



**New York State
Education
Department
My Brother's
Keeper Symposium**



**Their Highest
Potential**



**May 30, 2024
7:30 AM-4:30 PM
Empire State
Plaza Albany, NY**



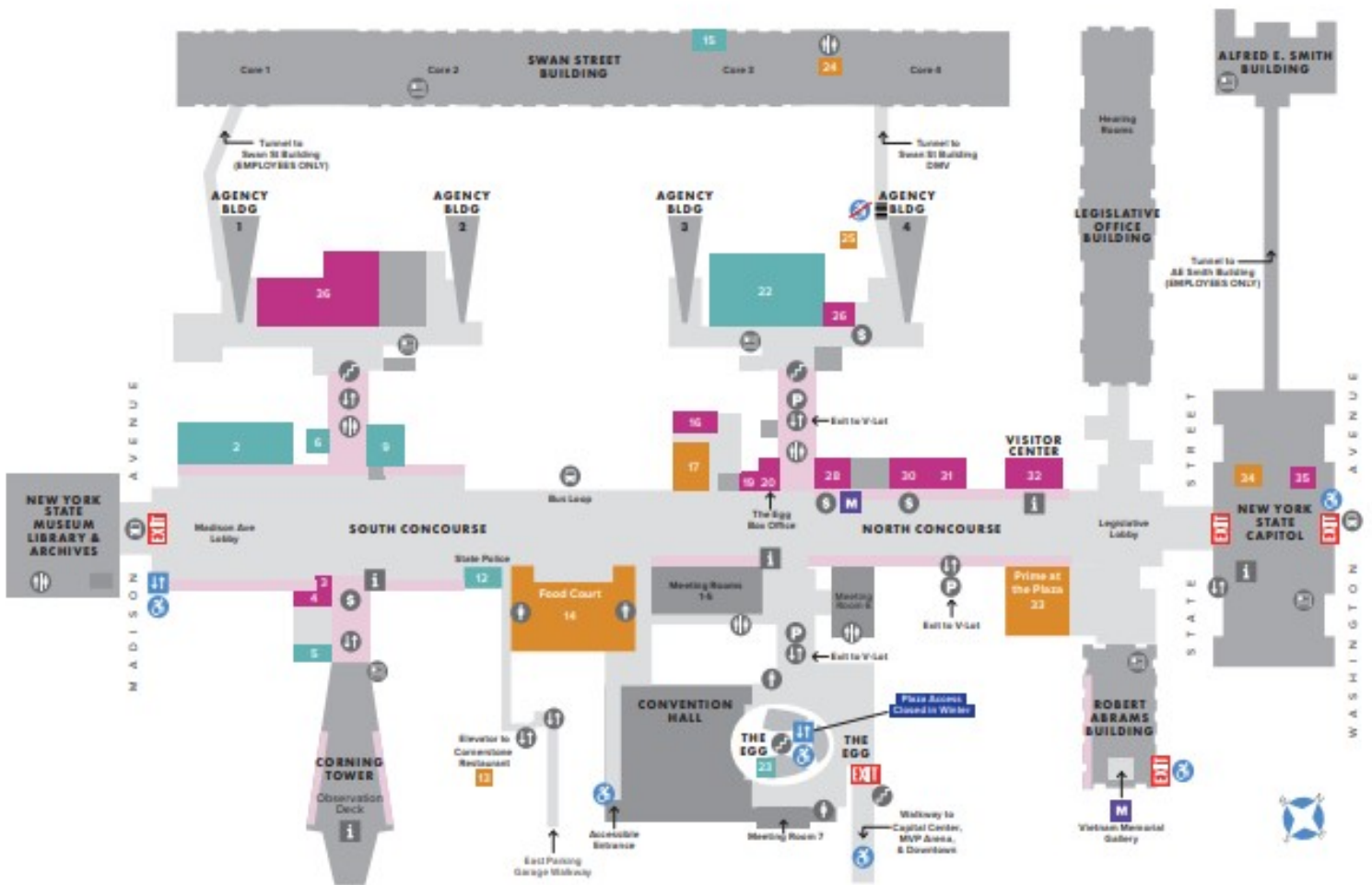
NEW YORK STATE

My Brother's Keeper

WELCOME TO THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA

empirestateplaza.ny.gov

CONCOURSE LEVEL



Map Key

- i Information
- ATM ATM
- Exit to Plaza Exit to Plaza
- Elevator Elevator
- Elevator to Plaza Level Elevator to Plaza Level Accessible
- P Parking (use elevators)
- CDTA Bus Stop CDTA Bus Stop
- Newsstand Convenience Store Newsstand Convenience Store
- M Memorials
Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
Vietnam Memorial Gallery
- Empire State Plaza Art Collection Empire State Plaza Art Collection

Food

- 13 Cornerstone at the Plaza
Plaza Level
- 14 Food Court
- 17 Logan's Deli and Market
- 24 Swan Street Cafeteria
WV Pizza
- 33 Prime at the Plaza Café
- 34 Dunkin Donuts

Services

- 3 Just Jewelry Repair
- 4 Post Office
- 16 American Red Cross
- 19 Patsy's Barber Shop
- 20 The Egg Box Office
- 26 Emblem Health Family Dental
- 28 KeyBank
- 30 Broadview
- 31 DMV
- 32 Visitor Center & Gift Shop
- 35 Post Office
- 36 Retro Fitness

State Offices

- 2 Media Services Room #146
- 5 Conference Room #125
- 6 Parking Management
Room #144
- 9 Plaza Operations Room #130
- 12 NY State Police Room #115-1
- 15 Department of Motor Vehicles
- 22 Convention & Cultural Events,
Curatorial Services Room #120
- 23 Convention Center Office

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Regents of The University

LESTER W. YOUNG, JR., <i>Chancellor</i> , B.S., M.S., Ed.D.	Beechurst
JUDITH CHIN, <i>Vice Chancellor</i> , B.S., M.S. in Ed.	Little Neck
ROGER TILLES, B.A., J.D.	Manhasset
CHRISTINE D. CEA, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.	Staten Island
WADE S. NORWOOD, B.A.	Rochester
JAMES E. COTTRELL, B.S., M.D.	New York
CATHERINE COLLINS, R.N., N.P., B.S., M.S. in Ed., Ed.D.	Buffalo
LUIS O. REYES, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.	New York
SUSAN W. MITTLER, B.S., M.S.	Ithaca
FRANCES G. WILLS, B.A., M.A., M.Ed., C.A.S., Ph.D.	Ossining
ARAMINA VEGA FERRER, B.A., M.S. in Ed., Ph.D.	Bronx
SHINO TANIKAWA, B.A., M.S.	Manhattan
ROGER P. CATANIA, B.A., M.A., M.S., C.A.S., Ph.D.	Saranac Lake
ADRIAN I. HALE, A.S., B.A.	Rochester
HASONI L. PRATTS, B.S., M.P.A.	Brooklyn
PATRICK A. MANNION, B.A., M.B.A.	Fayetteville
SEEMA RIVERA, B.A., M.S., Ph.D.	Slingerlands

Commissioner of Education and President of The University

BETTY A. ROSA, B.A., M.S. in Ed., M.S. in Ed., M.Ed., Ed.D.

Senior Deputy Commissioner for Education Policy

JEFFREY MATTESON

Deputy Commissioner for P12 Instructional Support

ANGELIQUE JOHNSON-DINGLE

Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Access, Equity & Community Engagement Services

ANAEL ALSTON

The State Education Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, military, marital status, familial status, domestic violence victim status, carrier status, disability, genetic predisposition, sexual orientation and criminal record in its recruitment, educational programs, services, and activities. NYSED has adopted a web accessibility policy, and publications designed for distribution can be made available in an accessible format upon request. Inquiries regarding this policy of nondiscrimination should be directed to the Office of Human Resources Management, Room 528 EB, Education Building, Albany, New York 12234.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Letters	4
Dr. Lester W. Young, Jr. Chancellor, New York State Board of Regents	4
Hon. Carl E. Heastie Speaker, New York State Assembly.....	5
Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins Majority Leader, New York State Senate.....	6
Hon. Kathy Sheehan Mayor, City of Albany	7
2024 Class of MBK Fellows	8
Symposium Schedule	11
Keynote Speaker	13
Mr. Jemal King	13
Workshop Presenters' Bios	14
Ms. Cheryl Wills	14
Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt.....	15
Dr. Anael Alston.....	15
Mr. Chris Crumpler	16
Dr. Deborah L. Wortham.....	17
Ms. Celeste Terry	17
Mr. Sean Greene.....	18
Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz.....	18
Mr. Keith L. Brown.....	19
Workshop Descriptions	20
Student Conference Workshops	20
Adult Concurrent Sessions	22
Notes Pages	25

Wi-Fi ACCESS:

User name: OGS-Convention

Hashtags

#NYSMBK

Password: ESPCC2024

Tag Us

X [Twitter]: NYSEDNEWS



THE BOARD OF REGENTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Lester W. Young, Jr.
Chancellor

55 Hanson Place, Ste. 400
Brooklyn, NY 11217
(518) 474-5889

May 30, 2024

Dear NYS My Brother's Keeper 2024 Symposium Attendees,

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Regents and our Commissioner of Education, Dr. Betty A. Rosa, I'd like to personally welcome you to the 2024 New York State My Brother's Keeper (NYSMBK) Symposium.

In February 2014, President Obama launched My Brother's Keeper to tackle the unrelenting opportunity gaps boys and young men of color face and ensure all young people reach their full potential. NYSMBK communities have much to be proud of. Today, NYSMBK continues the goal to unleash the power of communities to solve problems for boys and young men of color at a level to improve real-life outcomes. New York State remains the only statewide education agency-led implementation with a budget enacted into state law. NYSMBK is a growing movement; since its inception in 2016, we have grown from five communities to 36 communities and seven tribal nations. This significant expansion is indeed a movement, and I thank each of you for making it possible.

This year's symposium is represented by over 1,000 attendees. Our conference theme, "Reaching Their Highest Potential," is not just a statement but a call to action. It is intended to cause all attendees to appreciate our collective stake in the educational progress of our boys and young men of color. Your actions, strategies, and dedication can and will make a difference. This theme will be reflected through many distinctive and innovative lenses, and our presenters have stepped up to share their knowledge, experiences, and expertise. Additionally, I salute our seventh class of MBK Fellows, who are being inducted today. This group of young men exemplifies what a combination of love, support and hard work can accomplish.

Across our nation, we continue to reckon with many challenges that have historical roots and require us to think and act boldly, broadly, intentionally and creatively. NYSMBK is a unique outcome-focused model for changing the narrative and educational results for our most placed at-risk students. However, none of this would be possible without the vision and leadership of Speaker Carl E. Heastie and the NYS Assembly, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins and the NYS Senate. I would also like to recognize and thank Dr. Anael Alston, Assistant Commissioner, and the entire SED team from the Office of Equity, Access, Family and Community Engagement for the countless hours spent planning this wonderfully important gathering. I applaud their daily efforts to ensure all NYS students achieve their dreams.

Before I close, I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for attending this year's symposium and bringing your enthusiasm, commitment and expertise to this gathering. Your presence and contributions are truly invaluable. I hope you return to your school communities refreshed, energized and empowered to design and implement strategies that eliminate the obstacles to educational attainment and future success for our boys and young men. Your leadership, support and cooperation are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lester W. Young, Jr., Ed.D.
Chancellor, Board of Regents
University of the State of New York



NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

May 30, 2024

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to welcome you again to the Capital District and the New York State My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Symposium: *Their Highest Potential*.

I take great pride that New York was the first state in the nation to accept former President Obama's challenge and enact the My Brother's Keeper initiative into law. In 2014, Obama established the My Brother's Keeper Task Force, an interagency effort focused on closing opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color, so that all young people have the chance to reach their full potential. My colleagues and I recognize that adequate resources must be provided to facilitate change and embraced this challenge. As participants of this ongoing initiative, you have been an integral part of ensuring My Brother's Keeper is a success. You can be proud of the work you have accomplished.

This year, as the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, it is my great pleasure to welcome back the My Brother's Keeper Fellows. As you come together today to gain information, connect professionally and share experiences, you are cultivating tools and resources to take back to your communities to continue advancing better outcomes for New York State's future leaders.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive gathering and your continued success.

Sincerely,

CARL E. HEASTIE
Speaker



ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS
 NEW YORK STATE SENATE, 35TH DISTRICT
 PRESIDENT PRO TEM ♦ MAJORITY LEADER

May 30, 2024

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to the **2024 New York State My Brothers Keeper (NYSMBK) Symposium**. I commend NYSMBK for its relentless dedication to fighting for providing opportunities that improve the lives of our young men of color. This yearly event highlights NYSMBK's mission to change the narrative by helping these young men realize their highest potential.

I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the MBK fellows being inducted today. I trust that this extraordinary opportunity will provide this class of fellows with unique insight, experiences, and opportunities to grow, both personally and professionally. I offer my best wishes on each of their exciting journeys.

This event would not have been possible without you here today and I am sincerely grateful for your support. **My Brothers Keeper** is well-served by your involvement and I thank you for helping make a difference in the lives of others.

Best Wishes,

Andrea Stewart-Cousins
 New York State Senator, 35th District
 President Pro Tem, Majority Leader



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Albany, I am delighted to welcome you to the 2024 My Brother's Keeper Symposium. It is a privilege to host this gathering of dedicated students, administrators, community leaders, elected officials, and supporters who share a commitment to advancing opportunities for boys and young men of color.

The My Brother's Keeper Symposium serves as a platform to unite our collective efforts and strategies for empowering young people. By participating in this event, you contribute to a nationwide movement focused on providing access to mentorship, support networks, and essential skills that pave the way for successful careers and higher education.

As you gather in the heart of Albany, I encourage you to explore the city's vibrant offerings. Enjoy our exceptional dining scene, lush parks, superb shopping, and an array of museums and historic sites that showcase our rich heritage.

Thank you for your dedication to this important cause. I wish you a successful and enriching experience at the symposium.

Warm regards,

Kathy Sheehan
Mayor, City of Albany



Congratulations to the 2024 Class of MBK Fellows!

MBK Community	2024 Fellows	School
Albany	Rashad J. Miller	Albany High School
	Troy Treece	Albany High School
Arlington	Kwame Asiedu	Arlington High School
	Prince Hubbard	Arlington High School
Brentwood	Emanuel Millan	Brentwood High School
	Brett Osorio	Brentwood High School
	Andres Rodriguez	Brentwood High School
	Tristan Velez	Brentwood High School
Buffalo	Damriel Hill	Hutchinson Central Technical High School
	Michael Huntley, Jr.	Math, Science Technology Preparatory School
	Imire Oakes	Lewis J. Bennett High School
	Robert Proctor	Hutchinson Central Technical High School
Dunkirk	Davion Alvalle	Dunkirk Senior High School
	Jareese Gaines	Dunkirk Senior High School
East Ramapo	Kristian Nathaniel Argueta	Ramapo High School
	Darvin Isias Medina-Aguirre	Ramapo High School
	Melvin Quiroa-Barrientos	Spring Valley High School
	Emmanuel Faroul	Spring Valley High School
Elmont	Ron Asabor	Elmont Memorial High School
	Anthony Zidor	Elmont Memorial High School
Greenburgh	Masai Campbell	Woodlands Middle/High School
	Ethan Locke	Woodlands Middle/High School
Hudson	Jared Alert	Hudson High School
	Anthony R. Mitchell	Hudson High School
Ithaca	Elijah Blas	Ithaca High School
	Etienne Exantus	Ithaca High School
LaFayette	Parker Booth, Jr.	LaFayette Middle High School
	Maddox Lazore	LaFayette Middle High School
Lyons	Shavarous Jerarta Wilcher	Lyons Middle/High School
	Hayden A. Wright	Lyons Middle/High School
Middletown	Amir Armstrong	Middletown High School
	Yeison Cortes, Jr.	Middletown High School
Monticello	Jayden Berrios	Monticello High School
	Tafare Smith	Monticello High School



Congratulations to the 2024 Class of MBK Fellows!

MBK Community	2024 Fellows	School
Mount Pleasant Cottage	Ethan Tejada	Edenwald School
	Ishmael Williams	Mount Pleasant Cottage School
Mt. Vernon	Demetrius W. Daniels	Rebecca Turner Academy
	Mikel A. Williams	Rebecca Turner Academy
New Rochelle	Tajmir Fernand	New Rochelle High School
	Aiden Lawrence	New Rochelle High School
	Christian Parham-Rhone	New Rochelle High School
	Maison M. Smith	New Rochelle High School
Newburgh	Carlos Berrios	Newburgh Free Academy West Campus
	Ajay Johnson	Newburgh Free Academy North Campus
	Akhiir McNeil	Newburgh Free Academy Main Campus
	Jah'Sai Peterson	Newburgh Free Academy West Campus
NYC Bronx	Mathin Achiba	Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics
	Nashawn Dobbins	Eagle Academy for Young Men
	Saul Mezquita	Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics
	David Scullark	P.S. 176X
NYC Brooklyn	Mamadou Ba	James Madison High School
	Noel Baggot	Benjamin Banneker High School
	Caleb Kelly	Brooklyn Community Arts and Media High School
	Byrant Monestime	Medgar Evers College Preparatory High School
NYC Manhattan	Maurice Anderson	Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change
	Jordan Armstrong	Esperanza Preparatory Academy
	Messiah Craft	The Frederick Douglass Academy
	Thomas Overton III	Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change
NYC Queens	Aiden Caviness	Queens Gateway to Health Sciences
	Terrence Bess	Channel View School for Research
	Jaylon Blair	High School for Law Enforcement and Public Safety
	Sorin Tatum	Richmond Hill High School
NYC Staten Island	Husam Aiyesh	Ralph R. McKee Career and Technical Education High School
	Eric Dukes	Curtis High School
	Jahson Legrand	Ralph R. McKee Career and Technical Education High School
	Youssef Othman	College of Staten Island High School for International Studies
Ossining	Khaleel Cadet	Ossining High School
	Joel Jennings	Ossining High School



Congratulations to the 2024 Class of MBK Fellows!

MBK Community	2024 Fellows	School
Peekskill	Jericho Davis	Peekskill High School
	Tony M. Monchinski	Peekskill High School
Poughkeepsie	Khamari Hardin	Poughkeepsie High School
	Isaiah Williams	Poughkeepsie High School
Rochester	Shahmir Ellis	Edison Technical High School
	Marcus Freeman	Monroe High School
	DaJuan J. Jackson	Edison Technical High School
	Styhles McKenzie-Baker	Monroe High School
Roosevelt	Andrew Glasgow II	Roosevelt High School
	Felix Peña	Roosevelt High School
Schenectady	Jomar D. Molinari	Schenectady High School
	Xavier Vargas	Schenectady High School
Sewanhaka	Braylon Metellus	Sewanhaka High School
	Japheth Omezi	Sewanhaka High School
Sodus	JaQuez Davis	Sodus High School
	James DeLaRosa	Sodus High School
Syracuse	Heykaw Da	Nottingham High School
	Noah Ginty	Henninger High School
	Irumva Odrique	Henninger High School
	Ty'Lique Williams	Corcoran High School
Uniondale	Jaden Eccleston	Uniondale High School
	Aaron Osorio	Uniondale High School
White Plains	Kevin Frazier	White Plains High School
	Austin Smith	White Plains High School
Yonkers	Raheem O. Azeez	Barack Obama School for Social Justice
	Samuel A. Rodriguez	Lincoln High School
	Lenny A. Toribio, Jr.	Roosevelt High School-Early College Studies
	Corbin J. Wright	Charles E. Gorton High School
Brooklyn	Zion Griffiths *MBK Fellows Operations Intern	Academy for Conservation and Environment (ACE) High School



NEW YORK STATE

My Brother's Keeper

New York State My Brother's Keeper Symposium

Empire State Plaza ♦ Albany, NY

Thursday, May 30, 2024

7:30 AM - 4:30 PM

7:30	Continental Breakfast and Registration	Convention Hall
8:30	Welcome Dr. Anael Alston, Assistant Commissioner, NYSED Ms. Cheryl Wills, Award-winning Journalist Elected Official, TBA Elected Official, TBA Dr. Lester W. Young, Jr., Chancellor, New York State Board of Regents Dr. Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner, NYSED	Convention Hall
9:00	Indigenous Ceremony Opening - Shinnecock (Tribal Nation) MBK Musical Selections - Pathways HS MBK and Meyer Levin JHS	Convention Hall
9:20	Keynote: Jemal King - The 9 to 5 Millionaire <i>Work the Vision, Have the Belief, Execute the Plan</i>	Convention Hall
10:20	Induction of the 2024 MBK Fellows Speaker Showcase - My MBK, Living and Learning with Buffalo MBK, Roosevelt MBK, NYCMBK-Staten Island, Ossining MBK, Yonkers MBK, Rochester MBK, and Uniondale MBK	Convention Hall Convention Hall
11:20	Musical Selection and Student Performance Channel View HS and Meyer Levin JHS NY SMBK Updates and Next Steps with Dr. Anael Alston	Convention Hall Convention Hall
12:00	Lunch/College and Career Fair Nearly two dozen colleges, universities, workforce training, and career paths are prepared to help students design their post-graduate plans.	Convention Hall
1:00	MBK Fellows Student Panel moderated by Dr. Alfonso Wyatt "Lessons Learned, Lessons Applied" including Q&A	Convention Hall

(NEXT PAGE)



New York State My Brother's Keeper Symposium

Albany, New York

Thursday, May 30, 2024

Breakout Sessions: 2:30 – 4:30 PM

Student Program

Adult Program

SPECIAL SESSION!			
2:30 PM	Selected NYSED Staff Your Government at Work: Behind the Scenes - A New York State Legislative Tour Meet at the Registration Table!	2:30 PM	Mr. Chris Crumpler Family and Community Engagement for Impact Meeting Room 1
2:30 PM	Selected NYSED Staff Four Steps to Financial Literacy and Long-Term Wealth: What Teenagers Must Know Meeting Room 6	2:30 PM	Dr. Deborah Wortham Mr. Tonio Simmons Dr. Jeremiah Sumter Mr. Spencer Belcher with Justin McDonald and Angel Chevalier (representing the student body) Leveraging My Brother's Keeper for District Transformation Meeting Room 2
3:30 PM	Mr. Keith L. Brown We Gon' Make It Anyway: Guiding Principles and Life Lessons to Enhance Young Men of Color Swyer Theater	2:30 PM	Ms. Celeste Terry Launching Your District Financial Literacy Initiative Meeting Room 3
		2:30 PM	Mr. Sean Greene Mr. Javier Alaniz Mr. MacArthur Antigua My Brother's Keeper Alliance National Certification and the Pathway to Population Level Change in New York Meeting Room 4
		2:30 PM	Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz The Work of Healing Ourselves: The Power of MBK for Mentors and Students Meeting Room 5

*Each session is 90 minutes inclusive of Q&A. and 30 minutes are built into the schedule for flexibility. In the event no flexibility is needed, we invite you to network and make new professional connections.



Keynote Speaker Jemal King

Jemal King is a born leader and gifted communicator. Born in Chicago, Jemal was an all-state football player with college scholarship offers from all over the country. After deciding to stay home and play for Western Illinois University, he went on to win several conference championships while serving as the team captain. Jemal had dreams of making millions in the NFL.

After injuries dashed those dreams, he joined the family business and became a full-time Chicago Police Officer. However, Jemal still had the millionaire's mindset and decided that investing in real estate would be his method to earn millions and create the lifestyle he desired for his family. As his real estate portfolio increased, Jemal and his wife Camille invested the profits from real estate and opened a childcare center. The center was highly successful, and since then, they own and operate multiple sites in Chicago. Jemal's growing empire consists of four multi-million dollar companies, including a brand new security company that grossed several million dollars in its first few years of inception.

Jemal has created these businesses while still maintaining his position as a full-time Chicago Police Officer, being a devoted husband and father, and becoming the newest member of the world's number one personal development brand, Eric Thomas and Associates. Jemal's colleagues have appropriately nicknamed him "The 9-5 Millionaire." His unique story of the millionaire's mindset and creating generational wealth has inspired thousands and will no doubt inspire millions.



Mainstage Presenter Ms. Cheryl Wills

Cheryl Wills is an Emmy award-winning journalist for **Spectrum News New York 1**. As the first African American woman to host a prime-time nightly newscast for the cable network, Cheryl anchors the Emmy-nominated broadcast ***Live at Ten*** on weeknights. Cheryl has been with NY1 since its launch in 1992 and is one of the station's most recognizable journalists for breaking news and special coverage. She is also the talk show host of the weekly public affairs program, ***In Focus with Cheryl Wills***, where she interviews the most powerful newsmakers and celebrities in the country.

Cheryl is also the acclaimed author of a series of books about her family's transition from slavery to freedom in the United States. *Die Free: A Heroic Family Tale*, *The Emancipation of Grandpa Sandy Wills*, *Emancipated: My Family's Fight for Freedom*, and *EMMA* all chronicle her 3x great-grandfather's heroic service as a member of the United States Colored Troops during The Civil War.

On March 25, 2011, Cheryl Wills made history as the first journalist invited to speak at the United Nations General Assembly Hall for The International Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade which was broadcast live around the world on UNTV.

Cheryl has been honored numerous times during her 30+ years as a journalist. In 2023, Cheryl was awarded the prestigious Gracie Award from the Alliance for Women in Media. Cheryl has also received awards from The New York Press Club, The Newswomen's Club of New York, and The Associated Press, and she received a special medal from the United Nations Correspondents Association, personally presented to her by U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. City & State Magazine hailed Cheryl as one of New York's most "remarkable women" and Cheryl is one of the women profiled in the award winning 2020 book: *She is Me: How Women Will Save the World*.

Cheryl is most proud to be the Commander and Lifetime Descendant Member of the New York Chapter of the Sons and Daughters of the United States Colored Troops – a national organization of Civil War descendants who raise awareness about 200,000 black soldiers who bravely served during The Civil War. She is a graduate of the prestigious S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

www.CherylWills.com



Mainstage Presenter Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt

Dr. Alfonso Wyatt, a public theologian, scholar, and master orator/storyteller, has spent four decades of his life serving as a mentor, counselor, educator, youth program developer, foundation executive, policy advisor, advocate, community organizer, consultant, national leader, and role model.

Dr. Wyatt sounds the clarion call in his acclaimed book, *Mentoring From The Inside Out: Healing Boys, Transforming Men*. This instructional manual is replete with facts, figures, insights, lessons, and commentary from an array of scholars, community activists, and national and international thought leaders from the public, private, and religious sectors. Dr. Wyatt is a founding Board member of The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy.



Mainstage Presenter Dr. Anael Alston

Born and raised in Bedford-Stuyvesant Brooklyn, Dr. Anael Alston (“Dr. A”) has been recognized at the state and national levels for his ability to lead teams to increase capacity and raise student achievement in the field of education. He is currently the Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Access, Equity, and Community Engagement in the New York State Education Department. In this capacity, he informs educational policy across the state and administers nearly \$200 million dollars to help support students from Pre-K through graduate school. This includes oversight and management of the historic New York State My Brother’s Keeper movement to improve outcomes for boys and young men of color created by President Obama.

Under his watch, with a talented team, hundreds of thousands of young men of color are given opportunities, insights, strategies, and support to improve their school and life outcomes. The impact of New York State My Brother’s Keeper caught the attention of The Obama Foundation where Dr. Alston was invited to present on the main stage at the Foundation’s inaugural Democracy Forum in New York City, where he shared some of the best practices and outcomes for New York State My Brother’s Keeper. The presentation was well received and has been presented for the last two years.

Prior to serving as Assistant Commissioner, he was the Superintendent of Schools for the Hamilton Central School District. As a superintendent, Dr. A distinguished himself as one of the few Superintendents across the nation to have a 100% graduation rate. Additionally, Dr. A is a former New York State Middle School Principal of the Year, where he led a once struggling school to win the prestigious National Association of Secondary School Principals *Breakthrough School* award for dramatic school turnaround.



Workshop Presenter Mr. Chris Crumpler

Chris “Coach Crump” Crumpler has been a transformative mentor and educator since he started as a Big Brothers Big Sisters mentor two decades ago. His personal growth through mentorship is profoundly detailed in his book, “How I Win.” With 13 years as an educator and leadership roles in three organizations, Chris combines his passion for mentorship with his entrepreneurial spirit, all balanced with his roles as a husband and father.

In 2013, Chris co-founded Team Street Safe in Bermuda at the request of the Premier, spearheading efforts to dissolve gang violence through employment readiness programs, including paid apprenticeships. Under his direction, the organization cut gang-related anti-social behavior by over 60% in less than six months, notably shifting the community’s cultural stance on violence.

Chris’s leadership prowess was further demonstrated during his tenure as the Director of Impact Mentoring Academy, an all-boys alternative school. In less than two years, he relocated the school, boosted enrollment by 80%, raised staff wages by 15%, and spearheaded a fundraising campaign that garnered over \$300,000. His tenure produced remarkable outcomes: 75% of alumni received scholarships, over 60% of graduates became first-generation college students, and all graduates secured full-time employment or college placements. Due to his success, this led to Chris being appointed by the Minister of Education to sit on the Board of Education for Bermuda in 2018.

Chris’s impact has made him a sought-after speaker and consultant, recognized by institutions and leaders worldwide, including an invitation as the keynote speaker for Governor George Ferguson of Bermuda’s annual gala.

In 2011, Chris established Crumpler Enterprises LLC, where he has excelled as a published author and creator of the Game Plan Coaching Program, aimed at personal development and fulfillment. His work extends globally through his role as Executive Director of Next Level Speakers Academy, part of the Jeremy Anderson Group LLC, which nurtures professional speakers and entrepreneurs across America, Canada, the UK, and South Africa.



Workshop Presenter
Dr. Deborah L. Wortham

Dr. Deborah L. Wortham is an educator, best-selling co-author, professor, awarding winning leader, nationally known speaker, elder, professor, and nationally recognized lecture circuit presenter. She is the former Superintendent of the School District of the City of York in York, Pennsylvania, and the Steelton-Highspire School District in Steelton, Pennsylvania. She was the first locally elected Roosevelt Union Free School District Superintendent in eleven years. During her tenure, the district moved from “State Takeover” to “Good Standing.” Dr. Wortham served as the First African American Female Superintendent of the East Ramapo Central School District in Spring Valley, New York, where all 12 K-8 schools reached “Good Standing.” Still fond of the Roosevelt Union Free School District, Dr. Wortham currently serves as the Superintendent in charge of “Resetting Roosevelt!” With the Board’s leadership, staff support, and the commitment of students and the community, the Roosevelt Union Free School District is once again rated in “Good Standing.” In addition to her educational leadership experiences, Dr. Wortham is affiliated with several national and international organizations.



Workshop Presenter
Ms. Celeste Terry

Celeste Terry has dedicated 24 years to the New York City Public Schools, serving as a teacher, principal, Model Principal, Deputy Superintendent, and currently, a Community Superintendent. She improved student outcomes and created an award-winning arts program as a principal, removing her middle school from the list of Schools under Registration Review in just two years. As Deputy Superintendent, she supported school leaders, developed data monitoring structures, and fostered collaborations that brought additional funds and professional learning to the district. Celeste also served on Mayor DeBlasio’s Leadership Team for School Culture and Discipline, revising the discipline code and securing funds for mental health initiatives. In District 18, she started the first district-wide assessment program, refined the District/Charter Partnership, and introduced Weekly Data Meetings. Her achievements include facilitating Relay Professional Development, increasing academic achievement, and developing leadership pipelines. As a Superintendent, she has secured over \$5 million in grant funding, achieved double-digit gains in math and literacy proficiency, implemented research-based literacy intervention programs, and increased parental involvement. Celeste’s commitment to education and leadership has made a lasting impact on the New York City Public Schools.



Workshop Presenter
Mr. Sean Greene

Sean Greene is a consultant and Systems Change Community Coach for New York State with the My Brother's Keeper Alliance. He has over 25 years of experience in public service and non-profit management and leadership, and has managed racial justice and health equity initiatives at the national, state, and local levels.

Sean completed graduate coursework in history and Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, and, for over 10 years, he served as Assistant Director of the Schomburg-Mellon Institute at the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Now based in San Antonio, Texas, Sean is a former Director of My Brother's Keeper San Antonio. He currently serves as Public Health Administrator for Policy and Civic Engagement at the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, where he oversees cross-sectors partnerships, public policy development efforts, and strategic initiatives to address the social determinants of health.



Workshop Presenter
Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz

Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz, Ph.D. is a Professor of English Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. Her research has appeared in several top-tier academic journals. She is co-editor of four books and is co-author of the multiple award-winning book, *Advancing Racial Literacies in Teacher Education: Activism for Equity in Digital Spaces* (2021), where she examines her concept of Archeology of Self™ in education. For three years in a row, she was named one of EdWeek's EduScholar Influencers — a list of the Top 1% of educational scholars in the United States — a highly selective group of 200 scholars (chosen from a pool of 20,000). At Teachers College, she is the founder of the Racial Literacy Project @TC and the Racial Literacy Roundtables Series, where for 14 years, national scholars, teachers, and students facilitate conversations around race and other issues involving diversity. Yolanda appeared in Spike Lee's "2Fists Up: We Gon' Be Alright" (2016), a documentary about the Black Lives Matter movement and the campus protests at Mizzou, and "Defining Us, Children at the Crossroads of Change", a documentary about supporting and educating the nation's Black and Latinx males youth. She will also appear in the forthcoming "Black Girls," a documentary about Black girls and women in society, which will be released in 2024. Yolanda's first full-length collection of poetry, *Love from the Vortex & Other Poems*, was published in March 2020. Her sophomore book of poetry, *The Peace Chronicles*, was published in July 2021. Yolanda opened the 2022 TEDx UPENN conference at the University of Pennsylvania with her TEDx Talk: Truth, Love & Racial Literacy. Connect with Yolanda on X [Twitter] at @RuizSealey and on Instagram at @yolie_sealeyruiz



Workshop Presenter Mr. Keith L. Brown

Known nationally and globally as “Mr. I’M POSSIBLE,” Keith L. Brown is a highly sought-after motivational speaker who overcame the systematic labels of “Special Ed” and “At-Risk” earlier in life. A Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award winner and named a “World-Class Speaker” by International Speakers Network, as well as a “Social Impact Hero” by Thrive Global, Brown empowers audiences across America at schools, colleges and universities, family advocacy agencies, government agencies, corporate America faith based institutions, and the entertainment industry.

Early in life, Brown was labeled “Special Ed” and “At-Risk” primarily because he was very talkative, hyper, and wanted to give all the answers. Ironically, these are the exact traits that made him a hit on the legendary “Showtime at the Apollo” and popular game shows such as “Family Feud” and “Celebrity Name Game.” His contagious optimism and endless positive energy have also made him a popular professional motivational speaker, consultant, coach, and change agent.



STUDENT CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

TITLE	PRESENTERS	DESCRIPTIONS	LOCATION
<p>Lunch/College and Career Fair</p>	<p>Various</p>	<p>Many programs in New York State are specifically designed to foster student success at the post-secondary level. The Pipeline to Opportunities Fair brings together professionals from across New York State who are helping to change the lives of students by ensuring students have access to higher education.</p> <p>In attendance this year are Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), and the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (C-STEP) directors and staff from different New York State colleges and universities. In addition, the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, New York State Higher Education Services Corporation, and MBK Teacher Opportunity Corps II will be on hand to discuss the unique programming and services students can access through these entities.</p> <p>Students will have the opportunity to gather resources and speak directly with individuals from the colleges, universities, and organizations represented at the fair.</p>	<p>Base of the Egg (Outside of Convention Hall)</p>
<p>2024 MBK Fellows</p> <p>SPECIAL SESSION!</p> <p>Your Government at Work Behind the Scenes- A New York State Legislative Tour</p>	<p>Selected NYSED Staff</p>	<p>In this special session, selected students will have a unique and immersive experience as they delve into the heart of New York State government in this special breakout session to the 2024 MBK Symposium. "Your Government at Work: Behind the Scenes" offers an exclusive opportunity for the 2024 MBK Fellows to engage with selected New York State lawmakers, explore the historic halls where laws are crafted, and gain insight into the intricate processes of budgetary decision-making.</p> <p>Throughout the tour, participants will have the chance to meet and converse with esteemed New York State legislators, learning firsthand about their roles, responsibilities, and the legislative issues shaping the future of the state. From discussing policy priorities to understanding the complexities of navigating the legislative landscape, this workshop provides a rare glimpse into the inner workings of state governance.</p>	<p>Meet at the Registration Table</p>



STUDENT CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

TITLE	PRESENTERS	DESCRIPTIONS	LOCATION
Four Steps to Financial Literacy and Long-Term Wealth: What Teenagers Must Know	Selected NYSED Staff	<p>Inspired by Jemal King’s groundbreaking book, <i>The 9 to 5 Millionaire</i>, this workshop is designed to equip teenagers with essential knowledge and skills to secure their financial future. Here is what you can expect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn the fundamental principles of financial literacy that are crucial for long-term wealth building• Discover practical strategies to manage money effectively and make smart financial decisions• Explore key concepts such as budgeting, saving, investing, and debt management• Gain insights into building wealth early and setting yourself up for long term financial success <p>This empowering session will set you on the path to financial independence and long-term prosperity. Do not miss this opportunity to take control of your financial future!</p>	Meeting Room 6
We Gon’ Make It Anyway: Guiding Principles and Life Lessons to Enhance Young Men of Color	Mr. Keith L. Brown	<p>In this highly interactive session with Keith L. Brown, Principal Speaker and Lead Consultant of 2020 Enterprises, Keith shares his invaluable insights on navigating life’s journey with excellence and resilience. In this workshop, students will gain practical strategies and powerful life lessons to elevate their path to success. Here is what students and their mentors can expect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uncover tangible content and strategies for operating in excellence and resilience• Learn the art of self-advocacy and intentional pursuit of success and significance• Gain a blueprint for success that you can apply in high school, post-secondary education, and beyond• Discover how to maximize your personal and professional potential with intentionality <p>Do not miss this transformative opportunity to unlock your full potential and embark on a journey towards greatness!</p>	Swyer Theater



ADULT CONCURRENT SESSIONS

TITLE	PRESENTERS	DESCRIPTIONS	LOCATION
Family and Community Engagement for Impact	Mr. Chris Crumpler	This dynamic workshop is designed to equip participants with best practices for fostering meaningful connections between schools, families, and communities. Participants will explore strategies for effective communication, collaboration, and involvement, aimed at enhancing student success and community well-being. Through interactive discussions and practical examples, attendees will gain insights into building strong partnerships and leveraging resources for positive outcomes in education and beyond.	Meeting Room 1
Leveraging My Brother's Keeper for District Transformation	Dr. Deborah Wortham Mr. Tonio Simmons Dr. Jeremiah Sumter Mr. Spencer Belcher with Justin McDonald and Angel Chevalier (representing the student body)	This transformative session is designed to empower participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to relaunch initiatives supporting boys and young men of color. Drawing from best practices in both educational and personal development spheres, attendees will gain invaluable insights into revitalizing and strengthening their programs. Through interactive discussions, case studies, and practical exercises, participants will learn how to effectively engage with stakeholders, leverage resources, and implement evidence-based strategies for maximum impact. This workshop provides a collaborative platform for sharing experiences, fostering innovation, and advancing the well-being and success of boys and young men of color in our communities.	Meeting Room 2



ADULT CONCURRENT SESSIONS

TITLE	PRESENTERS	DESCRIPTIONS	LOCATION
Launching Your District Financial Literacy Initiative	Ms. Celeste Terry	This informative workshop is highlighting the successful financial literacy model implemented by Community School District 18 in Brooklyn, New York. Participants will learn firsthand how this district has effectively launched an immersive Financial Literacy initiative, catering to students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Through engaging presentations, practical demonstrations, and insightful discussions, attendees will gain valuable insights into the strategies, resources, and partnerships essential for replicating similar initiatives in their own school communities. With a focus on long-term implications for college tuition and financial well-being, this workshop offers practical guidance and inspiration for empowering students with essential financial skills for life.	Meeting Room 3
My Brother's Keeper Alliance National Certification and the Pathway to Population Level Change in New York	Mr. Sean Greene Mr. Javier Alaniz Mr. MacArthur Antigua	Join My Brother's Keeper Alliance National leaders as we share how we are supporting you to build on your existing successes and achieve population level impact for boys and young men of color in your community and review the steps and requirements for national certification. In collaboration with our ongoing partners at New York State Education Department and informed by the successes of our Model Community – MBK Yonkers and our three NY Certified Communities (MBK New York City, MBK Ossining, and MBK Uniondale), the MBK Alliance is updating our approach to meet districts where you're at and provide the targeted supports needed to deepen impact among your youth. This session will clearly lay out the National standards for MBK Communities, opportunities for continuous improvement, and next steps for NY chapters ready to excel in the MBK movement and foster meaningful change for generations to come. Finally, NYSED staff will be in attendance to explore which activities are being successful and what areas need additional support and attention.	Meeting Room 4



ADULT CONCURRENT SESSIONS

TITLE	PRESENTERS	DESCRIPTIONS	LOCATION
The Work of Healing Ourselves: The Power of MBK for Mentors and Students	Dr. Yolanda Sealey- Ruiz	<p>Join us for an immersive journey into the empowering world of <i>Wounded Healing</i> in Education. In this dynamic workshop, we'll delve into the transformative power of mentorship within the renowned My Brother's Keeper initiative. Get ready to unlock profound insights as we uncover how both mentors and mentees experience remarkable growth and mutual empowerment. Here's what you can expect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discover the profound concept of <i>Wounded Healing</i> in Education• Explore the transformative impact of mentorship within My Brother's Keeper• Engage in thought-provoking discussions on shared growth and empowerment• Gain practical strategies for fostering meaningful mentor-mentee relationships• Walk away inspired and equipped to make a positive difference in your educational community <p>Don't miss out on this opportunity to be part of a movement that's shaping the future of higher education!</p>	Meeting Room 5



NOTES



NOTES



NOTES



NOTES



NOTES



My Brother's Keeper Symposium Committee

Dr. Anael Alston

Mr. Matthew Andrus

Mr. Sean Brown

Dr. Christopher Fernando

Mr. Carlos Garcia

Ms. Kimberly Hardaway

Ms. Karen Hymes

Dr. DeShawn McGarrity

Dr. Kim Overrocker

Ms. Aubrey Seppa-Hoskins

Ms. Doris Waiters





2023 NYSMBK Fellows



NEW YORK STATE

My Brother's Keeper