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

Oct. 12-13, 2018
CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
METROPOLITAN CAMPUS
MESSAGE FROM THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

As president of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®), I am delighted to welcome you to the 2018 Black Diamonds Women’s Conference and to our Metropolitan Campus. The Tri-C community is honored to host this event, which will provide an opportunity for networking and professional development.

During the conference, you will take part in valuable workshops and hear from thoughtful speakers with a focus on mental, emotional and physical well-being, in addition to financial empowerment and educational opportunities. It is my sincere hope that each of you will leave this event with a fresh perspective and a renewed spirit as a result of these activities.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the conference planning committee and all of the staff and volunteers who will assist at the two-day gathering.

On behalf of Cuyahoga Community College, I thank you for attending the 2018 Black Diamonds Women’s Conference and encourage you to take advantage of all that this event has to offer.

Sincerely,

Alex Johnson, Ph.D.
President

MESSAGE FROM CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR

On behalf of the Black Diamonds planning committee and our educational partners, sponsors, presenters and volunteers, it is my honor to welcome you to the 2018 Black Diamonds Women’s Conference. The committee has planned two days of sister-to-sister encouragement, empowerment and exploration.

From poets to physicians, our presenters represent professionals at every level and are ready to share their journey to inspire, encourage and motivate. There is an experience in every session — and you and your story are part of that experience. We welcome your engagement, energy and enthusiasm. Impact comes only with input!

The committee extends a huge thank you to all of our sponsors, whose generous donations allowed us to present this conference to everyone with a desire to attend. We also acknowledge those participating in the Resource Fair for their commitment to providing continuous resources, services and support to our attendees.

Finally, the committee is tremendously appreciative of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) administration for providing the facilities and resources to host the conference and related activities.

To the attendees: “Black Diamonds ... Keep Climbing. Black Diamonds ... Keep Shining!”

Respectfully,

Linda Lanier
Assistant Professor, Counseling
Co-Chair, Black Diamonds Women’s Conference
2017 CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) held the inaugural Black Diamonds Women’s Conference October 27-28, 2017. Over 350 participants and volunteers attended the two-day conference at Tri-C’s Metropolitan Campus. A dedicated committee representing higher education, health and community organizations from northeastern Ohio developed a comprehensive plan focused on programming, developing marketing materials, outreach strategies, logistical oversight and conference content.

Over the course of the program, the Black Diamonds Women’s Conference had 34 workshops presented by credentialed professionals in the areas of education, STEM, medicine, counseling, finance and physical fitness. Each day also included a plenary session. Captain Stephanie Johnson, the first African-American female pilot for Northwest Airlines and the first African-American female captain for Delta Airlines, shared her educational and professional journey as she led Friday’s session. Saturday’s plenary session featured Alison Vaughn, founder and CEO of Jackets for Jobs, who led a session titled How to Act, Speak and Dress Like a CEO.
# 2018 BLACK DIAMONDS CONFERENCE AGENDA

## Friday, Oct. 12, 2018 | 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration/Check-In</td>
<td>Auditorium/Atrium</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker</td>
<td>MLA, MBA, MCCA, MHCS, MRC, MTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session I</td>
<td>MLA, MBA, MCCA, MHCS, MRC, MTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session II</td>
<td>MREC/GYM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Resource Fair</td>
<td>MREC/GYM</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>MREC/GYM</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session III</td>
<td>MLA, MBA, MCCA, MHCS, MRC, MTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Career Clusters Session IV</td>
<td>MLA, MBA, MCCA, MHCS, MRC, MTC</td>
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## Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018 | 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session V</td>
<td>MLA, MBA, MCCA, MHCS, MRC, MTC</td>
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<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session VI</td>
<td>MLA, MBA, MCCA, MHCS, MRC, MTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Resource Fair</td>
<td>MRC/GYM</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>MRC/GYM</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Event Concludes</td>
<td>MRC/GYM</td>
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## TRACK DESCRIPTIONS COLOR KEY

- **HIGH SCHOOL TRACK**
- **COMMUNITY WELLNESS TRACK**
- **FINANCIAL TRACK**
- **CAREER TRACK**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td></td>
<td>Auditorium Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Michael Schoop, Ph.D., President, Metropolitan Campus, Karen Miller, Ph.D., EVP, Provost, Access, Learning &amp; Success and Moriah Ballard, Mistress of Ceremony</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Introduction of Speaker</td>
<td>Uolanda Campbell-Davis, President of SPEAR Foundation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Opening/Keynote: Black Diamonds Tribute</td>
<td>Stacey Hodoh, Ed.D., Shaneen Harris and Danielle Wilson</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Networking 101</td>
<td>Courtney D. Webb</td>
<td>MLA 104</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Sister Chat</td>
<td>Members of NPHC</td>
<td>MTLC Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Get Your “S” Together: Slaying the Interview in Style (Part I)</td>
<td>Maria Brathwaite</td>
<td>MHCS 222</td>
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<td>9-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Out Here on My Own: Independent Living</td>
<td>Tonya Byous</td>
<td>MLA 176-A</td>
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<td>9-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Why Don’t They Just Get a Job?: Moving From Unemployed to the Workforce</td>
<td>Lisa Belcher-Nelson</td>
<td>MLA 212</td>
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<td>9-11 a.m.</td>
<td>The Disrupter</td>
<td>Erica Glover, Ph.D</td>
<td>MLA 220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Excellence IS</td>
<td>Judge Anita Laster-Mays</td>
<td>MLA 114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Recruiting for Safety Forces in the 21st Century</td>
<td>Sergeant Charmin Leon</td>
<td>MLA 219</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Sisters, Lend Me Your Ears: The Urgent Need for Diversity in CSD</td>
<td>Brigette L. Wilson</td>
<td>MBA 209</td>
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<td>9-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Math: All Fun and Games</td>
<td>Patty Jean Shelton</td>
<td>MLA 210</td>
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<td>9-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Mind Full or Mindfulness?</td>
<td>Nikki Marchmon-Boykin</td>
<td>MLA 108</td>
</tr>
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<td>10-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Finding the Bella in You</td>
<td>Celina Broyles</td>
<td>MLA 211</td>
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<td>10-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Executive Suite: Professional Leadership Strategies</td>
<td>Jackie Dalton</td>
<td>MBA 210</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Power of the Tongue</td>
<td>Arelia Dalton</td>
<td>MBA 206</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Let’s Kick It: Kickboxing</td>
<td>Karin Cottman</td>
<td>MLA Studio 101</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Visioning Your Future</td>
<td>Trista Powers</td>
<td>MLA 311</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Things Your Momma Didn’t Tell You</td>
<td>Phyllis Dukes-Hopson, Ph.D.</td>
<td>MLA 206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Financial Aid 101</td>
<td>Judy Olabisi</td>
<td>MLA 306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11 a.m.</td>
<td>20/20 Vision: Financial Goals (Third Federal Banking)</td>
<td>Amy Garcia and Autumn Abramczyk</td>
<td>MLA 310</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<td>11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Networking 101</td>
<td>Courtney D. Webb</td>
<td>MLA 104</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physician Panel</td>
<td>Raven Alexander, DDS, Ashley Fuentes, DO, Charita Ray, DO</td>
<td>MCCA 107</td>
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<td>Math: All Fun and Games</td>
<td>Patty Jean Shelton</td>
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<td>Educated Ghetto Girl: Navigating Dreams Despite Adversity</td>
<td>Shaneen A. Harris</td>
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<td>Power Play 2.0: Test Your Knowledge as You Prepare for College</td>
<td>Yalonda D. Hawkins</td>
<td>MLA 310</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women in Engineering/STEM</td>
<td>Julie Zhao, Ph.D.</td>
<td>MLA 216</td>
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<td>Excellence IS</td>
<td>Judge Anita Laster-Mays</td>
<td>MLA 114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nursing Needs You</td>
<td>Benitha S. Garrett, RN</td>
<td>MLA 219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Get Your “S” Together: Slaying the Interview in Style (Part II)</td>
<td>Tanya Jones</td>
<td>MHCS 222</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Growth Mindset</td>
<td>Courtney Greer</td>
<td>MBA 107</td>
</tr>
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<td>Finding the Bella in You</td>
<td>Celina Broyles</td>
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<td>Trauma-Informed Practices in the Classroom</td>
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<td>Being on Fire Without Burning Out</td>
<td>Clotea Mack</td>
<td>MLA 116</td>
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<td>Using Mindfulness Techniques in the Classroom</td>
<td>Nikki Marchmon-Boykin</td>
<td>MLA 108</td>
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<td>Fit and Fierce</td>
<td>Niké Olabisi-Green</td>
<td>MRC 31</td>
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<td>I Can See Clearly Now, the Pain is Gone</td>
<td>Lisa Gadson-McCraney</td>
<td>MLA 212</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Superwoman Ain’t a Superhero: Debunking the Myth That We Can Do and Have It All and Keep Our Sanity</td>
<td>Tania Lodge, Ph.D.</td>
<td>MBA 232</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I Don’t Wanna Work Out — But I Love to Dance!</td>
<td>Kendra Willis</td>
<td>MLA Studio 101</td>
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<td>Stretching the Mind and Body (Yoga)</td>
<td>Kimberly Archibald Russell and Markeeta Davis</td>
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<td>Self Care: Caring for a Black Diamond</td>
<td>Melissa Brown</td>
<td>MLA 209</td>
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<td>Financial Aid 101</td>
<td>Judy Olabisi</td>
<td>MLA 306</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon – 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Resource Fair</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rec Center (MRC 100)</td>
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<td>12:30-1:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>Rec Center Gym (MRC 100)</td>
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<td>Time</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
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<td>MLA 114</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Believing You Can Make a Difference: Blazing the Path Forward</td>
<td>Angela Johnson, Ph.D.</td>
<td>MHCS 222</td>
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<td>2:30-3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Career Clusters</td>
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<td>Legal Profession/Law/Criminal Justice</td>
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<td>Manufacturing</td>
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<td>Medical</td>
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<td>STEM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Arts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Humanities/Liberal Arts (Psychology, sociology, philosophy, education)</td>
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<td>MLA 111</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-6 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner on your own</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
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<td>Captain Stephanie M. Johnson, Moriah Ballard, Uolanda Campbell-Davis and Linda Lanier</td>
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<td>Goal Digger</td>
<td>Alison Vaughn</td>
<td>MHCS 222</td>
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<td>Sisters, Lend Me Your Ears: The Urgent Need for Diversity in CSD</td>
<td>Myrita Wilhite, Au.D., CCC-A</td>
<td>MBA 210</td>
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<td>Why Don’t They Just Get a Job?: Moving From Unemployed to the Workforce</td>
<td>Lisa Belcher-Nelson</td>
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<td>Educated Ghetto Girl: Navigating Dreams Despite Adversity</td>
<td>Shaneen A. Harris</td>
<td>MLA 206</td>
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<td>Why is Career Tech for Me?</td>
<td>Courtney D. Webb</td>
<td>MLA 207</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Working in a Professional Field Dominated by Men</td>
<td>In Son J. Loving</td>
<td>MLA 209</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Civic Engagement and Empowerment</td>
<td>Judge Lauren C. Moore</td>
<td>MLA 115</td>
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<td>Power Play 2.0: Test Your Knowledge as You Prepare for College</td>
<td>Yalonda D. Hawkins</td>
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<td>Tonya Byous</td>
<td>MLA 115</td>
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<td>Lisa Gadson-McCraney</td>
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<td>Kendra Willis</td>
<td>MLA Studio 101</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Recognizing Mental and Emotional Distress</td>
<td>Karla D. McDay</td>
<td>MLA 312</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Being on Fire Without Burning Out</td>
<td>Clotea Mack</td>
<td>MLA 117</td>
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<td>Walk It Like I Talk It</td>
<td>Tamara Barkley</td>
<td>MBA 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>20/20 Vision: Financial Goals (Third Federal Banking)</td>
<td>Autumn Abramczyk</td>
<td>MBA 206</td>
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<td>11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Goal Digger</td>
<td>Alison Vaughn</td>
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<td>Denine A. Parks-Goolsby</td>
<td>MLA 115</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physician Panel</td>
<td>Shanya Brathwaite, Munirah Bomani, MD</td>
<td>MTLc</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Alexis Herring, DDS</td>
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<td>Audu Maryam, BHS, BSN, RN, M4</td>
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<td>Maya Thompson, DDS</td>
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<td>Nursing Needs You</td>
<td>Benitha S. Garrett, RN</td>
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<td>Love Is ... Love Ain’t</td>
<td>Joy Bostic, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Indeed We Code</td>
<td>Student Coders</td>
<td>MTLc 153, 155, 156, 157</td>
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<td>Sisters, Lend Me Your Ears: The Urgent Need for Diversity in CSD</td>
<td>Myrita Wilhite, Au.D., CCC-A</td>
<td>MBA 210</td>
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<td>11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>I Can See Clearly Now, the Pain is Gone</td>
<td>Lisa Gadson-McCraney</td>
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<td>Power of the Tongue</td>
<td>Arelia Dalton</td>
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<td>Fit and Fierce</td>
<td>Niké Olabisi-Green</td>
<td>MRC 31</td>
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<td>Let’s Kick It: Kickboxing</td>
<td>Karin Cottman</td>
<td>MLA Studio 101</td>
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<td>Walk It Like I Talk It</td>
<td>Tamara Barkley</td>
<td>MLA 176B</td>
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<td>11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Financial Aid 101</td>
<td>Judy Olabisi</td>
<td>MLA 220</td>
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<td>Noon – 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Resource Fair</td>
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<td>Rec Center (MRC 100)</td>
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<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>Rec Center Gym (MRC 100)</td>
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20/20 Vision:
Financial Goals (Third Federal Banking)
Amy Garcia (F)
Autumn Abramczyk (Sa)
Banking professionals will guide you in making a “financial goals” vision board that can assist you in realizing goals such as homeownership, entrepreneurship or debt-free living.

Being on Fire Without Burning Out
Clotea Mack
Discover how to pursue excellence with passion while maintaining a balanced life. Learn how to mentally meet and defeat challenges and self-defeating thoughts, as well as how to make the most out of the least and lead a life of purpose — on purpose.

Believing You Can Make a Difference:
Blazing the Path Forward
Angela Johnson, Ph.D.
We are all leaders, no matter where we sit within an organization. We can make a difference when we believe we can. Each of us makes a difference every day, in ways that impact the lives of others. Growing as a leader is a self-reflective process, and we can be our own toughest critics. As we learn to believe in ourselves, we blaze a path forward and enrich our lives along the way.

The Disrupter
Erica Glover, Ph.D.
At a time when racial division seems to be openly encouraged, it is imperative that we critically reflect on how rhetoric, systems and people oppress others and on our duty to intervene. Consider how place and perspective influence how we respond to people, what we think of people and our role as agents of change. Black Diamonds will understand the need to become disrupters — individuals who interrupt the negative encounters of others. Discuss how current leaders remain committed to the process of disruption and understand the importance of advocating for yourself and others.

Educated Ghetto Girl:
Navigating Dreams Despite Adversity
Shaneen A. Harris
I should have been a statistic. But I wouldn’t let where I was determine who I was. Join me as I share not only my story, but the tools and practices that guided me to transform my dreams into goals and my goals into reality. You have to do more than just dare to dream — you have to choose to do something about it!

Excellence IS
Judge Anita Laster-Mays
Excellence does not start at one point. It is believing, from the beginning, that you have what you need to do what you want. Turning belief into reality requires intentional action. To be excellent requires intentional, repeated action. This workshop will focus on the intentional actions that produce excellence in all endeavors — school, home and community.

Executive Suite:
Professional Leadership Strategies
Jackie Dalton
A real-talk discussion on becoming a strong professional, the skills and competencies required of effective leaders, and techniques for positioning yourself for career advancement. Learn strategies for successfully transitioning from college to the workplace while exploring how cultural issues can derail your success. Discover how to leverage your personal strengths to build your path to the executive suite!

Financial Aid 101
Judy Olabisi
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.

Finding the Bella in You
Celina Broyles
The word “bella” means “beauty” in many languages. Learn self-development techniques that will help you unlock your inner beauty, and discover how to apply these engaging activities to your everyday life to boost your self-confidence and empower you on your journey. You will leave feeling “bella” inside and out!

Fit and Fierce
Niké Olabisi-Green
Fitness is a lifestyle, and life should be fun! Zumba with NOLAMOVEMENT.
Get Your “S” Together: Slaying the Interview in Style (Part I)
Maria Brathwaite
This interactive, two-part workshop presented by career and human resource professionals will address resume development, interview skills and other soft skills associated with the job search process. Discover the spoken and unspoken rules of the search process, including work experience (or lack thereof), social media and references.

Get Your “S” Together: Slaying the Interview in Style (Part II)
Tanya Jones
This interactive, two-part workshop presented by career and human resource professionals will address resume development, interview skills and other soft skills associated with the job search process. Discover the spoken and unspoken rules of the search process, including work experience (or lack thereof), social media and references.

Goal Digger
Alison Vaughn
In this interactive workshop, author Alison Vaughn will discuss her book Ms. Goal Digger: Success is Sexy and how planning and setting goals are key to obtaining personal and career success.

Growth Mindset
Courtney Greer
In her book, Mindset: The New Psychology of Success, author Carol Dweck defines a growth mindset as “when students understand that their abilities can be developed.” Learn what it takes to apply a growth mindset to your career, your studies, your relationships and much more. Discover how to recognize growth mindset in yourself and other people and identify the positive benefits that come with these behaviors.

I Can See Clearly Now, the Pain is Gone
Lisa McCraney
Discuss the “blinders” we as women often wear when we attempt to portray ourselves as healthy and whole. We will touch on common areas of brokenness that women may experience, regardless of age or background, and will offer solutions on how to take the blinders off for good.

I Don’t Wanna Work Out — But I Love to Dance!
Kendra Willis
Keep your body “in line” with line dancing! Fun with healthy benefits.

Indeed We Code: Introduction to Coding
Get an introductory lesson on coding.

Let’s Kick It: Kickboxing
Karin Cottman
Don’t kick rocks — kickbox! Kickboxing cardio workout.

Love Is ... Love Ain’t
Joy Bostic, Ph.D.
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 in the media. Some of these relationships may involve toxic, abusive or even violent behavior. Unfortunately, we don’t always receive clear-cut advice about pursuing relationships that affirm our sense of self-worth and value, or how to avoid relationships that are abusive and unsupportive. We will talk about what loving and caring relationships look like and what behaviors or attitudes are not acceptable. We will also discuss how to avoid or end a toxic or abusive relationship.

Math: All Fun and Games
Patty Jean Shelton
Making math fun is easy when you play math games! Use these games to learn basic math skills or to reinforce skills you’ve already learned. Understanding basic math operations such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing can lead you on a path toward advanced math skills like algebra and geometry and can help you build friendships and succeed in any math classroom. Make learning fun and easy in three simple steps: 1. Play math games. 2. Have fun. 3. Repeat.

Mindfulness as an Effective Tool for Classroom Management
Educators will learn how to effectively use and incorporate mindfulness techniques in the classroom. Discover how students can effectively use mindfulness for self-regulation during stressful situations.

Networking 101
Courtney D. Webb
What’s networking, and how do I do it? Networking can be an intimidating process, but it is a very necessary part of building your career and reputation within your chosen field. Learn why you should network, where you can network, how to select a network and what you need to start networking.
Nursing Needs You  
**Benitha S. Garrett, RN**

Nursing has so much to offer you — and you have so much to offer nursing! Explore the nursing profession as both a science and an art and learn why diversity in nursing is so necessary to helping decrease disparities in health care. We will describe the process of becoming a nurse and provide resources to help you make the most of your journey. We will also discuss topics such as study habits and self-care that will guide you toward obtaining your goal.

Out Here on My Own: Independent Living  
**Tonya Byous**

"Help! I can’t do this by myself!" is a common refrain among young people living on their own for the first time. This workshop is for those who, by choice or by chance, must learn how to live independently. How do I make a budget? How can I find an apartment? Should I get a roommate? … we will answer these questions and more.

Physician Panel  
**Shayna Brathwaite**

A panel of doctors will discuss their careers and the process, sacrifices and obstacles related to pursuing a career in medicine.

Power of the Tongue  
**Arelia Dalton**

Did you know you carry a powerful tool with you every day? The tongue is amazing in creating impact and effect. Through the use of the tongue, relationships have been built as well as destroyed. Using our tongues, we have encouraged and discouraged others and ourselves. How mighty is the tongue when we use it to our advantage? Explore ways to use this tool in a promising and productive way to positively impact others’ lives as well as your own.

Power Play 2.0: Test Your Knowledge as You Prepare for College  
**Yalonda D. Hawkins**

This interactive, game show-style session will test your knowledge and understanding of college readiness. Learn about the college enrollment process in a fun and educational environment that will help ease your anxiety, and leave with the ability to map out your own road to college success.

Recognizing Mental and Emotional Distress  
**Karla D. McDay**

Increase your knowledge and understanding of the signs of mental illness, cultural differences in symptom presentation, contributing risk factors and treatment and referral processes. The cultural piece will focus on African Americans and people living in poverty, highlighting stressors and symptoms unique to these populations.

Recruiting for Safety Forces in the 21st Century  
**Sergeant Charmin Leon**

As we look at our society’s diversity, we believe every occupation should reflect that diversity. National, state, and local safety forces are looking for many good women. Get information on requirements and career opportunities open to women.

Self Care: Caring for the Black Diamond  
**Melissa Brown, RN**

African-American girls and women are natural leaders and caregivers in all areas of their lives, making self-care especially important. Examine evidence-based self-care tools and resources and learn how caring for yourself can help you reach your full leadership potential.

Sister Chat  
**Members of NPHC**

Sorority members representing the National Panhellenic Council will discuss the benefits, truths, and myths associated with membership in a collegiate sorority.

Sisters, Lend Me Your Ears: The Urgent Need for Diversity in CSD  
**Brigette L. Wilson (F)**  
**Myrita Wilhite, Au.D. (Sa)**

Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) is one of the fastest growing allied health professions in the United States. Despite the tremendous growth potential for this field, statistics show that it is primarily made up of white females (89.9%). With a need for increased diversity in audiology and speech-language pathology, this interactive presentation will highlight the critical and distinctive skills necessary for successful careers in this area. Our aim is to inspire young women who are underrepresented minorities to pursue these careers in an effort to increase diversity, improve overall quality of life and limit the social determinants of health.
Stretching the Mind and Body (Yoga)
Kimberly Archibald Russell
Markeeta Davis

Superwoman Ain’t a Superhero: Debunking the Myth That We Can Do and Have It All and Keep Our Sanity
Tania Lodge, Ph.D. (F)

Things Your Momma Didn’t Tell You
Phyllis Dukes-Hopson, Ph.D.

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 for communicating more effectively.

Trauma-Informed Practices in the Classroom
Denine A. Parks-Goolsby

Educators and other helping professionals are faced daily with students impacted directly and indirectly by trauma in community, school or home. This workshop will provide participants with data regarding the impact of trauma on students while providing strategies and resources for educators to support students and families dealing with traumatic events.

Using Mindfulness Techniques in the Classroom
Nikki Marchmon-Boykin

Strength and stress is the constant and dual existence of Black women and girls in today’s society. 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.

Visioning Your Future
Trista Powers

Visualizing is a technique used to “speak it into existence.” By creating a vision board, participants will be able to create a graphic representation of their ideas and future goals. Once the vision board is displayed in a prominent place, the plans for the future will stay front and center in your mind. As a result, vision board creators will be able to see the future, motivating towards personal and professional goals.

Walk It Like I Talk It
Tamara Barkley

This interactive presentation will provide young women with strategies for building self-worth and self-esteem to enable them to walk boldly in their truth. It will aid in diminishing societal norms often placed on adolescent females through media outlets and will assist them with learning to be confident in who they are!

Why Don’t They Just Get a Job?: Moving From Unemployed to the Workforce
Lisa Belcher-Nelson

Learn strategies to overcome the barriers of poverty and other impediments that trap individuals in cycles of unemployment, and receive information on educational and workforce opportunities that provide sustainable employment.

Why is Career Tech for Me?
Courtney D. Webb

Are you a high school student unsure which career to choose? Would you like to gain college credits while in high school? Are you looking for a nontraditional pathway to high school graduation, or looking to jump right into a career? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then career tech is for you. Career tech provides an alternative pathway to graduation while introducing high students to different career fields and allowing them to earn college credit as well as an industry credential. All high school students can benefit from participating in career-technical education, regardless of their desired path after graduation.

Women in Engineering/STEM
Julie Zhao, Ph.D.

Learn 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.

Working in a Professional Field Dominated by Men
In Son J. Loving

Discover how to overcome the disadvantages and obstacles women of color face in professional fields. Led by an attorney, this workshop will address how to handle difficult situations and macroaggressions while maintaining your professionalism. Learn strategies for being a “victor” rather than a victim in aggressive work situations, and discuss how proper self-care and preservation can help you maintain healthy professional relationships with your peers.
FRIDAY KEYNOTE

Stacy Hodoh, Ed.D.
Global vice president of supply chain operations for Walmart Canada

In her role with Walmart Canada, Stacy Hodoh and her team support and engage with store operations to ensure service excellence, sufficient capacity and low cost. She previously served as interim vice president of supply chain and logistics at Walmart Mexico, leading 14,000 associates and supporting a retail supply chain with sales of more than $40 billion. She also served as senior director of international logistics and as supply chain ambassador for the company.

Hodoh joined Walmart in 2010 as an assistant general manager in the midwest division of the U.S. logistics market. She was promoted to general manager in the company’s southeast division in 2013, where she led the successful turnaround of a $2 billion high-velocity distribution center.

With more than 15 years of executive leadership experience in supply chain, logistics, manufacturing and operations management, Hodoh is a global leader with a reputation for building high-performance cultures through servant leadership, talent and organizational development, and savvy business strategies.

Hodoh earned a bachelor’s degree in management, a master’s in organizational leadership and a doctorate in organizational leadership from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. She also holds Six Sigma Black Belt certification, HACCP certification and ISO 9001 Lead Auditor certification. She currently resides in Toronto, Ontario.

SATURDAY KEYNOTE

Captain Stephanie M. Johnson
Pilot, 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, she earned private, commercial, flight instructor and flight engineer certifications with instrument and multiengine ratings. She also worked as a flight instructor in the 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 has made history twice: first in October 1997, when she became Northwest Airlines’ first African-American female pilot and again in September 2016, when she became the first African-American female captain for Delta Air Lines.

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.
CONFERENCE MISTRESS OF CEREMONY

Moriah Alyssa Ballard is an inspirational speaker, producer and host. She enrolled at Lorain Community College at age 17 and obtained an Associate of Arts degree. After graduation, Ballard worked as a radio broadcaster at WNZN Power 89.1 FM Urban Inspiration Radio Station in Lorain, where she interviewed numerous celebrities.

She also hosted her own talk show, The Moriah Alyssa Show, which focused on young urban inspiration.

Ballard is a recent graduate of Cleveland State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in communication with a focus in broadcast journalism. After receiving her undergraduate degree, she accepted an internship at WKYC Channel 3 in Cleveland, where she quickly advanced to the role of producer for segments of We The People and Live on Lakeside.

Ballard’s long-term career goal is to become a television news reporter. She has been blessed with opportunities to encourage her generation both nationally and internationally, and she welcomes your prayers in the navigation of her future.

Dr. Raven Alexander is from Memphis, Tennessee. She graduated from Spelman College with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and earned her Master of Health Science and Doctorate of Dental Surgery from Meharry Medical College in Nashville. One of Alexander’s greatest accomplishments is watching her Google search, “how to become an orthodontist,” come to life. She loves dancing, cooking, listening to music and going on random adventures. She is excited for her new journey at the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine.

Maryam M. Audu was born and raised in Nigeria and has lived in Cleveland for almost 20 years. She earned a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Case Western Reserve University and worked as an operating room nurse for six years. Audu is currently an M4 (fourth-year medical student) at Northeast Ohio Medical University. Her specialty is family medicine, with an interest in global health. Her hobbies include hiking, traveling, eating good food and spending time with family and friends.

Kimberly Archibald Russell is a certified yoga instructor. In the early years of her practice, Russell rarely saw people of color at Cleveland’s yoga studios. In 2014, she realized her dream of teaching yoga in her own neighborhood when she founded My Village Yoga. Russell believes that the benefits of yoga should be shared with everyone, regardless of age, body type, race, religion or fitness level.

Tamara Barkley is the founder of Girls Emotionally and Mentally Strong (G.E.M.S.), a program that empowers young women to embrace their beauty, intelligence and strength with confidence. She was an academic advisor at Bryant and Stratton College for five years, where she counseled students, mentored them and assisted in building their confidence. A rising motivational speaker, Barkley is also the author of The G.E.M.S Journey Guidebook.

Wendy L. Batch-Wilson, DNP, RN, has been with Cuyahoga Community College for 16 years. She is the College-wide director of nursing skills labs and currently serves as interim associate dean of Health Careers at the Western Campus. Batch-Wilson entered the health care field in 1993 and began her nursing career in 1997. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. as well as the National League for Nursing, the Ohio Action Coalition and The Center for Health Affairs Workforce Initiative.

Munirah Bomani, MD, was born and raised in Cleveland. She had a passion for science from a young age, graduating high school at 16 and earning a double bachelor’s degree in biology and Spanish with medical applications from Cleveland State University. Bomani taught herself Spanish, French and Portuguese, which led to a love of travel and working with underserved immigrant and refugee populations. She graduated from Meharry Medical College in 2018 and is now a family medicine resident at MetroHealth, focusing on global health. Her goal is to provide sustainable medical education and infrastructure to third world nations.

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 program faculty member of 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.
Shayna Brathwaite, MD, obtained her bachelor’s and medical degrees from Case Western Reserve University. After medical school, she moved to Columbus to complete her general surgery residency at Ohio State University. Currently in her final year, Dr. Brathwaite serves as administrative chief of all general surgery residents. Following her residency, she will move to Atlanta, Georgia, to complete a vascular surgery fellowship at Emory University.

Melissa Brown, M.Ed., BSN-RN, has served as director of rehabilitation at Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare in Northfield, Ohio, for 20 years. She has made significant contributions to patient care through her leadership, advocacy and professional activities. Brown is a member of the Ohio Nurses Association and the Northeast Ohio Organization of Nurse Executives.

Celina Broyles is the creator of the I Am Bella experience — a result of her own personal journey to find herself and become a better woman, wife, mother, sister, friend and daughter. I Am Bella aims to help women and teenage girls find their true selves in order to lead happier, more fulfilled lives. The program encourages women to dig into their pasts in order to better their futures. Broyles has mentored countless young girls in school districts across Northeast Ohio.

Tonya S. Byous is the director of Brightside Academy in Cleveland and an adjunct faculty member in Early Childhood Education at Cuyahoga Community College’s Eastern Campus. She attends the Philippi Missionary Baptist Church, where her husband, the Rev. Kevin Byous Jr., serves as senior pastor. At Philippi, Byous works in the Christian Education Ministry and sings in the choir. She is a motivational speaker for various causes such as Annual Women’s Day, women’s empowerment retreats, graduations and more. She lives by the motto, “Charity first; service to others; use your God-given talent.” Byous is a member of the Alpha Lambda Sigma Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. and the Cleveland Baptist Ministers’ Wives and Widows Association.

Karin Cottman, M.Ed., is an exercise specialist and certified personal trainer at LifeWorks of Southwest General and an adjunct physical education instructor at Cuyahoga Community College. She earned a bachelor’s degree in management information systems as well as an MBA from Bowling Green State University, and she holds a master’s of education in exercise science from Cleveland State University.

Arelia R. Dalton, M.Ed., MBA, LPCC-S, is a counselor and assistant professor at Cuyahoga Community College. Prior to joining Tri-C, she was a clinical supervisor in the school-based program at Beech Brook. She has presented locally and nationally on topics including effective communication and treatment modalities for adolescents.

Jackie Dalton, BBA, MBA, is an assistant vice president in the supervision and regulation department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, where she oversees the compliance risk teams. Prior to being appointed to her current role in 2017, she spent two years as audit manager before returning to SCS administration as a banking supervisor. Dalton earned her degrees from Cleveland State University and CWRU’s Weatherhead School of Management.

Markeeta Davis began practicing yoga several years ago. In 2016, she decided to become a certified yoga teacher so that she could share with others the feeling of freedom and acceptance she experiences while on her mat. She completed her 200-hour training at Chagrin Yoga in Chagrin Falls. In addition to yoga, she is an avid meditator and a practitioner of the healing art of reiki.

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. Her invaluable service as immediate past president of Tri-C’s Black American Council has supported African-American students in achieving their academic goals through programming, mentoring and scholarship funding.

Ashley Fuentes, M.D. is originally from New York City. She completed a bachelor’s degree in biology at Case Western Reserve University and earned a master’s in biomedical science from Touro College. She also holds a doctorate from Ohio University’s Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. Fuentes is currently in her third year of family medicine residency at UH Parma Medical Center, where she is chief resident. She aspires to continue volunteering and helping the underserved.
Lisa A. Gadson-McCrane, M.Ed., LPCC-S, earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Kent State University. Licensed as a counselor by the State of Ohio, she has more than a decade of experience in the mental health field. In 2014, she founded Healing Hearts Counseling & Consultation Services, a nonprofit organization based in Akron, Ohio. Healing Hearts’ mission is to help people through the healing process and to care for God’s people with the love of Christ.

Benitha S. Garrett, MSN, RN, is the owner and CEO of Benevolent Care Centers, an agency that provides training and nurse consultation to agencies and community organizations to improve health awareness and care provision to vulnerable populations. She has been a nurse for 24 years, 15 of those spent caring for individuals with mental health conditions and intellectual or developmental disabilities. Garrett served on the board of the Greater Cleveland Nurses Association for six years and is currently a board member of the Ohio Nurses Association.

Erica Glover Ph.D., 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 received her Ph.D. in urban education from Cleveland State University in May 2017 and is currently working on writing her first book.

Courtney Greer recently moved to Chicago, Illinois, to start her career with Microsoft as a partner development manager within its One Commercial Partner team. There, she works with companies to build exciting new solutions leveraging Microsoft’s cloud, Azure, and to help those companies bring their solutions to market. She holds a bachelor’s degree in computer science engineering, with a minor in business administration, from the University of Toledo.

Shaneen A. Harris is an author, orator and educator. She wrote her first book, The Case of the Missing Birthday Cake, at the age of nine. She is the co-founder and host of web-based poetry show Poetry Unchained and is the former host of TBN’s Joy in Our Town. Harris holds a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Northwestern University, a master’s in electrical engineering from Case Western Reserve University and a master’s in creative writing from Sierra Nevada College.

Yalonda D. Hawkins is a completion project manager at Cuyahoga Community College, providing expertise in developing and coordinating intentional strategies in support of students earning industry-recognized credentials and completing degrees in career-technical education programs. She has progressive experience in facilitating services for students at the secondary and post-secondary levels to aid in college success and career readiness. Hawkins holds a bachelor’s degree in social work and a master’s in higher education student affairs administration from the University of Toledo.

Alexis Herring, DDS, graduated from George Mason University with a degree in biology and received her doctorate from the Howard University College of Dentistry. She is currently a first-year endodontic resident at Case Western Reserve University.

Arlene D. James is a coordinator for Youth, Adult and Community Connections at Cuyahoga Community College, where she has worked with foster youth since 2015. She is a Fostering Success coach trainer and is certified in mental health first aid. In collaboration with the Ohio Department of Children and Family Services, James works with emancipated youth who have aged out of the foster care system. She earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Ursuline College in 2011.

Tanya Jones has managed the day-to-day HR operations of the Cleveland Municipal Court for six years. She has more than 17 years of experience in program management and the implementation of strategic recruitment and retention solutions for the public and nonprofit sectors. Jones holds a master’s degree in health administration with a specialization in human resources management from Ohio University. She is also PHR certified and is a certified court executive.

Judge Anita Laster Mays was elected to the Ohio 8th District Court of Appeals in 2014. Prior to that, she served 11 years as a Cleveland Municipal Court judge. She is a former deputy director of the criminal division in the Cleveland Clerk of Courts Office, assistant Cleveland prosecutor and defense attorney handling probate, domestic relations, civil and criminal matters. Laster Mays is a graduate of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and The Ohio State University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting and management information systems.
Sergeant Charmin Leon joined the Cleveland Division of Police in 2008. Promoted to sergeant in 2013, she was assigned to the division’s Office of Professional Standards, where she investigated allegations of police misconduct. In 2017, as officer in charge of personnel, she took on an additional role as officer in charge of the recruitment team for police, fire and EMS. Leon currently teaches the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives curriculum “The Law and Your Community” to local high school students. She also facilitates “Policing the Teen Brain: Strategies for Youth” training and instructs current officers on procedural justice and bias-free policing.

Tania S. Lodge, Ph.D is the clinical director of Minority Behavioral Health Group in Akron, Ohio, where she specializes in providing culturally specific mental health services. She holds a doctorate degree in clinical psychology in addition to master’s degrees in clinical psychology and marriage and family therapy. Dr. Lodge is also a licensed clinical counselor with supervision designation in the state of Ohio. She has approximately 15 years of clinical experience working with diverse populations in multiple settings in addition to extensive experience evaluating programs and interventions.

In Son J. Loving is a licensed attorney specializing in discrimination law, providing legal representation to employees who have been subjected to discrimination and retaliation in the workplace. She possesses extensive knowledge of Ohio discrimination law and Title VII litigation, including sexual harassment, retaliation and discrimination based on gender, race, national origin and/or age. Loving holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology with a concentration in mental health from John Carroll University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Akron School of Law.

Clotea Mack is the founder and CEO of Lifted in Love LLC, an organization whose mission is to empower women to live their best lives. She teaches the importance of forgiveness at her monthly Forgiveness Forward workshops, and she has carried the message of forgiveness over the airwaves as a frequent radio show guest.

Nikki Marchmon-Boykin, M.Ed., is a Kent State University graduate and master teacher in the Kent City School District. As a social studies educator at Theodore Roosevelt High School, her 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.

Karla D. McDay MSW, LISW-S, is the executive director of nonprofit housing organization Harmony House Inc. She currently works as a psychotherapist and supervisor at Minority Behavioral Health Group in Akron, Ohio, where she provides individual and group therapy. McDay has more than 20 years of experience in residential treatment and the child welfare system. She holds a bachelor’s degree in social work from Northern Kentucky University and a master’s in social work from the University of Akron.

Judge Lauren C. Moore was elected to the Cleveland Municipal Court in 2003. Prior to that, she served as chief Cleveland prosecutor and assistant Cuyahoga County prosecutor. She is very involved in the community and has received several awards honoring her service, including the UNCF Eagle award, the Phenomenal Woman Foundation award, the NCNW meritorious service award, Murtis Taylor’s Ebony Rose award and a Phi Delta Kappa award recognizing her work with Greater Cleveland youth. Moore holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Spelman College and a Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve University.

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 more than 25 years in the student financial aid office. She has conducted countless financial aid presentations at high schools, colleges and in communities throughout Northeast Ohio.

Niké Olabisi-Green, MBA, 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. She holds a bachelor’s degree in fashion merchandising and an MBA from Kent State University.
Denine A. Parks-Goolsby, M.Ed., is on the Board of Directors for CREATE for Education. She is also National Boule Hostess 2018-2020 for Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. Other roles include First Anti-Basileus, Alpha Xi Chapter, National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Inc.; and Board of Directors, Sigma Public Education and Research (SPEAR) Foundation.

Charita Ray, M.D. is a native Clevelander with a proclivity for math and science. She majored in biology at The Ohio State University before joining Teach for America’s Baltimore Corps to pursue her dream of serving others. While in Baltimore, she taught middle school science for three years and decided to go to medical school. Ray attended Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where her love for interaction and continuity with patients led her to choose family medicine as her specialty. She is currently finishing her third and final year of residency at UH Parma Medical Center.

Patty Jean Shelton has taught mathematics for more than 15 years, 12 of them at Cuyahoga Community College’s Western Campus. She uses humor and heart to help students conquer their fear of math in an environment where math becomes fun. She earned a master’s degree in theoretical mathematics from the University of Akron in 2007.

Maya Thompson, DMD, MPH is native of Trenton, New Jersey, earned a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from Villanova University after working in the oil industry for six years. Her desire to work in a profession that directly impacts others led her to dentistry, and her desire to shape early dental experiences inspired her to specialize in pediatric dentistry. Thompson earned a Doctorate of Dental Medicine and a Master of Public Health from the University of Pennsylvania and is currently a resident at Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, trying new foods and cheering on Philadelphia and Villanova sports teams.

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 nonprofit organization that provides career skills training 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 job-seekers by providing professional attire and employment training. The Detroit-based organization went global in 2013 with the opening of an office in Botswana. Jackets for Jobs has received recognition from ABC’s The View, NBC’s TODAY Show and O, The Oprah Magazine.

Courtney D. Webb is a career tech educator in Euclid High School’s patient care, health information and data (PHD) program, which introduces high school students to a variety of health careers. Her experience in the health care field and passion for molding the next generation influenced her decision to transfer her skills from the corporate sector to education.

Myrita Wilhite, Au.D., CCC-A, is an audiologist and associate professor of practice at Cleveland State University, where she also serves as director of the speech and hearing program. She has 30 years of experience in audiology.

Brigette L. Wilson, M.A., CCC-SLP, is an assistant professor of practice at Cleveland State University, where she also serves as clinic administrator in the speech and hearing program. She was recently promoted to director of the Urban Health Fellows Program, a pipeline for first-generation freshmen and sophomore college students interested in medicine and allied health professions.

Julie Zhao, Ph.D., is assistant dean for international initiatives at The University of Akron. She also serves as director of diversity and retention at the university’s College of Engineering. In this role, she leads initiatives and programs to enhance the academic, professional and personal development of underrepresented engineering students at UA. She previously served on the executive board of the American Council of Education -Women’s Network Ohio, and she is a proud of graduate of Leadership Akron Class 30.
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