

New NABSE Affiliate Founded in New York City

On March 3rd, 2020 several Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents and other Central Office Administrators met in Brooklyn and chartered the Greater New York City Association of Black Superintendents and Administrators (GNYCABSA). Dr. Andre Spencer, Chair of NABSE's Superintendents Commission and Dr. Fadhilika Atiba-Weza, Executive Director of NABSE addressed the gathering.

The Affiliate is a result of the efforts of its founding core members, Rahesha Amon-Harrison, Donald Conyers, Dr. Sean Davenport, Barbara Freeman, Dr. Thomas McBryde, and Dr. Andre Spencer.



NABSE Relaunches Legislative Committee

Pursuant to NABSE's Big Six Priority #4, President McFarland has relaunched the Legislative Committee. With the overall goal of engaging in activities that will enable NABSE to be an effective voice in the national and various regional legislative agendas, the committee is being convened by Dr. Patricia A. Ackerman, Past President of NABSE (1987-89).

Speaking of the Committee's agenda, Dr. Ackerman stated, "Our world has become a much more challenging place, with threats to our health, safety and well-being taking precedence over everything. The COVID-19 pandemic has replaced whatever may have topped our lists of "most memorable," "most impactful," "most disruptive/disturbing/frightening" events previously. All of us are grieving - individually and collectively - for the loss of normalcy in our lives, and we are frustrated with the insidious impacts of a devastating disease that is invisible and has no known cure.

As educators, the closing of schools has created a series of new challenges in instructional delivery, access to technology, equipment disparities, parent involvement, breakfast and lunch provisions, cancellation of traditional annual events: athletic competitions, concerts, plays, awards/recognition ceremonies, proms, graduations, fundraisers, etc.

We are concerned about the well-being of our faculty members and staffs, our special needs students, our co-workers, as well as our own families, loved ones, friends and neighbors.

Despite all the challenges and uncertainty, the inconvenience and disruptions, WE ARE INCREDIBLY BLESSED! Let us be thankful for all that remains safe, secure and intact. Let us embrace the faith that enables us to see beyond the "new normal" and trust the promise of a more enlightened tomorrow. Ultimately, the COVID 19 pandemic is a temporary setback for a strategic setup to come back."

We are the descendants of people who have survived the unthinkable to achieve the unimaginable. As a people, our legacy of overcoming "no matter what" does not stop on our watch. In fact, it gathers new momentum and proceeds to higher heights illuminating the path for generations that follow.

THE BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATOR

VOLUME 1. NUMBER 3



MARCH 2020

Since we are the champions of African American children's education, be advised that the work of NABSE's Legislative Committee will continue.”



The Committee is planning a *Critical Education Issues Initiative 2020*. “Information regarding when, where and how all NABSE members can participate in the Initiative is forthcoming.



NABSE Members Honored by the New York State Council of School Superintendents

Two members of NABSE'S Superintendents Commission, Dr. Luvelle C. Brown, Superintendent of the Ithaca City School District and Dr. L. Oliver Robinson, Superintendent of the Shenendehowa Central School District were recently awarded the Council's Appreciation Award by the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS) during its Winter Institute and Lobby Day.

The Appreciation Award is given to superintendents in recognition of their efforts on behalf of The Council and its initiatives. Drs. Brown and Robinson are honored for their efforts

in establishing and leading The Council's Commission on Diversity and Inclusivity. Dr. Brown currently serves as co-chair of The Council's Commission on Diversity and Inclusivity. As a founding member of the Commission, he has been one of the driving forces behind the Commission's work at the state and national level. Luvelle is also a member of The Council's LEAF Board of Directors and has served as a member of the Executive Committee.



Over the last two years, he has presented numerous programs about the Commission's efforts, including The Council's New Superintendents Institute and regional diversity workshops and conferences. He was also the 2017 New York State Superintendent of the Year. He and his district have also hosted the Commission's Symposium of Thought Leaders for the past two summers, gathering more than 500 participants from the state to further the conversation on diversity in schools. Dr. Robinson is also a founding member of the Commission on Diversity and Inclusivity. In addition, as co-chair of The Commission he speaks about its important work at regional events and events at school districts.

He has shared the Commission's efforts at the national level and statewide has attracted more and more people to be involved with the Commission.

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He served as The Council's President from 2009-2010 and in 2013 was named the New York State Superintendent of the Year. He also participates actively on our conference committee. He was also a past member of the Governing Board of AASA and was recently approved to be the Vice President of the New York State Teacher's Retirement Systems' Board. Oliver is a true equity champion for all students.



Lorain County Alliance of Black School Educators (LCABSE) Celebrates Excellence in Education

On February 23, 2020, the Lorain County Alliance of Black School Educators celebrated its 36th Annual Academic Achievement Awards Program at the Lorain County Community College Stocker Center in Elyria.

The Awards Program was founded by Mrs. Gloria Funches Noland in 1984, as a way of addressing the need of motivating young black students. The program recognizes African American students in grades 7-12 for their academic excellence. Students are encouraged to participate from all schools in Lorain County both public and private.

Over the past 36 years, LCABSE has awarded thousands of deserving African American scholars for their academic achievements. "The program continues to grow each year" says Affiliate

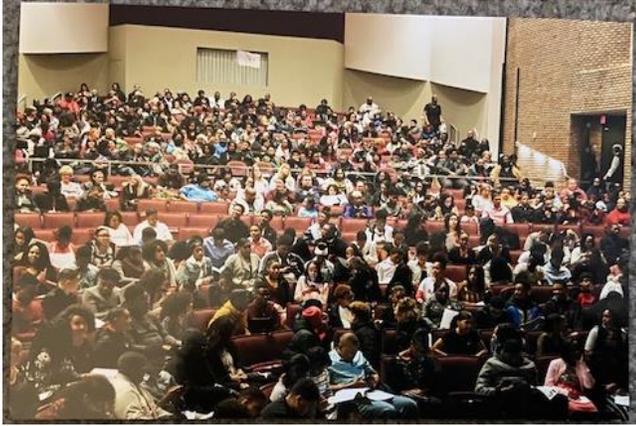
President Lavon Jackson and he "is thankful that LCCC works with us to accommodate everyone".



LCABSE was pleased to honor those African American students from the Class of 2020 who represent the Top 5% and Top 10% of their individual classes. The Top 5% honorees were: Adeola Fasola, Kamar Halil, Shadae Lee, Anthony Miller, Sabia Mirza and Chantel Shannon. Those Top 10% honorees were: My'Jia Brown, Sierra Hitchens, Samir Kimbrough, David Merchant, Tajiya Stone and Tiaira Wyatt.



This year's theme was "Empowering Educational Excellence Through Equity." The day started with an honor reception held where both student awardees and parents were honored. Music was provided by the Lorain High School String Ensemble under the direction of Mr. Tim Sivik. Words of Inspiration were given by Mrs. Cecilia Render, Executive Director of the Nordson Corporation Foundation.



During the 4 pm program, a cultural presentation was provided by the Cathedral of Praise Worship and Family Center Praise Dancers from Lorain.

Over 200 students from various Lorain County schools were honored for their Academic Excellence. Twenty-six students were recognized for participating in CCP (College Credit Plus) and Early College High School programs through Lorain County Community College in Elyria which allows students to participate in college level courses. Those students can earn an Associate Degree while still in high school. Dr. Marcia Ballinger, President of Lorain County Community College and Honorary Awards Chairperson, presented those students with beautiful medallions specially designed for this occasion. Thirty-five youngsters were recognized for having All A's during the first grading period. Awards were also given for those on the honor and merit rolls.

The speakers for this Awards event were both past honorees: Ms. Deona Davis and Attorney Nichole Francis Reynolds. Ms. Davis, Senior Logistics Engineer, invited the students to "be in control of your destiny". Mrs. Francis Reynolds, Vice President of Government and Public Relations of Interstate and Gas Association of America encouraged students to set high goals and seek out knowledge about how the world works.



Former NABSE Board Member Appointed to University Post

Dr. Geneva A. Stark, a former Regional Representative and member of the NABSE Board of Directors was recently appointed as the Director of the Nystrand Center of Excellence in Education (NCEE) at the University of Louisville.

The Nystrand Center of Excellence in Education is one of five Commonwealth Centers in the state of Kentucky, and the only education center with the purpose to develop, implement and study collaborative efforts to improve teaching. NCEE's goal is to transform education through collaboration. partners with the public-school districts in Kentucky in supporting their efforts of improving students learning outcomes.



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In addition to directing the Center, Dr. Stark serves as a Clinical Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership, Evaluation and Organizational Development.

A Life Member of NABSE, Dr. Stark is a frequent presenter at the National Conference and serves on the Nominations and Election Committee.



Commentary

The Silent Killer: What We Already Know by Dr. Sonya Whitaker.

Greetings, I am Dr. Sonya Whitaker host of the podcast show entitled *What's Really Going: A Spotlight on Solutions to Improving Student Achievement in America's Schools*. The purpose of this podcast is not to admire problems but to focus on comprehensive plans of action that can be implemented, tried and proven for the purpose of ensuring that all students, and more specifically students of color and students experiencing the impact of poverty achieve success in schools and ultimately in life.



The podcast can be accessed at: IHeartRadio, Spotify, Apple Podcast and via <http://www.Sonyawhitaker.com>



Ontario Alliance 2020 Conference

Because of the impact of the coronavirus on our learning communities, the Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators has indefinitely postponed its Sixth Annual Provincial Conference and Annual General Meeting which was scheduled for April 17-18 at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Information is forthcoming.



In Memoriam
Jerrelle F. Francois



August 8, 1936 – December 25, 2019

Jerrelle Francois grew up in Baltimore City, Maryland. She received her education in the Baltimore City Public Schools and received degrees from Morgan State University. In 1984, she was named Outstanding Principal of the Year in Baltimore City. Shortly afterwards, her staff designated a day in her honor. Jerrelle received numerous citations and awards for her work in education from the city and state governments.

Jerrelle continued her career after retiring from Baltimore City Public Schools as a consultant for Sylvan Learning System and Learn It. She used her influence to support the Instruction & Instructional Support Commission of the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE). She always supported the national conference financially and with resources. Jerrelle is a former NABSE's School Board Member of the Year. She was a member of the Metropolitan Baltimore Alliance of Black School Educators. She was also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Jerrelle will always be remembered as a faithful member of NABSE.



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