

A “VACCINE” FOR THE EDUCATION GAP IN AMERICA

Presenters



Dr. Walter Milton, Jr.,
Founder, CEO and Co-Author

Dr. Walter Milton, Jr. is a native of Rochester, New York. He holds a Doctorate of Education degree in leadership and policy from the University of Buffalo. In 2005, he became Superintendent of Flint Community Schools, Flint, Michigan where he designed and implemented a district-wide education reform that has been recognized throughout the State of Michigan and other parts of the country. He is the former superintendent in Springfield, Illinois, where he served as superintendent for almost eight years. Throughout his educational career, Dr. Milton has received numerous awards and recognitions. He is also a published author of *Parents Perception of Schools and Schools Perception of Parents*, (2006), *Me in the Making – One Man’s Journey to Becoming a School Superintendent* (2008), *Why Black Men Must Save Black Boys in America’s Public Schools* (2014), *Truth Be Told-Narratives from The Souls of Black Women* (2018) and *Black History 365-An Inclusive Account of American History* (2020). BH365 was birthed from his passion for history and a traumatic 4th-grade classroom experience with his teacher attempting to teach black history, starting with slavery. This lesson was contradictory to what his parents had taught – that black history dates back to the beginning of time. In 2018, he began to research and write, spending many tireless evenings crafting the manuscript. A year later, Dr. Milton invited his friend, Dr. Joel Freeman to join him on the Black History 365 project. Dr. Milton is currently CEO of Black History 365 (BH365) and From the Heart International Educational Services (FTH).



Earl Jones, M.Ed.
BH365 National Trainer

Earl A. Jones is the Executive Pastor at Oasis Church at Lakeview in Rowlett, Texas. Mr. Jones spent 38 years in the 11th largest district in the country. During that, he served as principal at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. His accomplishments led to his selection as Executive Director for the Carter Feeder Pattern. In this role, he was responsible for supporting principals in implementing the District Theory of Action. Mr. Jones received his Master’s and bachelor’s degrees from Kansas State University. He has completed coursework toward his Ph.D. at the University of North Texas. Mr. Jones currently serves as the Board President for the Turner Twelve and has been on the board since the Turner Twelve was founded. Serving on this board has been one of his most rewarding service opportunities.



Dominick Clayton, M.Ed.
BH365 National Trainer

Dominick Clayton is an award-winning educator, born in Orlando, Florida. He graduated from John Carroll University with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a major in marketing. He also was an all-conference athlete in both football and track while at JCU. After trying his hand at arena football, Dominick began his career in education at his high school alma mater (Mt. Dora High School) as a special education math teacher. Dominick was quickly urged to pursue leadership by the school’s administration team. He followed their lead and graduated from Barry University with a master’s degree in Science with a focus on educational leadership. Dominick began his educational leadership journey in 2006 as an assistant principal at a low-performing high school. His desire and passion to create and develop whole human beings is the driving force behind his goal to spread humanity and love to all.



Dr. Michele Hancock

BH365 National Trainer

Dr. Hancock is the Professor of Practice in Education and Director of the Accelerated Certification for Teachers (ACT) Program at Carthage College, where she developed, launched, and leads the Urban Teacher Preparation Program. Dr. Hancock has devoted her career to address inequities in the U.S. educational school system. She joined the Carthage administration and faculty in 2014 and, during the same year, launched her private business, MH Educational Consulting, LLC that provides a series of professional development workshops to school districts, charter and parochial schools, and community organizations to help close access and opportunity gaps of under served populations. Dr. Hancock was an elementary and middle school classroom teacher for twenty-five years. During her tenure in K-12 education, Dr. Hancock received many awards highlighting her dedication to students, families, and marginalized communities.



Charlene Burroughs, M.Ed.

BH365 National Trainer

Charlene Burroughs is the Vice President of School House Excellence. An expert training designer, Charlene was a career educator who worked most of her professional life in the twelfth largest school district in the United States. Before leaving the classroom, she served the children of the district for 22 years. Always aware of trends and innovations impacting teaching and learning, Charlene successfully taught kindergarten through eighth grades. After retiring from the school district in 2011, Charlene worked six years as a departmental trainer at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. She continued writing and delivering training until she answered a call to use her skills and her love of teaching and learning to start School House Excellence.



Carleen Brown, M.Ed.

BH365 National Trainer

Carleen holds a B.A. in broadcast journalism and an M.A. in education from Oral Roberts University. Her television career began in the newsroom at a CBS affiliate in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She launched a teaching career in Atlanta, Georgia, where she gained experience as an elementary, middle and high school English teacher and crystallized her aspiration to advocate for experienced-based, lifelong learning and edutainment. Carleen left the classroom to freelance as a production coordinator, writer and script supervisor and has worked on projects featured in theaters and on several networks including, TLC, Lifetime, TV One, BET, the Science Channel, and ESPNU. In 2015, she relocated to Washington D.C., to serve as Executive Assistant to Cathy Hughes, Founder and Chairwoman of Urban One, Inc., the largest, African American owned, integrated media company in the U.S. Carleen held that post for three years before accepting the position of Director of Special Projects for the company.



Gloria Davis, M.Ed.

BH365 National Trainer

Gloria J. Davis' professional career in education spans over 46 years primarily in the area of administration. She has served as Superintendent of Schools for the past 16 years in primarily urban and multi-cultural school districts, such as Decatur, Illinois and Dodge City, Kansas where academic achievement and graduation rates increased with an improved, systematic curriculum. She was responsible for leading the education reform initiative as Superintendent of Schools for the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. Ms. Davis has served as an elementary teacher, elementary and middle school principal and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction in University City, Missouri, which is an inner-ring suburb of St. Louis, Mo. Her background as a Superintendent of Schools who has a thorough knowledge of quality instruction has allowed her to dramatically improve academic success for students while providing guidance for staff to enhance their skills.



Dr. Jackie Easley

BH365 National Trainer

Jacqueline Witter-Easley is the co-author of the BH365 6th grade textbook and the BH365 Kindergarten big book series. Additionally, Dr. Easley authored the 3rd - 8th grade BH365 Teacher Resource Guide, and co-authored the BH365 Kindergarten Teacher Resource Guide. Dr. Easley worked with elementary-level students for over 10 years, both as an elementary school teacher and a children's librarian. She is a licensed Reading Specialist in the state of Illinois and has written and published several teacher resource books. Jacqueline has taught at the college level for over 25 years and is currently a professor of education and co-director of faculty development at a liberal arts college.



Dr. Marjorie Williams

BH365 National Trainer

Dr. Marjorie (Marj) A. Williams has a multifaceted career in education, leadership development, media services, and consulting. In 2000, Williams became the 1st African American Superintendent in the 100-year-old history of the Hickman Mills School District, located in Kansas City, Missouri. She immediately took an active role in education, civic and community issues, and organizations in the Greater Kansas City, Missouri area and throughout the country. Williams' career expanded through the ranks of K-12 Education, Higher Education, and Corporate America. She holds the longest tenure as a Superintendent in an Urban setting in the State of Missouri. In 2005, Williams founded The Marste Group, LLC, a consulting firm, serving school districts and businesses throughout the Country. The firm specializes in providing training and development, organizational management services, constructing and implementing educational programming, strategic planning and mentoring, and evaluation services. Williams currently contributes her expertise, skills, and time to numerous educational, civic, and community endeavors.



Brian DeVeaux, M.Ed.

BH365 National Trainer

Brian DeVeaux served as an educator for 34 years in the 11th largest district in the country. During that time, Brian served as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, associate principal, and principal. While serving in those roles, he was instrumental in leading effective instructional programs. As the principal of a historically under performing Improvement Required high school, he increased the academic rigor and created a culture of excellence. His leadership allowed the school to build strong teams and create a robust school improvement plan which resulted in a consistent Met Standard rating. Brian's ability to develop effective instructional programs and build campus cultures that recognize the power educators have to change life's circumstances is a rare commodity. As a result of these skills, Brian was recruited to serve as a specialist for The University of Texas at Arlington where he observes, coaches, and provides feedback to candidates in their Principal program.



Jason Broussard, M.Ed.

BH365 National Trainer

Jason Broussard works with school districts across the country to build and support innovative and equitable systems so every student receives the education they deserve. With over 15 years of educational experience as a classroom teacher and district leader, Jason's approach to solving complex problems is human-centered and heart-conscience. After 7 years in a traditional setting, the turning point came when he had the opportunity to be a part of a startup school focused on project-based learning as a result of the innovative approaches to what and how students were learning, Jason's understanding of what was possible shifted entirely. He earned a B.A. in History from Texas Tech University, as well as an M.S. in Instructional Design and an M.Ed in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies.



Martha Ross

Board Member Peoria Public Schools #150

Martha Ross, born a sharecropper's daughter and worked in the cotton fields for 19 years in Miss. She moved to Peoria IL in 1980 from Memphis TN. She has spent more than forty years serving the community and assisting children and families to strive for a quality education and a better quality of life in Peoria. Her career in Peoria included The Tri-county Peoria Urban League, The Salvation Army and the Heart of Illinois United Way where she spent more than 17 years as the Director of Information and Referral and she assisted in the development of the "211" which is the number to call to get assistance throughout the United State. She also spent 6 years as a Director with the Lifeline Family Services Inc, advocating and assisting families to work through the DCFS system to reunite with their children. She has served on Peoria Public Schools Board of Education for more than 18 years representing the 1 st District. She is the President of the Southside Community United for Change Inc. Martha earned a Bachelors as well as a Masters degree from Bradley University and is currently the President of her Consulting, Training, and Counseling Company, "The Bottom Line Design."



Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat

Superintendent Peoria Public Schools #150

Hailing from Dominica, West Indies, and St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, Desmoulin-Kherat earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Bradley University in Peoria. She went on to earn her education doctorate (Ed.D.) in P-12 administration from the Department of Educational Administration and Foundations at Illinois State University. During her progressive career, Desmoulin-Kherat served at all levels for Peoria Public Schools before being recruited to be the transformation officer for Springfield Public Schools. She later accepted a position as associate superintendent of schools in Danville, where she served for two years. Desmoulin-Kherat returned to Peoria in 2015 to serve as the district's superintendent. She is delighted to be back where her academic and professional careers started in 1983. She characterizes her career so far as an exciting journey with intense and rewarding work.



Janice Ross

Superintendent, Brooklyn North High Schools

Janice Ross is currently the superintendent of NYC Department of Education-Brooklyn North High Schools. After earning her bachelor's in education at Stony Brook University, where she graduated cum laude, she began her career as an educator in East New York, Brooklyn, teaching social sciences to multiple grade levels. During this time, Janice undertook a Masters in Guidance and Counseling from Brooklyn College, and went on to be a guidance counselor before eventually becoming the founding principal of the School for Classics: An Academy of Thinkers, Writers and Performers in 2009, which is in one of the districts she serves as superintendent. Janice's pedagogic philosophy is that of critical love, which is about teaching the whole child with a growth mindset. She has worked to introduce equity focused practices such as culturally responsive sustaining pedagogy and advanced literacy into her district, along with improved social and emotional learning. These efforts have proved worthwhile as Brooklyn North High Schools continue to improve with more students graduating college and career ready. She continues to strive toward leading generations of teachers and school leaders to be insightful, responsive, forward-thinking and excellent in pedagogy. She is a long time resident of New York, living with her loving husband and two beautiful children.



Dr. Ramont M. Roberts

Superintendent, Saginaw Public Schools

Dr. Ramont M. Roberts attended Xavier University of Louisiana on a basketball scholarship. After graduating from Xavier with a Bachelor's degree in Social Studies Education, Dr. Roberts went on to Harvard Graduate School of Education to obtain a Masters Degree in K-12 Administration and Public Policy. Later he attended Michigan State University and obtained a Ph.D. in K-12 administration. Dr. Roberts was formerly the Principal of Ruben Daniels Middle School and as Principal of Saginaw High School led the transformation of the school out of state low performing status. After serving three years as an Asst. Superintendent for Human Resources and Labor Relations, and accumulating over 19 years of educational experience, Dr. Roberts was appointed Superintendent of Saginaw Public Schools in June 2018.

Under Dr. Roberts' leadership, state summative assessment scores on M-Step and S.A.T. have improved annually and consistently outpace state averages. Amidst a competitive school choice environment, enrollment has stabilized after ten years of consistent decline. Graduation rates have increased above state and national averages and students now have the opportunity for competitive, comprehensive academic and co-curricular programming that will prepare them to for a 21st century economy. In August of 2019, Dr. Roberts led the development of a Five-Year Strategic Plan that involved every major stakeholder in the Saginaw community and was designed to address critical components to the school district's facility and programming infrastructure and ultimately the ability to remain competitive for students. The approval of the strategic plan led to the successful passing of a monumental 100-million-dollar bond issue to improve the facilities, academic and extra-curricular programming for the students of Saginaw Public Schools.