about relationships in everyday life, with a focus on interpersonal relationships and communication. Discussion will focus on parent-child relationships, male-female relationships and techniques to communicate more effectively.

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12:30-1:30 p.m. **Lunch (MRC)**
12:30-2 p.m. **Resource Fair (Gymnasium)**

Program Concludes
The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act is pleased to be a sponsor of Black Diamonds

is the federal law that funds Career and Technical Education (CTE).
The purpose is to develop the academic, career, and technical skills of secondary education students and post-secondary education students.

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