

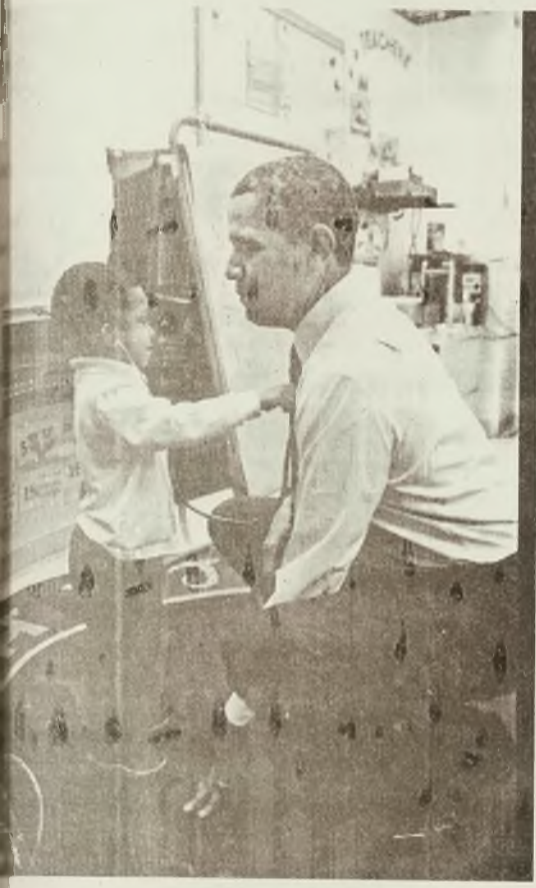
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A young student uses a stethoscope to hear President Barack Obama's heartbeat during a classroom visit at Powell Elementary School in Washington, D.C., March 4, 2014. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

AFRICANANCESTRY.COM SALUTES THE RICH LEGACY OF BLACK NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON, DC - Before the Internet, television and radio, there was the printed word. In fact, one could say that newspapers are the roots of all modern mass media. As the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) kicks off 2014 Black Press Week, AfricanAncestry.com, the black-owned company that pioneered genetic ancestry tracing for people of African descent, joins the five-day event to pay homage to black America's first voice, themed "Access to Economic Opportunity" and sponsored by the NNPA Foundation. Black Press Week is held from March 9-21 in Washington, D.C. During the week, publishers will visit Capitol Hill and White House visit and host their annual Newsmaker of the Year and Torch Award Ceremony and State of the Black Press Luncheon.

NNPA "The Black Press of America - is a federation of approximately 200 newspapers. The Association is chaired by James C. Campbell, Jr., publisher of the "Arizona Informant." The Foundation is chaired by Mary G. Denson, publisher of the "Windy City Word" in Chicago. AfricanAncestry.com supports the goals of NNPA by helping the organization deliver fascinating programming, news stories, community extensions and highly sought-after advertiser audiences.

"We are honored to celebrate the Black Press in the U.S. and be a part of this important event," said AfricanAncestry President and Co-founder Gina Paige. "By partnering with NNPA, we're hoping to support the plight of the black newspapers across the U.S., and enhance their efforts by strengthening black communities, educating young people and increasing genetic literacy of African Americans among other things.

"Using the power of DNA and the most comprehensive database of indigenous African genetic sequences in existence, AfricanAncestry is the ONLY company that can trace your ancestry back to a specific present-day African country of origin, and often to specific African ethnic groups dating back more than 500 years ago," the company says on its website.

AfricanAncestry.com will host a Ceremonial Ancestry Reception of Chairman Campbell and other Publishers, including Willie Finch Belt (Dallas Examiner), Jackie Hampton (Mississippi Link) and Mary G. Denson (The Windy City Word) during the Newsmaker of the Year and Torch Awards Reception. The schedule includes:

- Wednesday, March 19: NNPA Board Meetings during the Reception and Foundation Chairman's Welcome Reception.
- Thursday, March 20: Capitol Hill and or White House Visit, Gallery of Distinguished Black Publishers Ceremony & Luncheon and the Newsmakers of the Year and Torch Awards Reception Dinner.
- Friday, March 21: Capitol Hill and or White House Visit, Black Press & the Black Pulpit Breakfast and State of the Black Press Luncheon.

Visit www.nnpa.org events or contact jackiewillis@nnpa.org for specific times and locations.

"Black Press Week is always an exciting time," said Chairman Campbell. "To learn about my African ancestry at one of our public events will make it even more exciting."

Black Male Initiative Must Address Structural Racism

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - If President Barack Obama's "My Brother's Keeper" initiative expands educational and work opportunities for young black and Hispanic males, but fails to address the burdens of structural racism that threaten their lives, the program might not succeed, some community activists believe.

"Let's say they do all the right things, let's say they excel in the classroom, let's say they are involved in community activities, but then they go out on the street and they are harassed by police, profiled and arrested," said Walter Fields, executive editor of the NorthStar News a news website that caters to African American. "Or they go to college and

research group in Washington, D.C. 84 percent of public school teachers are white and 7 percent are black. Black males account for 10 percent of black teachers and less than 2 percent of all teachers, white females account for 85 percent of white teachers and more than 70 percent of all teachers.

According to data from the U.S. Department of Education's Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC), when out-of-school suspension rates were examined by race, one in five black males and more than one in 10 black

(Continued On Page 12)

they get a degree, then they go out on the labor market and they are discriminated against. How do we control that, after you have told these young men that they have to rise above it and be better, then they run into a system that is designed to cut them down?"

President Obama launched the "My Brother's Keeper" initiative in the East Room of the White House, joined by key players in business, philanthropy and public policy. Philanthropic foundations and private corporations have pledged \$200 million dollars over the next five years in an effort to "to make sure that every young man of color who is willing to work hard and lift himself up has an opportunity to get ahead and reach his full potential," the president said.

Obama said that he was inspired to create the initiative following the tragic death of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed, black teen who was pursued, shot and killed by George Zimmerman, a volunteer neighborhood watchman in Sanford, Fla. Martin's shooting and Zimmerman's ultimate acquittal of murder, sparked nationwide protests and an investigation by the Justice Department.

Since then, a similar case has been in the news. Michael Dunn, a white computer programmer, shot to death Jordan Davis, another black teenager in Florida in the parking lot of a Jacksonville, Fla., convenience store following an argument over what Dunn described as "thug music" playing in the teen's SUV.

Like George Zimmerman before him, Dunn was found not guilty of a first-degree murder charge in the death of Davis. Unlike Zimmerman, Dunn was convicted of three counts of attempted murder.

Jawanza Kunjufu, a prominent educator who has written extensively about black males, said that he is in total support of what the president is doing with his initiative, but worries that financial support pledged so far will be enough to prevent more parents from mourning the loss of their young sons due to gun violence.

"I don't know if money could have eliminated what happened to Trayvon Martin and Jordan Davis," said Kunjufu.

While some openly express doubts about the president's new plan, many others applauded President Obama for raising the visibility of the startling racial disparities that exist in education, the labor market and the criminal justice system that cripple a generation that must shoulder the future economic prosperity of a country that has largely forgotten them.

By the time they reach fourth grade, 86 percent of black boys are reading below grade level compared to 58 percent of white boys who read below proficiency levels. Even though the national graduation rate for black males increased from 42 percent to 52 percent from 2001-2010, according to a report on public education and black males by the Schott Foundation, "It would take nearly 50 years for black males to secure the same high school graduation rates as their white male peers."

According to a 2011 report by the Children's Defense Fund, "A black child is only half as likely as a white child to be placed in a gifted and talented class. A black child is more than one and a half times as likely as a white child to be placed in a class for students with emotional disturbances."

An overwhelming majority of black students enrolled in special education programs are males and at the other end of spectrum, white females are least likely to land in special education programs, said Kunjufu. Differences in learning styles between male and female students and an inability of teachers to relate to black male students contribute to the stigmatization of the group targeted by the president's new initiative.

According to a 2011 study by The National Center for Education Information (NCEI), a private, non-partisan



A.J. Howard Clement, III

Gala March 22nd to fund the Howard Clement Endowment for NCCU Public Administration

Born on March 12, 1934 Howard Clement III will be celebrating his 80th birthday along with his retirement from city council, Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the Durham Convention Center. After thirty and a half years of working with Durham's City Council, Clement hung up his elected public service hat on December 2, 2013.

The importance of leaving a legacy is meaningful to Clement. Giving back to the youth through education, financially, is the way he saw fit to do so. Clement decided to choose students associated with the North Carolina Central University School of Public Administration as recipients of an endowment.

Along with sharing his birthday gala and retirement with close friends, family, and coworkers, he has decided to take this opportunity to raise funds to share his dream with people who want to make his vision a reality.

"I believe that public education is the way to secure education and the future of the many. By this endowment, I want to prepare students for success in a changing world", says Clement.

The theme for the night's festivities is "Roaring 20's". Guest are being asked to dress in attire reminiscent of the pre-prohibition happy days of the 1920s. Tickets are on sale now for \$100 each and tables can be purchased for \$1,000 each, with all proceeds going towards funding the A.J. Howard Clement NCCU Endowment for students in the School of Public Administration.

A reception filled with dinner, drinks, live music, dancing, prizes and more are things guests should expect. To R.S.V.P. call Dr. Kimberly Moore at (919)313-7899 or visit www.clementendowment.com.

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