



VOICES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN AND MALE YOUTH

IS ANYONE REALLY LISTENING TO ME?

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IS THE WORLD REALLY AVAILABLE TO ME?



Nationally, the voices of African American men and young males are never heard or used in any way to change the devastation of being an endangered species in America.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS?

African American Male Youth

Age: 11-22 N= 33

School	22
Work full time	9
Supporting family	3
Out of State	13
Unemployed	0
Other	2 NBA

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS?

African American Men Age 26-62 N=34

School 3

Work full time 14

Supporting family 16

Out of State 5

Unemployed 0

Other- Continue mentor, working part-time, early

Retirement, building my company, counselors, providing
opportunity for youth through art, on top of the world, employed,
retired, retired/volunteer, finally retired.

WHAT BARRIERS TO SUCCESS DO YOU CONFRONT?

African American Male Youth

Education	16
Discrimination	7
Social pressure	4
Lack of Employment	6
Alcohol/drugs	5
Housing stability	3
Financial insecurity	7
Family obligation	5
Other	NBA



WHAT BARRIERS TO SUCCESS DO YOU CONFRONT?

African American Men

Education	8
Discrimination	17
Social pressure	5
Lack of employment	10
Alcohol/drugs	2
Housing stability	5
Financial insecurity	15
Family obligation	5

Other- Criminal record, community support, non-standardization, employment in the past, debt, generational poverty, lack of family support, cronyism. Workplace.



WHO DO YOU MOST LOOK UP TO?

African American male youth

Teachers	6
Mentors/counselors	6
Family members	22
Athletes/celebrities	15
Friends	6
Other- Big Brother, God, Myself	

WHO DO YOU LOOK UP TO ?

African American Men

Teachers	3
Mentors/Counselors	15
Family members	20
Athletes/Celebrities	0
Friends	7

Other - Malcolm X, Tom Joyner, Co-workers, Grandfather, Activists, Parents, Jesus, Youth I worked with, God, Church Officials, Black Inventors before 1920



WHAT CAREER FIELDS MOST INTEREST YOU?

African American Male Youth

Health/Medicine	2
Technology	4
Education	7
Government/Military	4
Trades/Construction	0
Business	11
Media Production	3
Law Enforcement	4
Arts/Entertainment	7
Other- 2 Football, 3 NBA, Sports, Ancient History, Music Producer	

WHAT CAREER FIELDS MOST INTEREST YOU?

African American Men

Health/Medicine	9
Technology	4
Education	14
Government/Military	6
Trades/Construction	4
Business	9
Media Production	5
Law Enforcement	4
Art/Entertainment	8
Other	0



IF YOU HAD 3 WISHES, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

WISH 1-African American Male Youth

- NBA
 - No more famine
 - To have a good family
 - Get full ride scholarship
 - Money
 - To keep my Mom safe
 - For every person on this earth to be protected from discrimination
 - Graduate from UCLA
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IF YOU HAD THREE WISHES, WHAT WOULD THEY BE? (CON'T)

- To rewind/fast forward time
 - To make it in life
 - Get a chance to go to college
 - To have a contract with Amazin Entertainment
 - Full ride to USC
 - My family not having to worry about finances
 - To be a journalist
 - Rich
 - For the world to know how to survive
 - I wish I were taller
 - Nobody without a house
 - To have a million dollars
 - For all the people in Africa to be happy
 - To move
 - To be successful in everything I do
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AFRICAN AMERICAN YOUTH WERE ASKED:

What career fields most interest you?

- Technology, Arts and Entertainment, and Media Productions
 - Business
 - Education
 - NBA/NFL
 - Government
 - Law Enforcement
 - Health/Medicine
 - Military
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WHEN ASKED THE SAME QUESTION

African American men identified (in order of preference)

- Technology, Arts, Entertainment, Media Productions
- Education
- Health/Medicine
- Government and Military
- Law Enforcement

AS POLICY MAKERS WHAT YOU CAN DO IS:

- Listen to the voices and requests of African American youth.
 - Recognize the barrier of education to youth success as they see it!
 - Consider that the lack of youth interest in trades and construction may be tied to lack of exposure of these careers in school.
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AS POLICY MAKERS WHAT YOU CAN DO (CON'T)

- Understand that at risk and delinquency and dependency court youth and parents need access to evidence-based approaches in centers for academic excellence and centers for career building, awareness, and cultivation that incentivize youth academic success.



AS POLICY MAKERS WHAT YOU CAN DO (CON'T)

- Understand that the science of accountability in non-profit agencies demonstrates that one-stop shop frameworks are more likely to be accountable and produce effective results as opposed to consortia approaches due to ambiguity, politics, lack of enforcement protection, and lack of shared risk between funder and provider.

(Briggs, 2011)

WHAT AM I DOING ABOUT IT?

Developing healthy inquiring minds and successful black families.

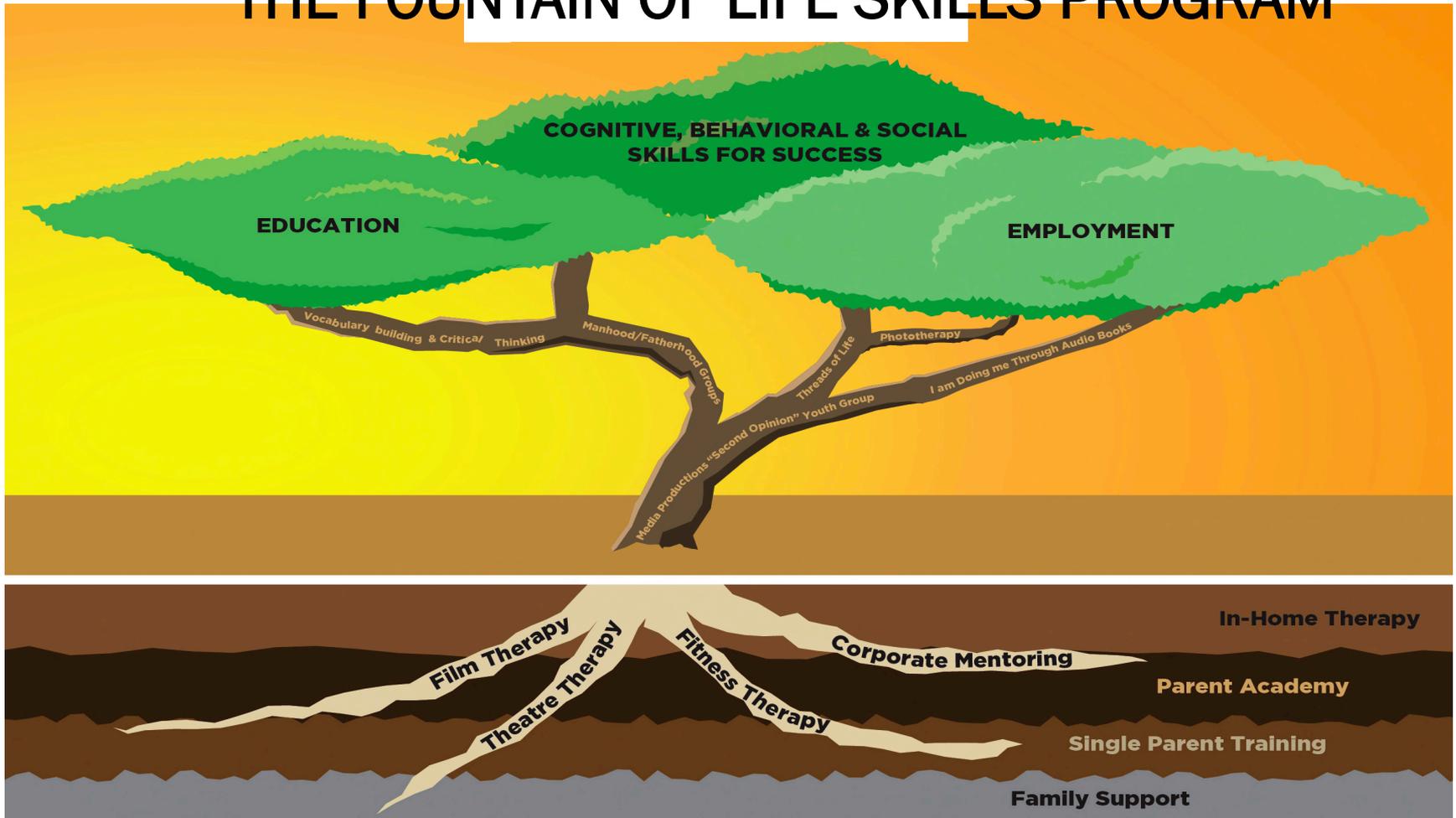
My co-presenter is my son Adam. Both, he and I are students of the type of academic conditioning and culture of learning and career cultivation that need to be available and accessible for for youth and adult black men, especially those at risk and involved with the delinquency and dependency courts in Multnomah County.



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Youth Employment with emphasis and exposure opportunities in business and corporate, technology, arts, entertainment, and media production and education.
 2. Academic Conditioning and Coaching for Excellence for College and Careers
 3. Incentivize youth participation in recommendation 1 through recommendation 2.
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THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM



(BRIGGS, 2011)

THANK YOU
Multnomah County Commission
For Your Time, Concern and Support

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