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Morehouse Male Initiative

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Morehouse College and the
MRI
THE MOREHOUSE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
present
The Third Annual
Black Male Summit
Boys to Men: Interrogating Assumptions about Black Male Development

Friday, February 18, 2011
2-5 p.m.
Bank of American Auditorium
Executive Conference Center
Dear Participants and Guests:

Welcome to the 2011 Morehouse College Black Male Summit.

At Morehouse, we believe that we have “cracked the code” on black male academic achievement, character development, healthy identity, and personal efficacy. Accordingly, several years ago when it became apparent to the broader community that black men were underrepresented in institutions of higher learning, we knew that Morehouse College was uniquely positioned to increase public awareness, drive the public discussion, and inspire new policies and programs.

This is an unprecedented era in American history as an African American man serves as president of the United States. People who care about the prospects of black boys and men of color now have an opportunity to leverage President Obama as a compelling and attractive symbol of human possibility and value. We must seize this season to usher in good for our youth and future generations.

We are pleased that you are with us today to engage in this much-needed conversation, and we hope that you will partner with us as we seek to maximize the opportunity afforded by this period in history and the growing good will for black male success.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Franklin '75
ince the early 1980s when females became the new student majority on our nation’s college and university campuses, higher education has witnessed a steady decline in the relative representation of male students at nearly every level, particularly at historically black colleges and universities. The Morehouse College Black Male Summit (MCBMS) is one of a handful of gatherings that have occurred in recent years to examine various aspects of what many refer to as the marginalization of black boys and men. Morehouse College President Robert M. Franklin has always been involved in efforts to maximize the potential of African American students. Early in 2009, he asserted that one of the major strengths of the College is its ability to motivate and prepare Black men to fully participate in a changing world. Further, he conceptualized MCBMS as a forum to inform public policy and action agendas as they relate to and impact upon black boys and men in the educational arena.

On February 12, 2009, Dr. Franklin convened an interdisciplinary roundtable of 17 scholars, administrators, and higher education policy experts from around the country to begin planning a symposium to address the impact higher education’s shifting gender balance is having on male college students and to strengthen the pipeline at the K-12 level. Among those joining Dr. Franklin for the roundtable were senior administrators from Morehouse College, educational researcher Ronald Ferguson from Harvard, Michael Holtzman from the Schott Foundation, and representatives from church, judicial and political organizations. The group identified some of the core issues warranting further exploration at a symposium, which they proposed for the following February.

The resulting one-day Black Male Summit convened on the Morehouse campus on February 12, 2010, attracting a diverse group of nearly 300 scholars, policy makers, community leaders, and students from around the country.

The main objectives of the 2010 summit were to 1) review the current status of men and boys along the educational continuum; 2) discuss some of the factors that deter men from attending or persisting in college; 3) review practices that have proven successful in engaging men in higher education; and 4) begin outlining a national research agenda on these issues, while considering policy recommendations and possible strategies for assisting those males who are most at risk for disconnecting from the education continuum.

During the 2010 Summit, the participants concluded that the educational disengagement of at-risk males is influenced by a confluence of societal factors that originate outside of the education domain, including: sexism; classism; racism; poverty; societal attitudes of masculinity; and patterns of incarceration. Additionally, they noted that the institutions and programs most impacted by the shifting gender balance in higher education are those emphasizing the liberal arts, and those serving large populations of students of color.

This year, the objective is to move the discussion about higher education’s shifting gender balance from one of trend observation to research development. Eventually, it is the goal of the Black Male Summit to expand the discussion to include the creation of research-based education policies aimed at helping high-risk male students remain connected to the educational continuum.

An appropriate response to these challenges links the Black Male Summit and the community in ways that are beneficial to community residents, as well as public and private policy makers. It also revitalizes and reconnects the arts and sciences to public policy, especially researchers and policy analysts, with a commitment to social change.
Program

WELCOME
Robert M. Franklin, Ph.D. ’75
President

OVERVIEW
Obie Clayton, Ph.D.
Director, Morehouse Research Institute

OPENING REMARKS
David Wall Rice, Ph.D. ’95
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

Panel One
Black Boys and Men in the Educational Pipeline
Panelists:
Jawanza Kunjufu, Ph.D.
Author and Publisher, African American Images
Ernest Morrell, Ph.D
Professor, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, UCLA
Bryant Marks, Ph.D. ’94
Professor, Dept. of Psychology, Morehouse College and Director, Morehouse Male Initiative

Panel Two
Education Policy and Intervention
Panelists:
Deborah Prothrow-Stith, M.D.
Consultant, Spencer Stuart Executive Search and Consulting
Judge Glenda Hatchett
Attorney and Author of Dare to Take Charge: How to Live Your Life on Purpose
R. L’Heureux Lewis, Ph.D. ’00
Professor, Sociology and Black Studies, The City College of New York

Audience Dialogue
Concluding Remarks