



XY.O.U.T.H. EXPRESSIONS & EMPOWERMENT ROUNDTABLE III

DECEMBER 2, 2006



FAMILY. EMPOWERMENT
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
INSTITUTE
FATHERS AND MOTHERS INVOLVED & LOVING YOUTH



LISTEN TO US...

COMMUNICATE WITH US...

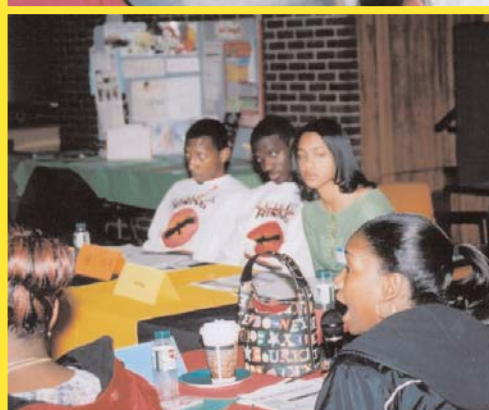
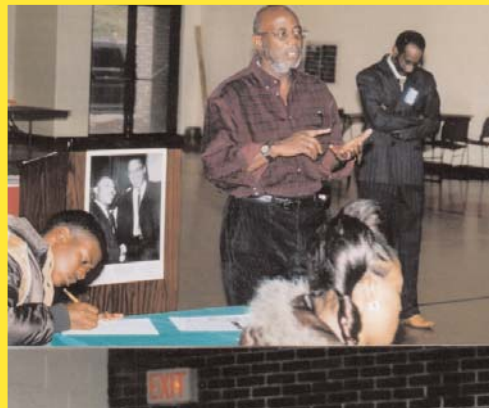
LISTEN TO US...



EXPRESSIONS & EMPOWERMENT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DECEMBER 2, 2006



In an effort to create a successful inter-generational community dialogue, the F.A.M.I.L.Y. Empowerment Student Achievement Institute ("Institute") has held multiple Youth & Parent Focus Groups, and Inter-generational Community and Youth Roundtables.

The purpose of these forums and roundtables is an attempt to create a dynamic synergy of ideas and action-oriented solutions to the "perceived" and actual social, educational and economic issues facing our families and youth. It is clear, from all research and Best Practice Social, Academic and Economic models, that synergy and consensus on the proposed problems and solutions are the beginning of success.

Success for our community means success for community families and, especially, success for the youth. However, to achieve success, our youth - both teenagers and young adults - must be an integral part of the process. We must listen attentively to their voices and we must "hear" their concerns and ideas.

Their perception of whether or not we (adults) are "hearing" them is very important to their perception regarding whether or not we are believable and credible. The integrity of whatever process is put in place to move from social and academic failure to social and academic excellence must include their views, concerns, comments and ideas. It is their futures we're dealing with . . .

The "Institute" is committed to such a process and, to that end, held its first Youth Expressions & Empowerment Roundtable on December 2, 2006. On the following pages, you will find some of the views, comments, concerns and ideas captured during their dialogue. These are not listed in any particular order; they are listed to give you some idea of their perception of the issues. Please share and discuss with your child and your neighbors.

In addition, we have also instituted a two-hour radio program on WGFT 1330 AM every Saturday from 10AM - Noon. The program includes a "Teen Talk" show (run by middle & high school students), a college talk show (run by young adults in college), and a Family Education Roundtable (run by parents).

Our commitment and goal is to create an inter-generational solution and action-oriented process (environment) that allows middle school, high school, college youth, young adults, parents and community leaders to discuss the social, educational and economic issues most important to the success of our community. The ultimate and most important goal for the "Institute" is to focus all forums, focus groups and the radio program on taking the necessary action to resolve the issues identified as most important and to move our schools from Academic Failure to Academic Excellence.

Your support for our youth, families and community is needed to enrich, enhance and accelerate the success of our children and their schools. The 21st Century is upon us. We are in the Information Age . . . and time will not wait. If our children are to achieve at the level we expect, then "WE" will have to perform at the level necessary for them to meet that expectation.

Our next Roundtable is scheduled for Saturday, January 6, 2007. Please join us in this effort by calling the "Institute" at 330-533-1778.

Jimma McWilson

LISTEN TO US ... COMMUNICATE WITH US ... LISTEN TO US ...

X.Y.O.U.T.H. E X P R E S S I O N S & E M P O W E R M E N T



YOUTH EXPRESSIONS

Messages From Our Children...Our Destiny

DECEMBER 2, 2006

LISTEN TO

US...

COMMUNICATE

WITH US...

LISTEN TO

US...

- My issue is, my teacher tells us our homework and there are some things that I don't understand, but if I ask her questions, she gets mad and tells me to stop asking questions.
- My concern that teachers aren't being as serious as they should be.
- More knowledgeable about homework (better understanding about subject).
- Better technology (visual, kinesthetic learning).
- More routine grading checkups (high school).
- Attendance rating-why so high versus academics?
- Kids are other places when in school other than class--not necessarily learning.
- Such honor and rewards for attendance...why not academics?
- Money, money, money...or am I wrong?
- More parents need to be at school checking up on their children as students (credits, scheduling, etc.).
- More community members (pastors, community leaders, elected officials) need to come to school to see about the young people in their community.
- Stop criticizing the youth and telling them they won't amount to anything; start talking to them, ask what they think they need.
- Check on the student's credits to make sure they have enough credits to graduate.
- Teacher behavior in the classroom -- how they talk to the children in school classrooms and whether they are encouraging them or discourage them, and if it is affecting their progress in school.
- My concern is that we need to have more activities to make learning fun.
- More 'talks', but not yelling and arguing.
- More debating to get our voices heard.
- Many people don't want to hear what we think, but what we say might be better or we might have better ideas than what adults or the BIG time people say.
- To react to what one girl said (today), there are no boys at my school, and there are still fights and arguments.
- We need to make this community work...and not have the community work us.

LISTEN TO US ... COMMUNICATE WITH US ... LISTEN TO US ...

YOUTH . O . U . T . H . EXPRESSIONS & EMPOWERMENT



YOUTH EXPRESSIONS

Messages From Our Children...Our Destiny

LISTEN TO

US...

COMMUNICATE

WITH US...

LISTEN TO

US...

- I think that my school needs better conflict resolution.
- I think adults should sit their children down and talk more.
- I think when kids get home, parents should ask about their day.
- My concern is toward most African Americans, and how we are always talking about how we wind up in jail. I think we should have more programs that we can attend to have fun, so we stay out of trouble.
- I think my school needs to be better about discipline. Someone who gets in trouble for the first time should not be punished the same as someone who is in trouble all the time.
- The adults of the schools aren't financially organized.
- Kids cutting class; clean the city; not enough freedom from my parents.
- The mentality and culture of this area is something difficult to change, but we need to start supporting and stop 'hating'.
- I think I know that we, as African Americans, are low on achievement. We should also mention that White people are low in achievement. Look at all the White people on Jerry Springer. I may not be right, but I know that when we talk about how our standards are low, we should mention that not all White people, and people of other races, succeed in life. Because we were the race that was enslaved, we have to step up; I understand that, but for all other races, too.
- We don't learn any Black history in school.
- I believe parents should take a greater interest in the music their children listen to, and take the time to research media with their children.
- Teachers should be held accountable for respecting students.
- Students should be prepared for leadership roles.
- I think more parents should get involved in the school, not just because his or her child's teacher called, or it's a meeting, but just to see what is going on, to see what the school is up to, and to see what kind of teachers the children have. There are a lot of teachers teaching subjects that they don't know anything about.

LISTEN TO US ... COMMUNICATE WITH US ... LISTEN TO US ...

WHY WE CAN'T WAIT!...

-- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

50 Years after Brown

AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS
STILL HAVE ONE OF THE:

- ↓ Lowest Graduation Rates
- ↓ Lowest Passage Rates on the High School Exit Exams
- ↓ Lowest SAT Scores
- ↓ Lowest College Preparation Rates
- ↓ Lowest Reading Scores
- ↓ Lowest Math Scores
- ↓ Lowest Language Scores

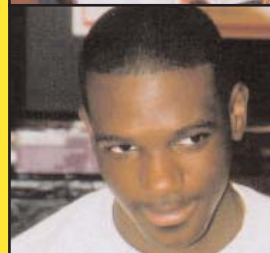
"Change does not roll in on wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Sermon
given at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine,
New York City, (May 17, 1956)



IMAGINE

OUR CHILDREN ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



- ↑ 90-100% of our children graduating from high school.
- ↑ 90-100% of our students meeting or exceeding state and federal standards in reading, language, math, science and the arts.
- ↑ 90-100% of our students scoring above the national norm on SAT and ACT tests.
- ↑ 90-100% of our children graduating with the required courses needed to attend any of vocational, technical, college or university system.
- ↑ 90-100% of our students applying for college actually graduating.
- ↑ 90-100% of our senior graduates completing all available Grant applications in a timely manner.
- ↑ 100% of our graduating seniors having completed at least one year of study in African world exploratory history and culture.

"The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand at times of challenge and controversy."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
African American Words of Wisdom

MAKE A CLEAR DIFFERENCE Get Involved--It Matters



What Parents Can Do

Being involved in your children's education helps them do well in school and improves the quality of your community's school. *Find time to get involved—it makes a difference!*

- ✓ **Take your child to school on the first day.**
- ✓ **Let your child know that school is important.**
- ✓ **Read and act on everything that is sent home from school.**
- ✓ **Focus** on and identify your child's strengths and weaknesses. Praise good performances; get help when there are difficulties.
- ✓ **Encourage** positive peer helping relationships through group study. Parents can organize study groups at home, in community centers, or in church. Children learn a lot from each other; study groups help develop positive peer pressure!
- ✓ **Provide** a quiet place to study either at home or in a study center. At home, turn off the distractions (the television, the radio and the CD player).
- ✓ **Establish** a scheduled time for homework. Make learning fun—find ways to reward good marks, positive behavior, and good study habits. Use a lot of praise! Emphasize positive things as a means of changing bad study habits.
- ✓ **Know your child's teachers, counselors, nurse and principal.**
- ✓ **Copy your child's school records.**
- ✓ **Become an equal partner in the education of your child.**
- ✓ **Reinforce** learning with informal activities such as visits to museums, theaters, parks and the malls and supermarkets. Learning can occur anywhere. Some of the most important and enjoyable learning experiences occur outside of the classroom!
- ✓ **Know** how much homework is assigned and what the child is expected to accomplish. Help to manage the workload by dividing the task into manageable, small doses. *Use a lot of praise!*
- ✓ **Monitor** grades. Keep abreast of tests and quiz scores. Look for achievement patterns that might suggest where additional work is needed or where the child has some special talents or strengths.
- ✓ **Ensure** that your child is taking the courses necessary to enter any institution of higher education. (Technical/Vocational Schools, and/or two or four year Colleges/Universities.)

RESOURCES:

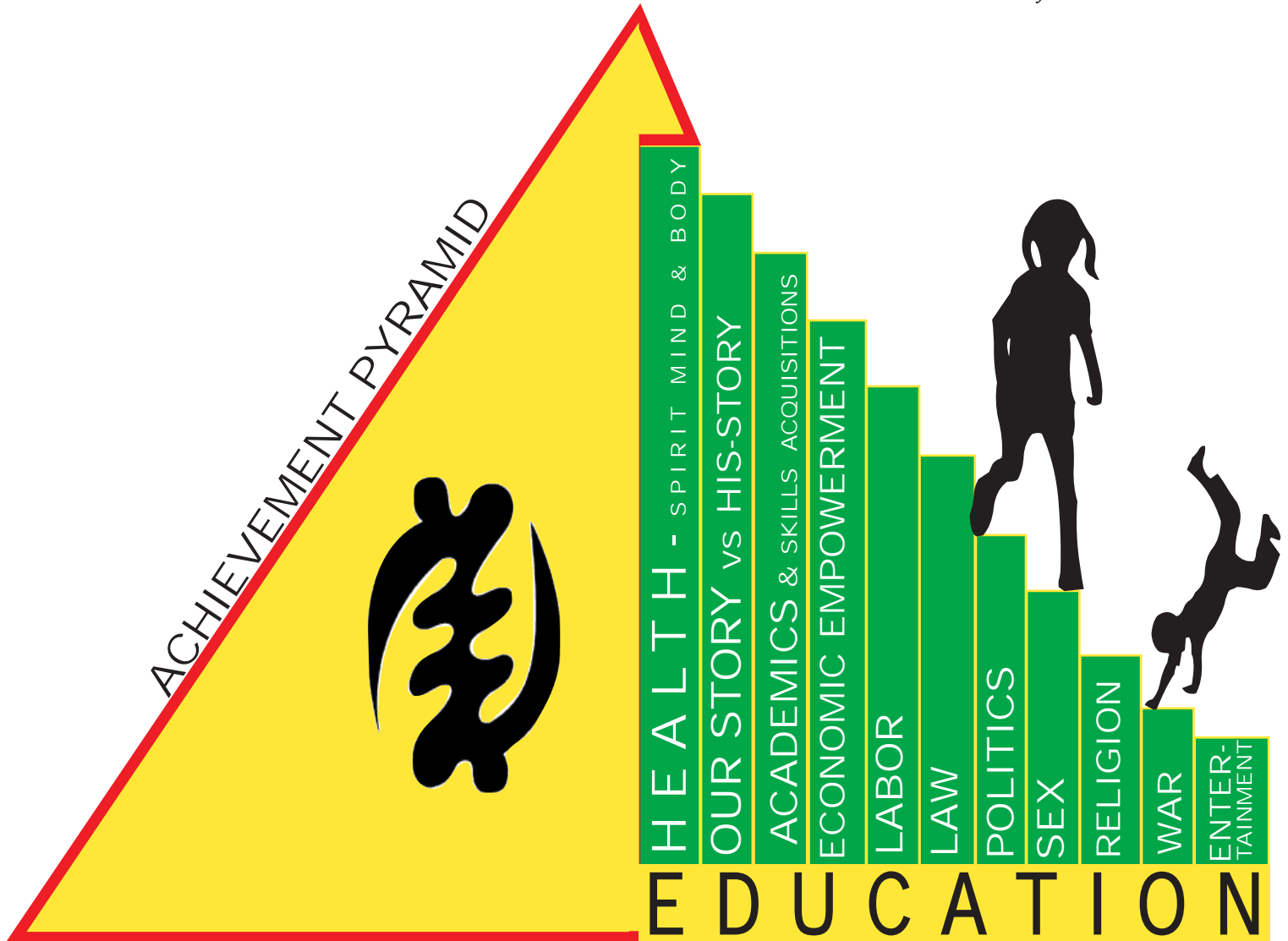
- **Children's Defense Fund,** www.childrensdefense.org
- **American Federation of Teachers,** www.aft.org
- **Education Trust,** www.edtrust.org
- **Great Schools,** www.greatschools.net
- **NAACP,** www.naacp.org
- **National Educational Association,** www.nea.com
- **National Urban League,** www.nul.org
- **Schott Foundation,** www.schottfoundation.org

F.A.M.I.L.Y. = FATHERS AND MOTHERS INVOLVED & LOVING YOUTH



"For our children and families to effectively compete and achieve success in the 21st Century they must go beyond just schooling and 'educate' themselves in all 11 components of the achievement pyramid."

--Jimma McWilson



"Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today." --Malcolm X

"Education ... It's a life long process."

Jimma McWilson, President/CEO



FAMILY
FATHERS AND MOTHERS INVOLVED & LOVING YOUTH

EMPOWERMENT
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
INSTITUTE

4 Year
Vocation/College
life Education

Master's
Degree Level
life Education

PHD Level
life Education

LIFE
EDUCATION

2 Year
Vocation/College
life Education



Grades 9 -
12th
High School
Diploma /
GED



17 Years & Up 20 Years & Up 22 Years & Up 24 Years & Up

Grades 6 - 8th
Middle
School



17 Years & Up

Pre-K - 5th
Grade
Education



14-18 Years

Sunday
School
Head Start
Community
Education



11 - 13 Years

Post
Pregnancy
Education



5 - 10 Years

During
Pregnancy
Education



0 - 5+

Pre-
Pregnancy
Education



Teen to Adult



Teen to Adult

ALL AGES
THE
GENESIS of
all EDUCATION

What are YOU preparing YOUR child for?

A Career/College
Education, ...



\$\$\$Cost of Vocational/College
Education - *with Freedom*

Think about it ...

City/State/Federal
Incarceration?



\$\$\$\$Cost of Incarceration +
Loss of Freedom

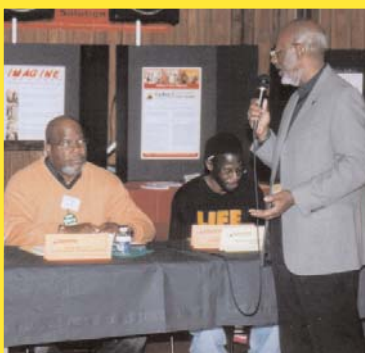
THE CHOICE IS YOURS!





STRATEGIC GOAL, VISION, OPPORTUNITY AND OBJECTIVES

Jimma McWilson, President & CEO



OUR GOAL

Increase to 95% the graduation/GED rate of African American students in Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, who are qualified to enter higher education,* entrepreneurship and/or who have the required skills to enter the world of work.



OUR VISION

Healthy communities where families working together in partnership with local, state, federal, business & community resource partners take responsibility to ensure that each child is loved, nurtured, disciplined and socially ready to learn in a public school setting, and to hold the public school accountable for preparing their children to successfully graduate/receive a GED and are qualified to enter higher education, entrepreneurship or the workforce.



OPPORTUNITY

Seize the opportunity to bring families, from separate communities together, based on common interest to develop a "**Power Agenda**" designed to ensure educational excellence for their children's future economic success.



OBJECTIVES

Utilize the collective resources of government, business, education systems, network members and "Best Social & Academic Practice" model (systems and individuals) to: Educate, Motivate, Organize and Mobilize . . . families, students, taxpayers, concerned community groups and business to advocate for educational excellence and to ensure that it is achieved within a defined period of time.

- ✓ **Create** a F.A.M.I.L.Y. Resource Support Network.
- ✓ **Create** 21st Century Youth Leadership and Graduation T.E.A.M.S.
- ✓ **Ensure** that students' psycho-social and health needs are successfully addressed.
- ✓ **Create** a Higher Education Resource Support Network.
- ✓ **Create** an Interfaith Education Resource Support Network.
- ✓ **Support** and advocate for social and educational excellence in the family, home and school
- ✓ **Advocate** for and support the implementation of measures which will lead to 95% of students, specifically African American, who are graduating or receiving a GED, and are qualified for higher education and the workforce.
- ✓ **Establish** collaborative relationships with all levels of city, state and federal government, churches and educational systems and community groups.

OUTCOME EXPECTED

95% of all students, specifically African American, are graduating and qualified to enter institutions of higher education, entrepreneurship and the workforce.





FAMILY EMPOWERMENT
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
INSTITUTE
FATHERS AND MOTHERS INVOLVED & LOVING YOUTH

Supporting & Empowering Families In Mind, Body, & Spirit

U.S. Supreme Court Decision *Brown v. Board of Education*, 1954

“Today education is perhaps the most important function of state and local government. Compulsory, school attendance laws and the great expenditures for education both demonstrate our recognition of the importance of education to our democratic society. It is required in the performance of our most basic public responsibilities, even service in the armed forces. It is the very foundation of good citizenship. Today it is a principle instrument in awakening the child to cultural values, in preparing him for later professional training, and in helping him adjust normally to his environment. In these days it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education. Such an opportunity, where the state has undertaken to provide it, is a right, which must be made available to all on equal terms.”