

CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS: RESILIENCE, SUCCESSES, & TRIUMPHS CONFERENCE



**COMMUNITY
LEADERS**



**COLLEGE
GRADUATES**

ATHLETES



ACTIONISTS



**BEST SELLING
AUTHORS**



EDUCATORS



DAY 1: RESILIENCY | DAY 2: RESPECT | DAY 3: RESPONSIBILITY

DIGITAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 17-19, 2020

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Welcome

Greetings!

Welcome to the Inaugural Virtual Conference on Resilience, Success and Triumphs Among Children of Incarcerated Parents. On behalf of the Executive Research Team, we thank you for being a registered participant. It is our hope that you all are staying safe and well during this time of pandemic and social injustice unrest. At this time, when the world is being reminded that Black Lives Matter, our national research project takes on greater significance because of its focus on centering the narratives of Black children of incarcerated parents across the nation. Thus, over the next three days we have curated digital panel discussions, keynotes, plenary sessions and artistic performances that are representative of the themes that emerged from our data collection. Although the study remains ongoing, we felt it important to share preliminary findings to show the urgency for a paradigm shift around the current deficit-based model that has oversaturated work on this topic. As a means to humanizing this hidden population our work brings the faces and experiences of resilient children of incarcerated parents to the forefront.

It is our hope that our research and the stories told by presenters will inspire future studies, practitioners, policy makers, incarcerated parents and the children themselves to envision lives of success, triumphs and resilience. To accomplish this, each conference day has a guiding theme. Day one is focused on **Resilience**, Day two is focused on **Respect** and Day 3 is focused on **Responsibility**. These overarching themes serve to frame daily presentations and are reflective of the conversations the research team held with children of incarcerated parents during the data collection phase.

In addition to the various presentations you will have access to a plethora of research videos that further contextualize information shared during panel sessions. Make sure to spend some time on the conference website to view our short research videos that highlight panelists and other interviewees who share their insight on the roles in which resilience and parental incarceration affected their lives. For your perusal, videos are posted by category and available on the YouTube platform. Lastly, we have made a digital book exhibit available for your viewing. All book authors are children of incarcerated parents. Each of whom have created video messages with research team members to help you gain better understanding of their publication and motivation behind their works. On the final conference day, you can partake in a Yoga and Meditation session led by children of incarcerated parents. Or enjoy spoken word, artistic expression and/or our specially curated digital tribute to signify gratitude to all our research subjects who shared their intimate narratives of success that allowed us to create this safe online space for dialogue.

It is with great joy that we welcome you to The Dr. Muhammad Experience DIGITAL at Howard University, where **"research is hot off the press"**.

Peace~ Dr. Bahiyyah MiAllah Muhammad



Executive Team



Dr. Bahiyyah M. Muhammad

Bahiyyah M. Muhammad, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Black Criminology at Howard University. She received her B.A. in Administration of Justice from Rutgers University-New Brunswick, NJ, her M.A. in Community Corrections from John Jay College in New York and her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Rutgers School of Criminal Justice in Newark, NJ. Dr. Muhammad teaches experiential learning courses on the graduate and undergraduate levels in the Department of Sociology and Criminology. Her service work has revolved around familial incarceration and led to hundreds of interviews with affected children, parents and caregivers in the United States, Africa, Europe, Uganda, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and various Caribbean Islands. Her most recent work revolves around shifting the negative paradigm among criminologists to highlighting success and resiliency among children of prisoners.

Britany Gatewood recently earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from the Department of Sociology and Criminology at Howard University. She earned her Ph.D. with a concentration in social inequality and criminology, and a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies. She identifies as a Black queer woman scholar activist. She received her BA in Sociology at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and her MA in Liberal Arts at the University of Detroit Mercy. Her research interests include social inequality, criminology, social movements, and scholar activism. Her research focuses on social movements within carceral institutions as well as the political practice and tradition of resistance of Black women and their children. Britany's dissertation explores the impact of the criminal justice system on Black women. Specifically, how incarceration in conjunction with one's political, social, and economic position affects their activism and political participation, collectively and individually.



Dr. Britany J Gatewood



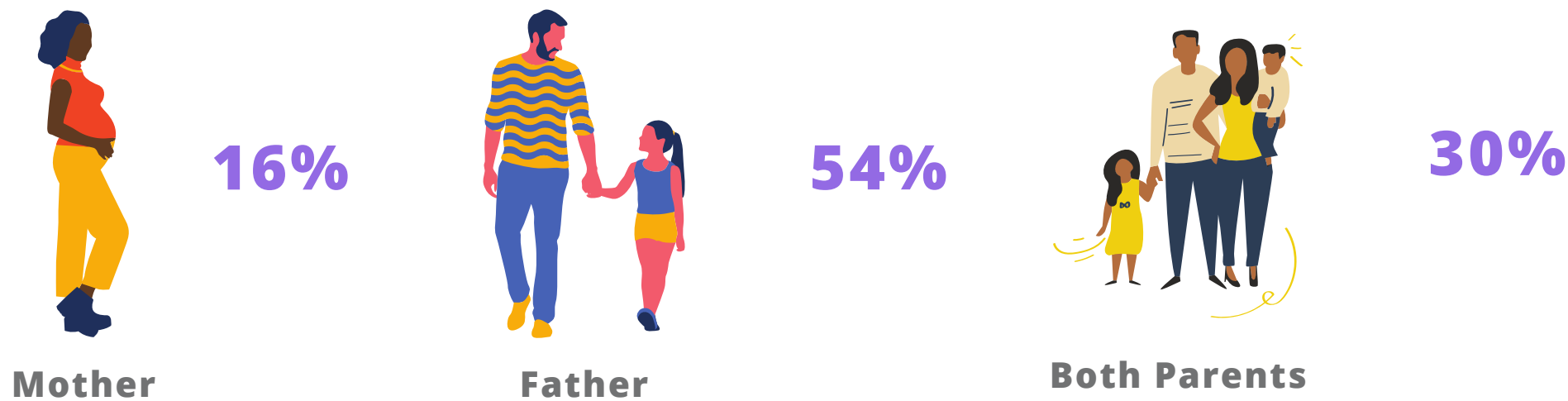
Sydni Turner

Sydni Turner is a second year Masters student at Howard University within the Sociology and Criminology department. In 2016, she received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology with a concentration in Criminal Justice and a minor in Family Studies from Towson University. Her research focuses on the dynamic shifts in the political economy as it relates to mass incarceration, the Black family, and reentry. More specifically, her Master's thesis will explore the mass incarceration of Black fathers who successfully parent and maintain relationships with their children during incarceration. As a Prince George's county native, she currently serves as a reentry mentor at the Welcome Home Reentry Program. In addition, she is a Board Member and Secretary at It Takes A Village Collaborative non-profit organization whose mission is to provide individuals, families, and communities, with resources, services, and networks to empower them to reach their fullest potential. Long term, she aims to own a reentry non-profit organization that provides services such as employment, housing, and life skills to the formerly incarcerated population.

Preliminary Findings

The demographic information provided in the charts below are a snap-shot of the preliminary research study findings to date. They do not represent the full study and will be updated at the end of the project. Therefore, the total numbers and referenced statistics will change as additional interviews are completed.

Which parent is/was incarcerated?



71 Interviewees

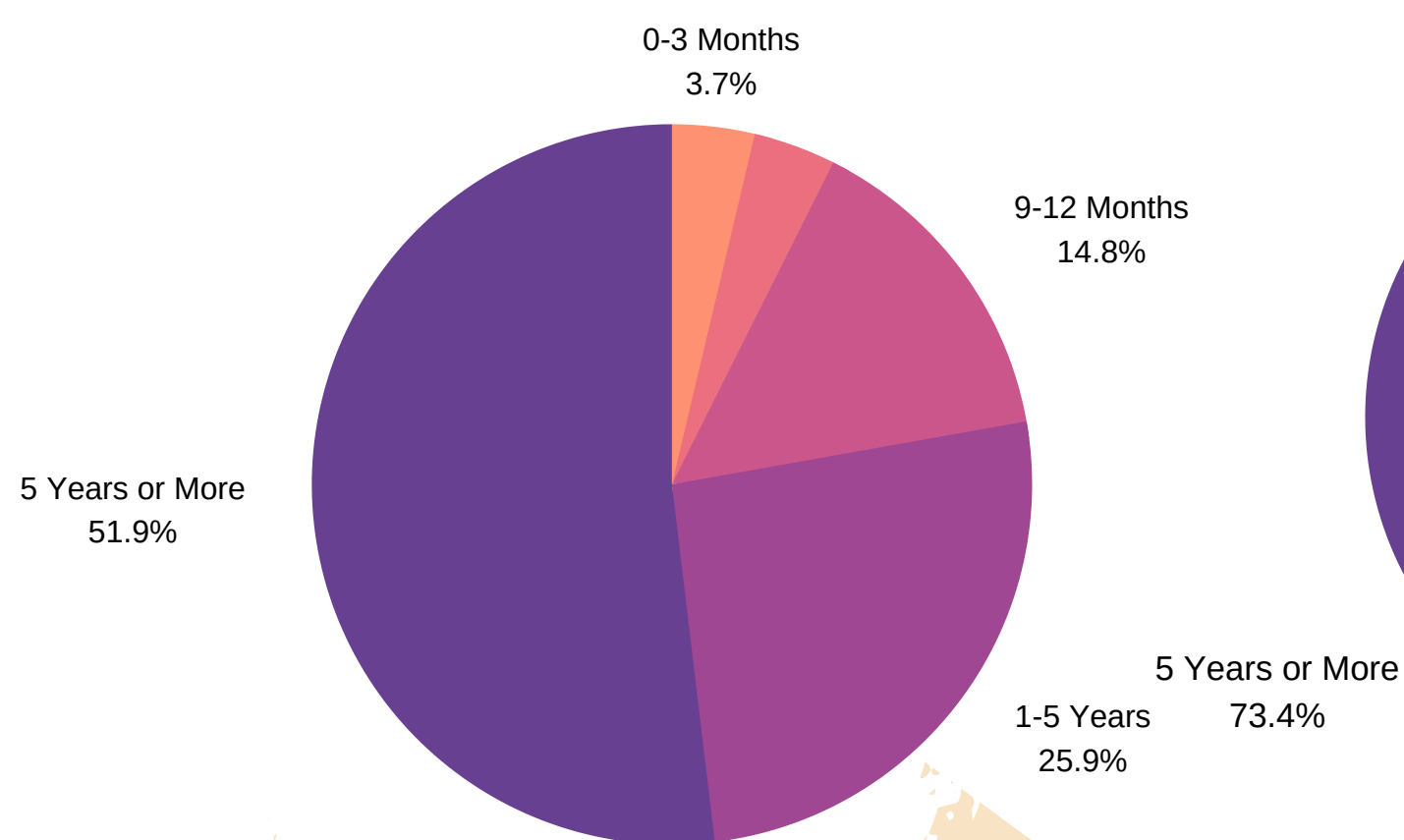
16 U.S. States

60 Female

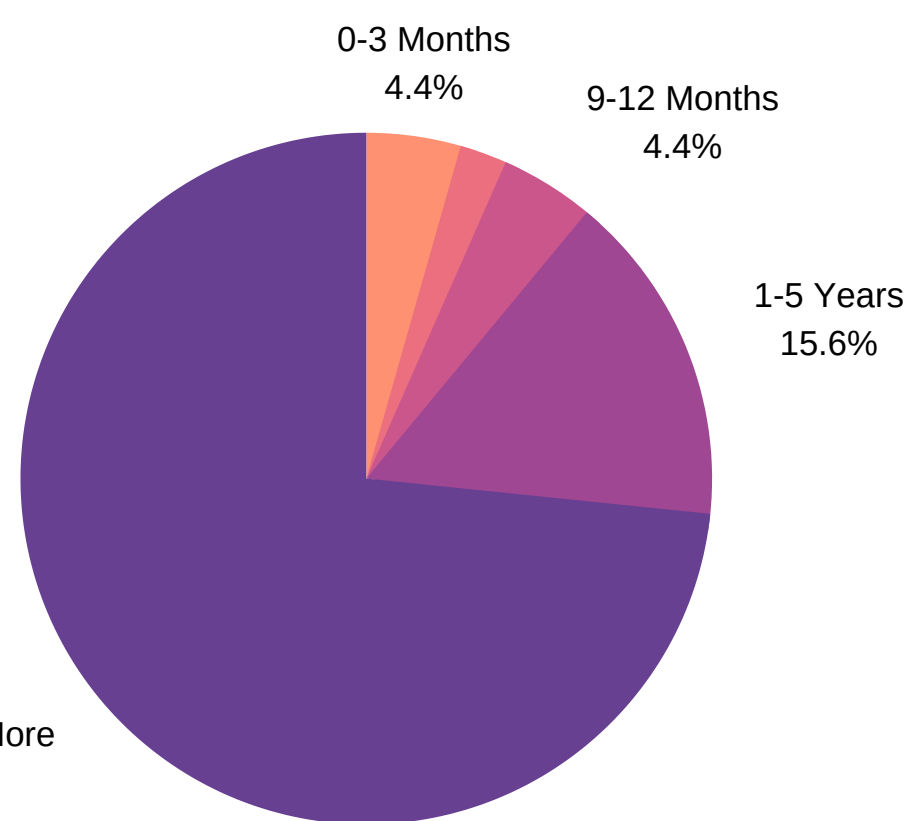
11 Male

68 Black COIP

Length of Mother's Incarceration



Length of Father's Incarceration



Areas you have been successful in?



How did you stay in contact?



in person

Mother | Father

69% 56%



call

54% 58%



mail

50% 65%



no contact

19% 21%

Adverse Childhood Experiences Score (1-10)

1 2% 2 2% 3 24% 4 10% 5 31% 6 2% 7 12% 8 8% 9 8% 10 2%

Day 1 | June 17 | Resiliency

9:00-9:30 AM **OPENING:** Shifting the Negative Paradigm: One Narrative At A Time
9:30-10:00 AM **KEYNOTE:** Maintaining Hope in the Age of Mass Incarceration by Tony Lewis Jr.
10:00-10:15 AM **BREAK**
10:15-11:45 AM **PANEL:** It Takes A Village: Family and Community Supports for Children of Incarcerated Parents
11:45-12:00 PM **BREAK**
12:00-12:30 PM **SESSION:** I Define My Own Success: Personal Definitions from Children of Incarcerated Parents
12:30-1:00 PM **LUNCH**
1:00-2:30 PM **PANEL:** My Rib: Marriage, Love & Relationship Success Among Children of Incarcerated Parents
2:30-2:45 PM **BREAK**
2:45-3:15 PM **SESSION:** Flipping the Script: Centering Positive Outcomes Among Black Children of Incarcerated Parents
3:15-3:30 PM **BREAK**
3:30-5:00 PM **PANEL:** Not A Statistic: Success and Resilience Among Children of Incarcerated Parents
5:00-5:15 PM **BREAK**
5:15-5:45 PM **PLENARY:** Prison Is My Family Business: Longitudinal Reflections From A Child of An Incarcerated Parent Into A Resilient Black Woman with Dr. Breea Willingham

Day 2 | June 18 | Respect

9:00-9:30 AM **OPENING:** Black Lives Matter: Social Justice Advocacy Among Children of Incarcerated Parents
9:30-10:00 AM **KEYNOTE:** The Time Is Always Now: Action Today, Tomorrow & Forever by Ebony Underwood
10:00-10:50 AM **PANEL:** We Got Us Now: The Power of WE as Policymakers
10:55-11:15 AM **PANEL:** We Got Us Now: Healing through Wellness & Artistic Expression
11:20-11:45 AM **PANEL:** We Got Us Now: Mass Incarceration through the Generations
11:45-12:00 PM **BREAK**
12:00-12:30 PM **SESSION:** The Path of Research: Paving The Way to Respect, Accountability & Recognition
12:30-1:00 PM **LUNCH**
1:00-2:30 PM **PANEL:** From Trauma to Resiliency And Beyond: Narratives Among Children of Incarcerated Parents
2:30-2:45 PM **BREAK**
2:45-3:15 PM **SESSION:** Put Some Respect on Their Names: Strategies for Conducting Research with Children of Incarcerated Parents
3:15-3:30 PM **SESSION:** Navigating Ivory Towers: Pathways to Education Among Children of Incarcerated Parents
3:30-4:00 PM **PANEL:** We Got Us Now: Know Your Worth: Entrepreneurial Actionists
4:00-4:15 PM **BREAK**
4:15-5:15 PM **PLENARY:** Black Girl Magic: Sisters of Parental Incarceration Blazing Trials Forward

Day 3 | June 19 | Responsibility

9:00-9:30 AM **OPENING:** It Is Our Responsibility: Working Together For Children of Incarcerated Parents
9:30-10:30 AM **YOGA:** Relax, Relate, Release: Yoga & Meditation to Heal Stress Associated with Parental Incarceration
10:30-10:45 AM **BREAK**
10:45-11:45 AM **PANEL:** Brothers of Parental Incarceration: Black Male Children of Prisoners Who Defy All Odds
11:45-12:00 PM **BREAK**
12:00-12:30 PM **CREATIVE ARTS:** Hear Me Through My Art: A Spoken Word Performance
12:30-1:15 PM **LUNCH**
1:15-2:00 PM **SESSION:** Parenting Behind Bars: Maintaining Positive Relationship With Our Children
2:00-2:15 PM **BREAK**
2:15-3:00 PM **CREATIVE ARTS:** Scattered Thoughts: Memories of Our Father's Incarceration
3:00-3:15 PM **BREAK**
3:15-3:30 PM **CREATIVE ARTS:** Art as a Tool for Healing: A Focus on Parental Incarceration
3:30-3:45 PM **CREATIVE ARTS:** Ye Are Gods: Reiki Session by Queen Mahdee
3:45-4:00 PM **TRIBUTE:** When You See Me, See My Resilience: A Tribute to Your Journey To Success and Beyond
4:00-4:30 PM **CLOSING:** Where Do We Go From Here? Maintaining The Paradigm Shift to Focus On Resilience Among Children of Incarcerated Parents

Resiliency

Oftentimes the narratives about children of incarcerated parents begin with negative anecdotes that start with deficiencies and delinquency, and end with the probability of confinement. This is a very limited view of a dynamic population of individuals. Thus, research has remained oversaturated with stories in which things go wrong in the lives of these young adults. Such narratives tend to highlight the children's difficulty with transitioning into their adult lives, lower graduation rates, higher rates of unemployment, and a higher risk of becoming involved with the criminal justice system. As a means to countering these dark narratives, this national research study centers the discussion around resilience and success. To accomplish this, the entire first day of this virtual conference will be dedicated to paradigm shifting panels that unapologetically lean into a plethora of positive narratives from Black children of incarcerated parents, in their own prose.

Resilience and success are important concepts to understand in the lives of children of incarcerated parents. Not only does such insight provide balance to the current databank of scholarly works, it can help the children affected by this experience to also see themselves in a different light. Because incarceration is associated with extreme shame, stigma and silence, the ways in which children of incarcerated parents feel about themselves, takes on a greater significance. When individuals gain understanding and are able to verbalize their strengths, it can lead to a self-confidence that may be used to combat some of the negative effects they may experience in dealing with the realities of having one or both parents incarcerated.

By allowing children of incarcerated parents to be active participants in their own narratives, they begin to break free of what DuBois calls the "double consciousness". In the spirit of DuBois, Day 1 panelists, who are all children of the incarcerated, will lift the societal veil of dehumanization. In this virtual safe space, we will engage in dialogue with undeniably resilient and successful children of incarcerated parents from various walks of life. During this first day of the conference panelists will see themselves outside the social boxes they have been written into, and envision their destiny through new lenses. A lens of liberation and freedom from an experience they had no control over.

9:00 AM-9:30 AM

OPENING

Associate Dean James J Davis, Ph.D.
Gerard Robinson
Sydni Turner

The conference will open with welcoming remarks from the research team and Howard University leadership. During this segment an abbreviated study introduction will be delivered. Specifically, to discuss national study details, such as, theoretical framework, methodology and preliminary findings. Participants will hear from the Conference Founder and Principal Investigator of the National Resiliency Study Among Children of Incarcerated Parents, Dr. Bahiyyah M. Muhammad, Associate Professor of Criminology at Howard University. In addition, Dr. Muhammad will provide a conference overview of participant expectations, layout of website and helpful tips for optimal virtual engagements with attendees to assure seamless navigation through the conference digital community.



James J. Davis, Ph.D., currently serves as Associate Dean for the Humanities and Academic and Student Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences at Howard University. His faculty appointment is in the Department of World Languages and Cultures as Professor of Spanish and Foreign Language Education. His primary research interests are Afro-Hispanic literature and cultures, African Americans and foreign language learning, and the teaching of foreign/second languages in the Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Twitter: @HU_COAS



Gerard Robinson is Vice President for Education at the Advanced Studies in Culture Foundation in Charlottesville, Virginia. The Foundation is a nonprofit organization that finances and utilizes basic and applied research produced at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia. Robinson has often advanced ideas in the public marketplace, having coedited *Education for Liberation: The Politics of Promise and Reform Inside and Beyond America's Prisons* (2019) and *Education Savings Accounts: The New Frontier in School Choice* (2017). He also cohosts *The Learning Curve Podcast*. Robinson has been published or quoted in *AEI Ideas*, *GallupNews*, *Newsweek*, *the Hill*, *the New York Times*, *the Washington Examiner*, *the Washington Post*, *the Wall Street Journal*, and *US News & World Report*. From 2017 to 2020, prior to his work at the Foundation, Robinson was Executive Director of the Center for Advancing Opportunity (CAO). CAO is a Washington, DC-based research and education initiative created by a partnership with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, the Charles Koch Foundation, and Koch Industries. The mission of CAO is to develop evidence-based solutions to the most pressing education, entrepreneurship, and criminal justice issues in fragile communities throughout the United States by working with faculty and students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other postsecondary institutions. Prior to CAO, Robinson worked as a Resident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC, served as Commissioner of Education for the State of Florida, as Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and was the Director and President of the Black Alliance for Educational Options.

Twitter: @gerard_924



Sydni Turner is a second year Masters student at Howard University within the Sociology and Criminology department. In 2016, she received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology with a concentration in Criminal Justice and a minor in Family Studies from Towson University. Her research focuses on the dynamic shifts in the political economy as it relates to mass incarceration, the Black family, and reentry. More specifically, her Master's thesis will explore the mass incarceration of black fathers who successfully parent and maintain relationships with their children during incarceration.

Instagram: @prettysydni

Dr. Bahiyyah M. Muhammad

Flipping the Script: Centering Positive Outcomes Among Black Children of Incarcerated Parents

The objective of this project was to gain a better understanding of the factors that influence whether children will lead a crime-free life. Current scholarship on parental incarceration centers mainly on the negative outcomes experienced by the millions of children left behind. This national study used in-depth qualitative interviews with children of incarcerated parents (defined as those 18 years or older). Interview findings will be centered around the accomplishments, triumphs and resilient characteristics among children of incarcerated parents. Thus, study results will present a counter narrative to current research by highlighting emerging pathways to success. The study research questions are exploratory in nature and include the following: (1) What factors contribute to resilience in the lives of children of incarcerated parents? and (2) What internal and external barriers do children of incarcerated parents overcome in their pursuits to success? These two overarching research questions support the study framework of pathways to resilience among children of incarcerated parents.

The complete study will include a national sample of 100 children of incarcerated parents who self identify as being resilient and/or successful. At the onset of the study, which was prior to COVID-19, face-to-face interviews were conducted with 36 subjects. All remaining interviews after CDC mandates, included virtual interviews via zoom and/or telephone interviews. In person and virtual interviews ranged from 45 minutes to 2.5 hours. All interviews were voice and video recorded and transcribed in verbatim. In addition, subjects were asked to submit a minimum of five photographs that highlighted their journey toward success. The provided photos were then used to aid subjects in a life-history narrative sharing with the interviewer.



Bahiyyah M. Muhammad, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Black Criminology at Howard University. She received her B.A. in Administration of Justice from Rutgers University-New Brunswick, NJ, her M.A. in Community Corrections from John Jay College in New York and her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Rutgers School of Criminal Justice in Newark, NJ. Dr. Muhammad teaches experiential learning courses on the graduate and undergraduate levels in the Department of Sociology and Criminology. Her service work has revolved around familial incarceration and led to hundreds of interviews with affected children, parents and caregivers in the United States, Africa, Europe, Uganda, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and various Caribbean Islands. Her most recent work revolves around shifting the negative paradigm among criminologist to highlighting success and resiliency among children of prisoners.

Dr. Muhammad is co-founder of Project Iron Kids, a global initiative to educate and empower children of incarcerated parents. She co-published the first coloring book for children of the incarcerated, titled *The Prison Alphabet: An Educational Coloring Book for Children of Incarcerated Parents*. In addition, Dr. Muhammad spearheaded a Howard University Alternative Spring Break experience (ASB-West Virginia, 2015) connected to The Dr. Muhammad Experience prison program, entitled *Making Our Memories (MOM) Camp* at a Federal Prison in Alderson, West Virginia. During this once in a lifetime experience, incarcerated mothers spent an intimate week engaging with their children behind bars. Recently she led the 2018 Day of Service group of first year and transfer students to the DC Jail to engage with incarcerated individuals, correctional officers and prison administrators. Her Policing Inside Out (PIO) program is the golden standard in Black community and police relations. All of her innovative work has become known as "The Dr. Muhammad Experience".

Website: www.drmuhammadexperience.com

Instagram: @drmuhammad_experience @projectironkids

Twitter: @drBmuhammad1

9:30 AM-10:00 AM

Maintaining Hope in the Age of Mass Incarceration

Tony Lewis Jr.

The opening Keynote Address will be delivered by Tony Lewis Jr. He is a community leader, work-force development specialist, re-entry expert, and champion for children of incarcerated parents. During his address he will engage in a rich dialogue that uncovers the lived experiences behind his award winning book, "Slugg: A Boy's Life in the Age of Mass Incarceration". This presentation will motivate participants to maintain hope through the oftentimes, extremely long journey of parental incarceration in America.



Tony Lewis Jr. is an author, activist, re-entry expert, community leader and champion for children with incarcerated parents. Mr. Lewis has fought relentlessly for the past 20 years to empower men, women, and children impacted by mass incarceration. His work and advocacy has been featured on CNN, BET, Elite Daily, The Breakfast Club, Black Enterprise, The Takeaway, Hot 97 and numerous times in the Washington Post. Mr. Lewis has received and has also been honored and recognized for his work in reentry, social justice, and community organizing, both locally and nationally. He and his wife Jessica Lewis have 2 daughters, Isabella and Sophie. He is also an Actionist with the We Got Us Now organization.

Website: www.tonylewisjunior.com

Twitter: [mrtonylewisjr](https://twitter.com/mrtonylewisjr)

Instagram: [mrtonylewisjr](https://www.instagram.com/mrtonylewisjr)

10:00 AM-10:15 AM

Break

If you have extra time, please make sure to check out the videos that center children of incarcerated parents that will be played during the breaks. All videos shown during the breaks are also available on youtube.

10:15 AM-11:45 AM

It Takes A Village: Family and Community Supports for Children of Incarcerated Parents

Prince Jr. & Family Ameenah Ritson (Mother)

Aykia McKnight & Dae Muhammad (Father)

Bree Anderson & Father

Antoinette Carter & Susan Burton (Mother)

Anye' Young & LaDana Drigo (Mother)

This panel will highlight children of incarcerated parents and their families. Preliminary study findings shed light on the theme "it takes a village", which refers to the multitude of family and community resources that were received during a parent's incarceration. None of the interview subjects claimed to have become successful on their own. As such, on the pathway to success they were inspired, guided and/or blessed by individuals, instances, and opportunities that helped them to reach their goals. The role of panelists on this family panel will be to engage in a brutally honest dialogue around the family relationship prior to, during and after incarceration. Specifically sharing those experiences connected to their resiliency, success and triumphs. This panel includes the children's caregiver or formerly incarcerated parent.

10:15 AM-11:45 AM

It Takes A Village: Family and Community Supports for Children of Incarcerated Parents



Ameenah Ritson just completed a 4 year and nine month sentence in prison. Her husband's name is PrinceDylannova Ritson and they are the proud parents of a five-year-old son PrinceDashonnova and are expecting their daughter YourHighness in July. Prince and Ameenah got married after they met shortly in 2014 while in college. In 2015 they had their son, and after he was eight weeks old, Ameenah was arrested and sentenced to 6 years and nine months in prison. During that time the couple divorced and kept in touch through pictures, mail, phone calls and emails. Shortly after Prince turned three he was diagnosed with autism. His father was left to raise him by himself while she was incarcerated. He did this with little to minimal help through many struggles, barriers, and a lot of downfalls. They maintained focus on being good parents and having a good relationship with her son while incarcerated. After being released, the couple remarried in October 2019. Since then, both are employed, they moved into their own home, and Prince enlisted in the United States Air Force. Ameenah states "We will not lose, we will not accept society stigmas nor will we fall into the category of a broken family because of incarceration. We are fighters. We are winners. We are The Ritson's!"



Bree Anderson is a native New Orleanian that graduated from Warren Easton Sr. High School. Bree is a WE GOT US NOW Actionist, advocate, social entrepreneur and trauma expert, in view of parental incarceration and her story has been featured on talk shows, panels, podcasts and news articles about how mass incarceration affects children. Her social experience led her to become a community leader by helping to eliminate race-based discrimination as a former committee member of the NAACP and actively serve as a board member of Innocence Project New Orleans Young Professional Committee to defy society's stereotype of children with incarcerated parents. Bree has been nominated for several awards in 2019 including Champion of Change and Forbes 30 under 30. As well as, the Co-Founder of Daughters Beyond Incarceration, a non-profit geared towards enhancing the overall life of girls with incarcerated fathers.

Website: www.DBINOLA.org
Instagram: @breeofnola



Antoinette Carter (Toni) was born into poverty and struggle to a teenage mother, as a result of a brutal rape. Throughout her childhood, Toni endured her mother's drug and alcohol addiction, numerous arrests and repeated incarcerations which resulted in 6 prison terms. To cope with the trauma, Toni enveloped herself into her schoolwork and became an avid reader. Eventually, her mother, Susan Burton, would gain sobriety, and go on to found a Non-profit called A New Way of Life Reentry Project (ANWOL), as well as pen a best-selling memoir, Becoming Ms. Burton, receiving a 2018 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work. This work details many of the struggles between an incarcerated parent and their child. It has allowed Toni to speak on behalf of children of incarcerated parents nationwide and give them a voice to speak about their own strife of being unwillingly held captive within the justice system as well. Toni has gone on to speak at prisons, drug treatment facilities and other venues, speaking directly to parents on the direct affects of their incarceration on their children.

10:15 AM-11:45 AM

It Takes A Village: Family and Community Supports for Children of Incarcerated Parents

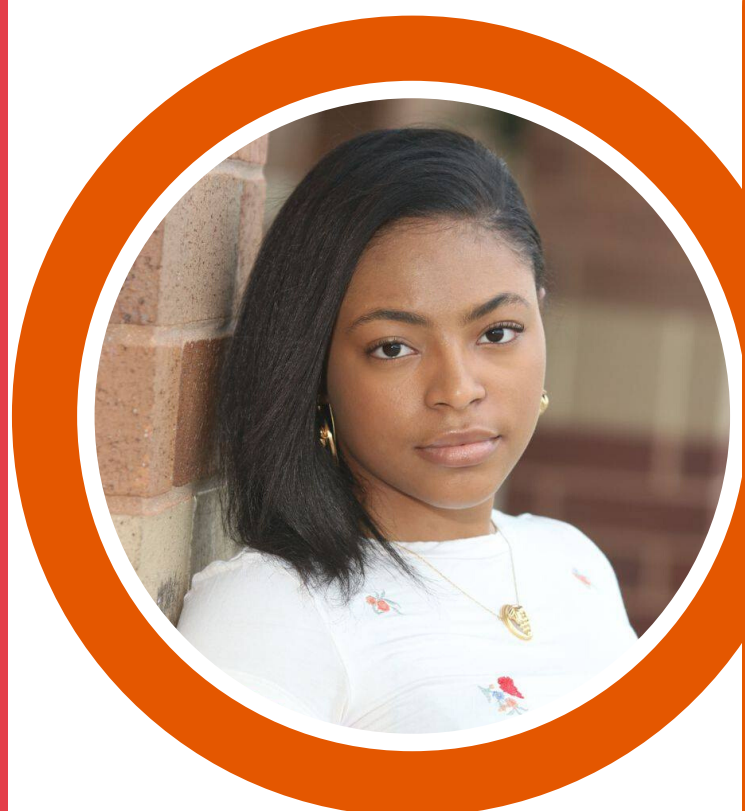


Born in a small urban north eastern city, Bridgeport, CT, Akiya McKnight learned very early that using creativity would be a tool through her chaotic environment. Growing up as a latch key kid with two formerly incarcerated parents, she was left alone a lot and used her imagination to pass the time and escape reality. She began writing short stories around age 10 and won numerous contest in middle school. After high school she acquired a Bachelor Degree in Mass Communication and a Minor in Journalism from the University of Bridgeport. She has written and or produced 6 film festival favorite shorts including SERVED, which centered around two adolescent sisters navigating life after their mother, Reena, had a run in with the law for the first time. Akiya has worked productions such as MTV's Scream Series, Warner Brothers's Doom Patrol and at Tyler Perry Studios. She's served as a board member since 2018 for the Atlanta based organization, Forever Family, which advocates and provides services for children with incarcerated parents. She moved to Los Angeles in 2019 and worked at the The Gersh Agency, a premiere talent agency. Akiya currently works at Shondaland Productions in Executive Support. Akiya's mission is to entertain, educate and enlighten through her films

Instagram: @visonarher



Daee Muhammad is a Criminal Justice Reform and Reentry advocate, a motivational speaker, and a community Activist. Presently, Daee is the Fatherhood Engagement Specialist at Family Reentry for incarcerated Dads program based in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He currently facilitates pre-release groups and assessments for Dads at Correctional Institutions in Connecticut preparing them for successful reentry. Formerly the Program Manager for Young Fathers incarcerated dads program at Manson Youth Institution in Cheshire, CT. Da'ee was very instrumental in pushing legislation to change the laws in Connecticut that prevent juveniles from receiving a life sentence. The juvenile sentencing laws were changed as direct result of his assistance and other positiveproductive formerly incarcerated individual's testimony at the capital on these issues. Daee is an advocate for formerly incarcerated people, and himself served 17 ½ years on a 25-year sentence. He is very familiar with the obstacles offenders face upon release (internal/external) and the uniformed decisions that young people make that place them in situations that are life altering. While in prison Daee was inspired and awakened mentally and spiritually which began his journey of transformation. In the darkness of prison, he began to illuminate his mind with education and self-knowledge. Daee is the recipient of the Save Our Babies award in 2008, the Department of Corrections Volunteer Service Award for Positive Role Model 2009, and Humanitarian of the Year Award in 2011 (Best Motivational Speaker) from the Matt Jones Foundation, 2018 Catalyst for Community Change Award from R.Y.A.S.A.P, and the 2019 Certificate of Recognition award from the Connecticut Department of Corrections Volunteer Services Unit.



On Father's Day 2018, a then 16-year-old Anyé Young self-published her first book to offer a glimpse into her life as a teenager coping with life while her father is serving a 12-year prison sentence. The guide book, Teen Guide to Living With Incarcerated Parents (#TGLWIP), shares her personal stories along with lessons she's learned while coping with the challenges of life away from her father and in a single-parent home. At 17 years of age, she graduated high school with high marks and earned a \$10,000 scholarship from ScholarCHIPS; a nonprofit providing college scholarships, mentoring and peer support to children of incarcerated parents. Anyé is now a rising sophomore with a full scholarship attending the University of Southern California, where she is majoring in Dramatic Arts. She is also a Producer for an upcoming documentary film in pre-production -- For Kids Like Me -- where she will be featured as a teen advocating for prison reform. Her most notable keynote speech was during the summer of 2019 at the University of Huddersfield, England (UK) during the International Coalition for Children With Incarcerated Parents (INCCIP) biennial conference. During the conference, she was nominated to serve as a Youth Ambassador for INCCIP.org.

Website: www.AnyeYoung.com

Instagram: @anya.young

10:15 AM-11:45 AM

It Takes A Village: Family and Community Supports for Children of Incarcerated Parents



LaDana Drigo is the Director of For Kids Like Me: a documentary film in pre-production offering a platform for children with incarcerated parents to share their journey as advocates seeking prison reform. Her background includes providing public relations consulting services to clients in the U.S. and the Caribbean, where she spearheads PR campaigns, conferences and press events for CEOs, attorneys, and nonprofits. Using her knowledge in public relations and marketing, she helped her teenage daughter, Anyé Young, in self-publishing her book, Teen Guide to Living With Incarcerated Parents (#TGLWIP). This self-help book project earned the book on-air features on WUSA's "Great Day Washington", ABC7 News' "Good Morning Washington", and FOX Baltimore's "B-More Lifestyle". LaDana volunteers as the Director of Public Relations for a Washington, D.C. metro area 501(c)(3) nonprofit --- Rebuild Dominica Inc. -- and was recently nominated to serve as the Executive Director for The Caribbean Business Alliance. She earned her Graduate Certificate in Public Relations from The University of Maryland and received her MA in Organizational Management at Ashford University, with a concentration in Global Urban Leadership. She also attended the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she earned her BA in Communications.

Website: www.ForKidsLikeMe.com
Instagram: @ladanadrigo

11:45 AM-12:00 PM

Break

If you have extra time, please make sure to check out the videos that center children of incarcerated parents that will be played during the breaks. All videos shown during the breaks are also available on youtube.

12:00 PM-12:30 PM

I Define My Own Success: Personal Definitions From Children of Incarcerated Parents

Executive Research Team

This session highlights preliminary study findings from the Executive Research Team. In a discussion format, the information shared during the session will include themes that emerged from the analysis of the following survey questions: (1) What is your definition of success? How do you define it?, (2) What does it mean to be successful?, (3) What resources and support did you have that helped you in being successful? (4) Do you consider yourself to be successful? Or on the road to success? and (5) What examples of success were around your? All panelists will provide their own personal definitions of success and share why it was important for them to define success on their own terms.

12:00 PM-12:30 PM

I Define My Own Success: Personal Definitions From Children of Incarcerated Parents

Executive Research Team



Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad



Dr. Britany Gatewood



Sydni Turner

12:30 PM-1:00 PM

Lunch Break and Book Exhibit

The book exhibit contains various works authored and/or illustrated by children of incarcerated parents. This virtual book display will provide links to publications and a personalized video from the author. Author videos will help viewers gain a better understanding of book content, author motivation and recommended audience.

1:00 PM-2:30 PM

My Rib: Marriage, Love & Relationship Success Among Children of Incarcerated Parents

**Sana & Joshua Cotten
Tony Lewis Jr. & Jessica Lewis
Ameenah & PrinceDylannova Ritson
Sherese Mansfield & John Jackson
Yukia Hugee & David Wilson**

This session provides insight into the love relationships among children of incarcerated parents. The couples panel allows for new voices to be heard. During interviews, children of incarcerated parents attributed part of their successes to a significant other. According to the preliminary study analysis, it was important for interviewees to be in a serious relationship with an individual they could trust. This panel will highlight a few of the couple narratives that stood out during the data collection phase.

1:00 PM-2:30 PM

My Rib: Marriage, Love & Relationship Success Among Children of Incarcerated Parents



Over 36 years ago, Joshua and Sana Cotten were created for each other and have been united in marriage for 12 years and parent two children. Since 2016, Joshua has been the Youth Pastor at Shiloh Baptist Church in Middletown, CT, as well as, an Assistant Teacher at ACES in North Haven, CT. Sana is the Founder of Unashamed, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster emotional health in disadvantaged families that have experienced incarceration, foster care, and teen pregnancy. Through various initiatives, Unashamed equips families with the tools to dismantle unhealthy generational patterns and transition from surviving to thriving. They seek to support, inspire, and empower young men and women undergoing difficult situations and sow seeds into their future - even when they can't see a future in sight. She is also the curator and host of the Christian talk show, Queens Court Live, which is dedicated to bring awareness to the plight of the everyday Christian woman through uncomfortably, necessary conversations that are taboo in the church setting. The couple has served as the Director and Assistant Director of Camp Shiloh, an affordable, state licensed, youth summer camp for the past 12 years. Many youths in foster care and those affected by paternal incarceration have been served through their summer camp. They believe in purposeful living and have often opened their home to abandoned youth.

Websites: sanalatreatise.com and unashamedinc.org
Facebook & Instagram: @sanalatreatise
Facebook: @josh cotten



Jessica Lewis is an analyst and entrepreneur in Washington, DC. Before working for the local government, she spent 12 years in the private sector in commercial real estate working as a Finance Analyst and then a Leasing Specialist. In 2017, Jessica became co-owner of a children's event planning business, Kid District, where they specialize in consultation, creative design, and day of party planning. In 2011, Jessica also started a catering company, Simply Deliciosa, which specializes in American and Brazilian cuisines. As a first generation American, she loves to travel and spend time with family. Jessica is the wife of DC activist, author, and philanthropist Tony Lewis Jr and together they have two daughters, Isabella and Sophie.

Instagram: @simplyjess120

Tony Lewis Jr. is an author, activist, re-entry expert, community leader and champion for children with incarcerated parents. Mr. Lewis has fought relentlessly for the past 20 years to empower men, women, and children impacted by mass incarceration. His work and advocacy has been featured on CNN, BET, Elite Daily, The Breakfast Club, Black Enterprise, The Takeaway, Hot 97 and numerous times in the Washington Post. Mr. Lewis has received has been honored and recognized for his work in reentry, social justice, and community organizing both locally and nationally. He and his wife Jessica have 2 daughters Isabella and Sophie.

Website: www.tonylewisjunior.com
Twitter: [mrtonylewisjr](https://twitter.com/mrtonylewisjr)
Instagram: [mrtonylewisjr](https://www.instagram.com/mrtonylewisjr)

1:00 PM-2:30 PM

My Rib: Marriage, Love & Relationship Success Among Children of Incarcerated Parents

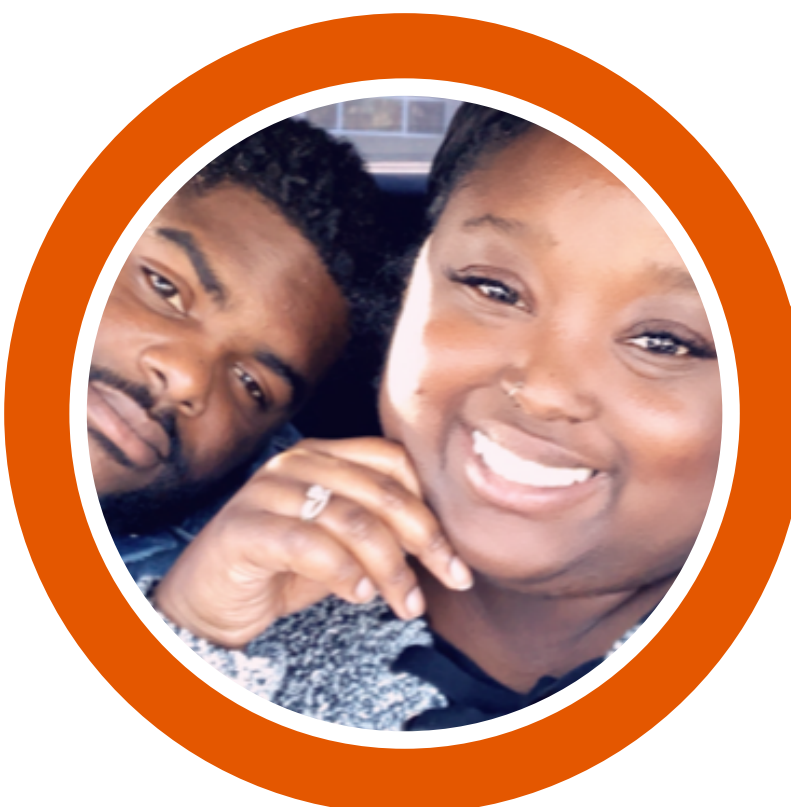


Ameenah Ritson just completed 4 years and nine month sentence in prison. Her husband's name is PrinceDylannova Ritson and they are the proud parents of a five-year-old son PrinceDashonnova and are expecting their daughter YourHighness in July. Prince and Ameenah got married after they met shortly in 2014 while in college. In 2015 they had their son, and after he was eight weeks old, Ameenah was arrested and sentenced to 6 years and nine months in prison. During that time the couple divorced and kept in touch through pictures, mail, phone calls and emails. Shortly after Prince turned three he was diagnosed with autism. His father was left to raise him by himself while she was incarcerated. He did this with little to minimal help through many struggles, barriers, and a lot of downfalls. They maintained focus on being good parents and having a good relationship with her son while incarcerated. After being released, the couple remarried in October 2019. Since then, both are employed, they moved into their own home, and Prince enlisted in the United States Air Force. Ameenah states "We will not lose we will not except society stigmas nor will we fall into the category of a broken family because of incarceration. We are fighters. We are winners. We are The Ritson's!"



An entrepreneur and champion of change, Yukia is committed to advocating for children and families with incarcerated parents, returning citizens and giving hope to the under-served population- through her life-building ministry. Conceived in prison, Yukia knows first-hand what it is to defy the odds and draw strength through the adversity life brings when growing up in an urban community with incarcerated parents. She is the Executive Director of London Bridgez, Inc. which leads several initiatives designed to bridge the gap between incarcerated parents and their children by providing mentoring, school supplies, tutoring, and community support. Yukia volunteers weekly at the DC Jail by empowering men and women. She has mentored, tutored and fostered in her very own community in Southeast DC. Yukia enjoys mentoring and serving single mothers through her Suite Zuri Boutique. Yukia Hugee is a mother of two amazing children, Quentin Dion and Zuri Dreme. She currently works as a Community Navigator & Activist. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science at the University of the District of Columbia. She is a graduate of an accelerated program at Ballou Senior High School and serves faithful at The Temple of Praise in Washington, DC.

Instagram:@thekingmrs



Cherese Mansfield and John Jackson biography avaiable upon request.

2:30 PM-2:45 PM
Break

If you have extra time, please make sure to check out the videos that center children of incarcerated parents that will be played during the breaks. All videos shown are available on youtube.

2:45 PM-3:15 PM
Theoretical Perspectives On Resilience
Dr. Elizabeth Ricks

This session will discuss current and historical research on theoretical frameworks on resilience. In addition, the presenter will shed light on theory about at-risk youth and their pathways to resilience.



Elizabeth Ricks, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development and Psychoeducational Studies at Howard University. She currently teaches courses that focus on youth placed at risk and resiliency, parent-child relationships and research methods. Dr. Ricks' research focuses on classroom contextual factors that contribute to the development of cognitive self-regulation, approaches to learning and mathematics and reading achievement in young children. Dr. Ricks earned a doctorate in Educational Psychology with a concentration in Educational Policy from Howard University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Public Policy Analysis from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Ricks has presented at various conferences on child development, such as the American Education Research Association, Society for Research in Child Development, and the American Psychological Association. In addition to conference presentations, she has published in the Journal of Contemporary School Psychology and the Journal of Youth and Adolescence, among other outlets. Dr. Ricks is currently working on a project that examines within-group variation in social-emotional development, approaches to learning, and literacy among African American kindergarten boys.

3:15 PM-3:30 PM
Flipping the Script: Centering Positive Outcomes Among Black Children of Incarcerated Parents
Executive Research Team

This session provides a framework for moving forward with research on children of incarcerated parents that will shift the paradigm by highlighting stories of success and resilience. During this presentation the Executive Research Team will share their insight on the dynamic pathways in which study subjects described during their interviews. For this particular discussion, preliminary study findings will be identified and will include dialogue around the two primary research questions: (1) What factors contribute to resilience in the lives of Black children of incarcerated parents? and (2) What internal and external barriers do Black children of incarcerated parents overcome in their pursuits to success?

3:15 PM-3:30 PM

Flipping the Script: Centering Positive Outcomes Among Black Children of Incarcerated Parents



Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad



Dr. Britany Gatewood



Sydni Turner

3:30 PM-5:00 PM

Not A Statistic: Success and Resilience Among Children of Incarcerated Parents

Tenaj Moody
Alfonzo Duckett
Quniana Futrell
Jasmine Johnson

Research often utilizes the phrase that *“children of incarcerated parents have a greater likelihood of going to prison than their peers who have not experienced parental incarceration”*. A general understanding of the statement allows individuals to know that it is not true for all children who experience parental confinement. Still, the negative assumption remains and overwhelmingly stigmatizes millions of affected children, young adults and adults. Specifically for this reason, it is important to provide a counter narrative. In order to gain a more rounded understanding of the lived experiences among children of incarcerated parents, research should also include instances when they achieve goals, reach milestones and succeed.

This panel of directly impacted adults will share the ups and downs they faced as they journeyed through life, on their unique paths to success. Speaking directly to the resilience they honed along the way, panel participants will share how they strategically did not become a negative statistic.



Washington D.C. native, Alfonzo Duckett, aka Houzmazoo holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Central State University. He is the founder and owner of Houzmazoo Network LLC, a media platform designed to create a safe space for youth to showcase a variety of skills ranging from sports, music, fashion, art, community engagement etc. Mass incarceration has personally impacted Houzmazoo as he experienced parental incarceration. During his childhood, at one point in time, both of his parents were incarcerated in addition to a host of family members being incarcerated. Houzmazoo uses his network as a positive platform for at-risk youth and children of incarcerated parents who share similar backgrounds. His mission is to provide an outlet to these youth as a means to promote success and resiliency through self-expression and presenting talents using media.

Instagram: @Houzmazoonetwork
Twitter: @Houzmazoo
YouTube: Houzmazoo Network

3:30 PM-5:00 PM

Not A Statistic: Success and Resilience Among Children of Incarcerated Parents



Tenaj's intersecting identities as an Afro-Latina millennial raised in North Philadelphia, and the accompanying personal testimonies rooted in these lived experiences, have fostered an unwavering vocational commitment to create systemic change for communities. Raised by a single mother who experienced incarceration over eighteen times, Tenaj became a first generation college student. Now at 27 years old, she is a Licensed Behavior Specialist and holds a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Saint Joseph's University. She currently works for a non-profit as Program Director for the From Prison Cells to PhD, providing reentry support through education, mentoring, and policy change for returning citizens. With over five year of experience, she has worked addressing prison education, special education and victim advocacy. In addition, Tenaj has worked as a special education teacher, counselor, coach, and victim advocate working with survivors of trauma. Through directing her efforts towards victim advocacy, five years after surviving an abusive relationship, she founded Light to Life, LLC. Light to Life is a domestic violence prevention program that educates, engages and empowers people to find their "light to life." Tenaj is committed to providing opportunities for breakthroughs on transformative change that fosters an equitable society for people returning from prison and reentering society.

Instagram: @onemissiononevoice
Website: www.Lighttolife.org



From the streets of Newark, NJ, to having two incarcerated parents, to being featured on PBS's Emmy award-winning show, Virginia Currents, Quniana Futrell, known as "Author Q", is the epitome of a success story and champion for change. Universally captivating audiences from the United States to Wells of Hope Ministries in Kampala Uganda, with her straightforward and bold methods of resilience and healing, Author Q has turned her pain into purpose. In 2014, Author Q started Empowering Communities Everywhere (ECE) Firm, a development institute, that empowers individuals and organizations to change their story. In April 2015, Author Q and husband Alton started BRC (Building Resilience in Communities), Inc., a non-profit organization which serves children and families impacted by incarceration. As a change-agent for families, Author Q released her first children's book, Our Moms, a conversation-starter for parents, professionals or service providers who live or work with children of incarcerated parents. Focusing on breaking generational curses, and familial restoration, she has produced three additional books and an anthology and docu-series, Why My Mom. As a former professor proficient in curriculum development, Author Q created, 3PFamily Support Initiative, a partnering program designed to re-build and strengthen families affected by incarceration. Author Q is a current doctorate candidate in Community Care and Counseling specializing in Traumatology.

Website: qunianafutrell.com
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @authorqfutrel



New Jersey native, Jasmine Johnson is an educator, philanthropist, and author of the children's novel Nuri's Tinkle Collar. She grew up watching her mother spend countless hours working as a teacher in the community. Her mother taught her at an early age that it was her duty to serve the people in her community, beginning with children. In 2016, Jasmine founded JM Tutors. JM Tutors is a tool used to build relationships with families in the community and to provide professional, educational, tutoring services to scholars who are struggling academically. Jasmine graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Family and Child Studies in May 2016 and later earned her Master's Degree in Teaching Students with Disabilities in May 2017. Jasmine is currently enrolled in her second Masters program in Educational Leadership. In October 2019 Jasmine released her first children's book, Nuri's Tinkle Collar. This story follows the story of Nuri as she formulates a plan to convince her parents that they should get her a dog for her birthday. Nuri teaches us a great lesson on persistence, dedication and how we all have the ability to be innovative. Nuri's Tinkle Collar is now accompanied by a coloring book that was released in April 2020.

Instagram: @thenuricollection @jmtutors @_foreverjazzzy
<https://www.thenuricollection.com/>

5:00 PM-5:15 PM

Break

If you have extra time, please make sure to check out the videos that center children of incarcerated parents that will be played during the breaks. All videos shown are available on youtube.

5:15 PM-5:45 PM

Prison Is My Family Business: Longitudinal Reflections From A Child of An Incarcerated Parent Into A Resilient Black Woman

Dr. Breea Willingham

The plenary presentation will discuss a personal story around parental and familial incarceration. This reflective plenary will highlight the presenter's recent publication, "Prison Is My Family Business: Reflections of an African American Woman with Incarcerated Relatives Doing Research on Incarcerated African American Fathers" and provide insight into her experience as a Black female prisoner researcher with incarcerated relatives.



Dr. Breea Willingham is an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at SUNY Plattsburgh. She earned her Ph.D. in American Studies from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 2014. Dr. Willingham's teaching and research areas include women in the criminal justice system, Black women's prison writings, higher education in women's prisons, the impact of incarceration on families, and race and crime in the media.

Prior to beginning her academic career in 2005, Dr. Willingham worked as a newspaper reporter for 10 years covering crime, murder trials, and school board meetings in the Carolinas and Upstate New York. She also taught journalism at St. Bonaventure University and Sociology and Criminal Justice at SUNY Oneonta.

Influenced by her experiences as a sister and aunt of two men serving life sentences, Dr. Willingham's research focuses on the societal ramifications of mass incarceration, especially its impact on families. Her research goes beyond a critique of the institution of prison to include the narratives of the people marginalized by mass incarceration.

Dr. Willingham has presented her research at academic conferences nationally and internationally, given lectures at universities in the United States and the United Kingdom, and led writing and reentry workshops in women's and men's prisons. Her work on incarcerated fathers and their children, Black women's prison writing, teaching in women's prisons, and Black women and police violence has been published in academic journals and edited collections.

Dr. Willingham is currently writing a book about teaching and learning in women's prisons, due to be released in 2021. Her anthology titled Punishment and Society - based on her course of the same name - was published in 2020 by Cognella and is currently available for purchase and review.

Twitter: @DrBWillingham
Instagram: @Drbreewill

Respect

The overarching theme for Day 2 is **RESPECT**. This research study seeks to allow directly impacted populations, specifically children of incarcerated parents, to receive the respect they deserve. Respect as it relates to (1) allowing them to speak for themselves, (2) providing them with the platform to share their narratives, (3) empowering them by dismantling the negative deficit-based perspectives on their livelihood, (4) including them in work about them and providing compensation for their participation, (5) acknowledging their expertise through lived experience, (6) stepping back, and (7) allowing the children of incarcerated parents to step up.

This second day of conferencing will be filled with various discussions, debates and keynote presentations that highlight the magnitude and depth of expertise that a multitude of children of incarcerated parents bring to bear. Through the prism of resiliency we are all able to appreciate the dynamic nature of these exemplary young adults. In addition, participants will hear from *We Got Us Now- Actionists* from across the nation who are blazing paths forward on various fronts, including policy, social service, research and publications.

Day two is not just about shifting the negativity and stigma projected upon children of incarcerated parents, it is also about humanizing a population of leaders, community activists, research scholars, academicians and individuals with so many other noble careers. Respect is a pillar in the Black community that cannot be taken for granted. It is so much more than just a word. It allows for an individual to move amongst their community as a recognized ambassador. When you are respected you are understood. In order to understand the plight of children of incarcerated parents, we must RESPECT them.

9:00 AM-9:30 AM

OPENING

Dr. Terri Adams
Sydni Turner

Day two of the conference will open with welcome back remarks from the research team and Howard University leadership. During this brief segment, Dr. Terri Adams, Interim Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminology will talk about her current work around resilience in the face of disasters. In addition, Professor Adams will share information on the graduate and undergraduate programs in Criminology. In addition, Dr. Britany Gatewood will provide a conference overview of Day 2, remind participants to post on social media using hashtags #flipthescriptcoip, #successcoip and #drmuhammadexperience, and share any highlights and reminders for the day.

Terri Adams, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminology at Howard University. Dr. Adams' research takes an interdisciplinary approach to examining issues that have both theoretical and practical implications. Her specific research interests include emergency management, policing, gender studies, and the impact of trauma and disasters on individuals and organizations. Her work centers on the decision-making processes of both individuals and organizations in the face of crisis events. Dr. Adams' most recent publication *Policing During in Natural Disasters: Stress, Resilience, and the Challenges of Emergency Management* takes a critical review of the challenges faced by first responders before, during, and after natural disasters.



Sydni Turner is a second year Masters student at Howard University within the Sociology and Criminology department. In 2016, she received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology with a concentration in Criminal Justice and a minor in Family Studies from Towson University. Her research focuses on the dynamic shifts in the political economy as it relates to mass incarceration, the Black family, and reentry. More specifically, her Master's thesis will explore the mass incarceration of Black fathers who successfully parent and maintain relationships with their children during incarceration.

Instagram: @prettysydni



9:00 AM-9:30 AM

Black Lives Matter: Social Justice Advocacy Among Children of Incarcerated Parents

Dr. Britany Gatewood

During these times, the discussion of activism and advocacy have come into the national narrative. Within these opening remarks, Dr. Gatewood will speak to the connection of #BlackLivesMatter and other social justice topics with the lives of children of incarcerated parents. This population, nor their parents, are seen as political actors or community leaders, but our research shows that they are actively involved within their communities and on the forefront of social change and social movements. Dr. Gatewood will highlight study findings and themes surrounding this topic in the interviews conducted by the research team. This talk will center the importance of their narratives within this current climate and within scholarship.

Black Lives Matter: Social Justice Advocacy Among Children of Incarcerated Parents

Britany Gatewood recently earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from the Department of Sociology and Criminology at Howard University. She earned her Ph.D. with a concentration in social inequality and criminology, and a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies. She identifies as a Black queer woman scholar activist. She received her BA in Sociology at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and her MA in Liberal Arts at the University of Detroit Mercy. Her research interests include social inequality, criminology, social movements, and scholar activism. Her research focuses on social movements within carceral institutions and well as the political practice and the tradition of resistance of Black women and their children. Britany's dissertation explores the impact of the criminal justice system on Black women. Specifically, how incarceration in conjunction with one's political, social, and economic position affect their activism and political participation, collectively and individually.

Instagram and Twitter: @drbjgate



9:30 AM-10:00 AM

The Time Is Always Now: Action Today, Tomorrow & Forever Ebony Underwood

Ebony will discuss her journey to healing, advocacy & action as founder/CEO of We Got Us Now.

Ebony Underwood, is the founder/CEO of WE GOT US NOW, a national nonprofit nonpartisan organization and movement build by. led by and about children and young adults impacted by parental incarceration with the mission to ENGAGE, EDUCATE, ELEVATE & EMPOWER this historically invisible population through the use of digital narratives, safe-spaces & advocacy led campaigns to ensure their voices are at the forefront of strategic initiatives, practices and policies that will help to keep families connected, create fair sentencing and end mass incarceration.

Ebony is a social entrepreneur, content creator, actionist and Soros Justice Fellow. Her interest in this advocacy work is personal and pivotal. As a daughter of an incarcerated parent, Ebony was traumatized and emotionally devastated by her father's incarceration, silently suffering for years. In 2014, Ebony began to speak publicly and share her story through film, television and social media advocacy. She has directed and produced the video, Open Plea to the President; created the digital campaign, website and documentary short, Hope for Father's Day and #FreeBillUnderwood about her family's ordeal and published op-ed articles in Huffington Post, The Appeal, Vibe and .Mic.

Since 2016, Ebony has spearheaded and produced the Google-initiated digital campaign, #LOVELETTERS to demonstrate the unbreakable bond between an incarcerated parent and their child on Mother's Day and Father's Day. In 2017, she received a Proclamation from the City of NY for her advocacy work highlighting the issue of children with incarcerated parents. In 2018, she joined the Board of Directors of the Sentencing Project. She is featured in two NEW books by award winning leaders in the movement to end mass incarceration, Until We Reckon and The Meaning of Life, plus the #EndLifeImprisonment campaign.

Ebony is a herald voice championing for the millions of children and young adults impacted by parental incarceration speaking nationally including Yale Law School, Columbia Law School, NYU Law School, American Law School, John Jay School of Criminal Justice, Sing Sing State Correctional facility, Google, SXSW, YouTube and has been invited to the White House several times on their behalf. Her personal mission is to help heal and eliminate the devastating impacts of parental incarceration for children and young adults by building an empowered community of allies and directly impacted leaders. #WEGOTUSNOW

Website: www.WEGOTUSNOW.org
Instagram and Twitter: @We_GotUsNow
Facebook: @wegotusnow



Day 2 | June 18 | Respect

10:00 AM-10:50 AM

We Got Us Now: A Day of Respect
The Power of WE as Policymakers

Jasmine Fernandez
Ashley Jackson
Alexandria Pech
Bree Anderson
Monae Evans
Isabel Coronado

Website: www.WEGOTUSNOW.org
Instagram and Twitter: @We_GotUsNow
Facebook: @wegotusnow

A discussion from the voices of directly impacted young women in the We Got Us Now community about the goals and challenges of advocating for policies on behalf of children of incarcerated parents as subject matter experts.

Jasmine Fernández is a natural redhead Latina, born and raised in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn. She is an artist, educator, organizer and WE GOT US NOW Strategist. Prior to relocating to Charlottesville, Virginia, Fernández served in multiple managerial positions at the New York City Department of Education. Fernández has worked to advance education and the arts alongside communities across the world – from Brooklyn to Houston, to communities in Nicaragua, Haiti, and Tanzania. Whether in the government or advocacy space, Jasmine has always advocated and centered the voices of black and brown youth, children of incarcerated parents, and women of color. Her advocacy is influenced and driven by her personal lived-experience as a daughter of an incarcerated parent.



Alexandria is a WE GOT US NOW Actionist based in AZ and doctoral student in Family Studies and Human Development at The University of Arizona. She is working on her dissertation proposal that centers the lived experiences of adolescent girls of color experiencing familial incarceration. She is the instructor for FCSC 301: Applied Critical Thinking to Discourses in Family and Consumer Science Organizations. Her research interests are centered on: Adolescent development among youth of color, particularly youth with incarcerated parents, Youth Participatory Action Research, Critical Race and Intersectionality Theoretical Frameworks and Counterstory methodology. Her recent accomplishments include: 2017 R.A.C.E. Fellow (Research Advocacy in Critical Education), 2016 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, 2015 University of Arizona Centennial Graduate Achievement Award



Monae Evans is a senior policy analyst for the New York City Mayor's Office of Operations, a WE GOT US NOW member and daughter of an incarcerated parent fighting to reform America's criminal justice system. Monae has previously served as a campaign manager for the Decriminalize Poverty campaign with Global Citizen where she led a multi-faceted campaign to petition Gov. Andrew Cuomo to end cash bail in New York state. In her new position, at the New York City Mayor's Office of Operations, Evans hopes to turn several of the criminal justice reforms she worked on at Global Citizen into concrete policies. Evans's efforts were featured on Activate, a National Geographic series that showcases the Global Citizen movement. In the second episode, "Ending Cash Bail," Evans reflected on how her father's hardships influenced her career path.



Day 2 | **June 18** | **Respect**

10:05 AM-10:50 AM

We Got Us Now: A Day of Respect
The Power of WE as Policymakers

Isabel Coronado is a policy entrepreneur at Next100, a WE GOT US NOW member of and a citizen of the Mvskoke (Creek) Nation. Her clan is the Wind Clan, and her tribal town affiliation is Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. At Next100, Isabel is focused on creating policy aimed at reducing the generational cycle of incarceration in Native communities. Her vision for the future is to see Indian Country prosper for years to come. Isabel has witnessed the effects of mass incarceration on Indigenous people throughout her life, and they inspired her to help create the American Indian Criminal Justice Navigation Council (AICJNC), a nonprofit in Oklahoma aimed at reducing recidivism among tribal members and helping reduce the trauma family members endure as a result. At AICJNC, Isabel served as deputy director. Isabel was selected by the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute as a 2018 Champions for Change recipient, and by Mvskoke Women's Leadership as the 2019 College Student of the Year. She is also a member of Alpha Pi Omega. Isabel received her BS in 2017 from Northeastern State University, and her master's of public health with an emphasis on rural and underserved populations from Oklahoma State University in 2019.



Bree Anderson is a native New Orleanian that graduated from Warren Easton Sr. High School. Bree is a WE GOT US NOW Actionist, advocate, social entrepreneur and trauma expert, in view of parental incarceration and her story has been featured on talk shows, panels, podcasts and news articles about how mass incarceration affects children. Her social experience led her to become a community leader by helping to eliminate race-based discrimination as a former committee member of the NAACP and actively serve as a board member of Innocence Project New Orleans Young Professional Committee to defy society's stereotype of children with incarcerated parents. Bree has been nominated for several awards in 2019 including Champion of Change and Forbes 30 under 30. As well as, the Co-Founder of Daughters Beyond Incarceration, a non-profit geared towards enhancing the overall life of girls with incarcerated fathers.

Website: www.DBINOLA.org
Instagram @breeofnola



Ashley Jackson is a WE GOT US NOW Actionist. She is a Charlotte, NC native passionate about becoming the change she would like to see in her community. Her retail company, Gift Box Shop intentionally helps incarcerated individuals stay connected to friends, family, and loved ones through the act of gift giving. Ashley uses her own experience of growing up with a father, Orrin Jackson, who is currently serving a 98-year sentence in FCI Butner in North Carolina for a non-violent drug-related offense to become a resource for those affected by mass incarceration. Gift Box Shop has allowed Ashley to use her creativity, empathy, and personal insight to play a role in reducing recidivism, one gift at a time. Ashley also serves as a Program Assistant for Life Works within The Center for Community Transitions, which provides individuals with criminal records with a variety of resources and tools necessary to reach their professional and personal goals. She is also a Direct Support Professional for those with intellectual disabilities in the Charlotte area.



10:50 AM-10:55 AM

Short Break

Day 2 | June 18 | Respect

10:55 AM-11:15 AM

We Got Us Now: A Day of Respect
Healing through Wellness & Artistic Expression

Miko Underwood
Nahid Ebrahimi

Website: www.WEGOTUSNOW.org
Instagram and Twitter: @We_GotUsNow
Facebook: @wegotusnow

A one-on-one conversation that highlights the importance of healing through the expression of art, design and wellness.

Miko Underwood is an artist, seasoned design director, sustainability practitioner, actionist and the founder of the first sustainable denim brand in Harlem, NY, Oak & Acorn - Only for the Rebelles, agenderless luxury heritage brand. She has developed and launched a myriad of multi-million dollar Juniors/Young Contemporary, Denim-Based Sportswear, Young Men's, Missy & Childrenswear Lifestyle brands. A denim expert, with nearly twenty years of wash & product and brand development, Miko founded BLDG 357, Inc. a boutique multimedia design consultancy with global clients in the U.S., China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, New Zealand & West Africa to aid fashion companies in the areas of team & brand development & brand diversification. She was asked to relocate to Shanghai as acting head of operations & global design director for a top American importer. The consultancy has continued to work with fashion and non-fashion companies. Miko is the consulting creative director for We Got Us Now, a non-profit that focuses on identifying & amplifying the voices of children and young adults impacted by parental incarceration & active voice for those who share her personal story in the fashion community. Underwood lives in Harlem, NY is a vegan, passionate about sustainability in practice curates a monthly wellness event experience via ENO ONU. A Collective of Artists promoting healing arts using sound, plant medicine and meditation

Website: <http://www.oakandacornbrand.com/mission-impact>

Nahid Ebrahimi was born & raised in Oakland, CA and is the daughter of an Iranian immigrant and a Black American from Louisiana. She has been committed to social justice and elevating youth power since her work as a youth organizer began at the early age of 13. Through her experience in youth development and digital storytelling, Nahid strives to create and support safe spaces (digitally and physically) that honor the authentic experiences of young people of color. Nahid comes to this work grounded in love and compassion for her communities. As a Partner at The SOZE Agency, a trailblazing social-impact agency, for three years Nahid continued to bring people together in support of social causes and campaigns they deeply believed in. Now as an independent cultural organizer, Nahid continues to support projects with clients and partners alike who prioritize the happiness, joy, and resilience within communities of color. Currently, Nahid is supporting the efforts of WE GOT US NOW project manager, a national nonprofit advocacy organization built by, led by and for young people who have experienced parental incarceration. WE GOT US NOW's mission is to Engage, Educate, Elevate and Empower this historically invisible population. In addition to her work with WE GOT US NOW and other value-aligned clients, Nahid is independently working to produce content and experiences that create opportunities for joy, celebration, and storytelling. A project she is excited to share publicly is a docu-series that highlights the ways in which the resilience of communities of color shows up through our food. This series will tell the story of the land and the people who thrived on it.



Day 2 | June 18 | Respect

11:15 AM-11:20 AM

Short Break

11:20 AM-11:45 AM

We Got Us Now: A Day of Respect **Mass Incarceration through the Generations**

Nkechi Taifa
Roach Brown
Ebony Underwood

Website: www.WEGOTUSNOW.org
Instagram and Twitter: @We_GotUsNow
Facebook: @wegotusnow

A historical discussion on mass incarceration that highlights the changes and policies through the generations.

Nkechi Taifa is President and CEO of The Taifa Group, LLC, a social enterprise firm whose mission is to advance justice. Prior to forming the Taifa Group, Nkechi served as the Advocacy Director for Criminal Justice for the Open Society Foundations and Open Society Policy Center from 2002-2018, focusing on issues of sentencing reform, law enforcement reform, reentry, prison reform, executive clemency, and racial justice. She also founded the Justice Roundtable coalition while at the Open Society. As the Roundtable convener, Taifa was in the leadership of the coalition responsible for passage of both the Second Chance Act reentry legislation (2008) and the Fair Sentencing Act crack disparity legislation (2010). She helped to fuel the mobilization of the Obama administration's clemency initiative, which resulted in the early release from unjust imprisonment of over 1,700 prisoners. In Fall 2020, Nkechi is set to release her memoir, *Black Power, Black Lawyer: My Audacious Quest for Justice*. She is also the published author of several classic books for children - *Shining Legacy: Storypoems and Tales for the Young*, *So Black Heroes Forever Will be Sung* (1983); *Three Tales of Wisdom* (1983); and *The Adventures of Kojo and Ama* (1992). Nkechi has served on the Board of Directors for WE GOT US NOW since its inception in 2017.

Website: TheTaifaGroup.com
Facebook: [TheTaifaGroup](https://www.facebook.com/TheTaifaGroup) Twitter: @Nkechi_Taifa



While serving a life sentence and advocating for prisoners rights, Roach Brown was paralyzed during a guards riot. Eight months in solitary confinement found Roach writing a poem in the dust under his bunk. This led to the creation of the Inner Voices, and acclaim prison theatrical troupe. This phenomenal troop traveled outside the gates of Lorton Correctional Complex over 500 times without a single escape or incident, performing original plays, skits and social dramas-- even the Smithsonian Institution in a special exhibit for the White House conference on drugs. While still serving a life sentence, Roach was granted extended furloughs from prison to work at national public television to rewrite one of his plays, *Holidays...Holloways*, which won the New York Film Festival Best Social film of the Year award. His outstanding content has led to three Emmy Award nominations and the film *Slam* won first place at the 1998 Cannes International Film Festival. President Gerald R Ford commuted Roach's life sentence, granting him immediate parole on Christmas Day 1975. He has worked with the DC Superior Court, the US Department of Justice, the DC Council, Congressional Braintrust on Criminal Justice (Corrections), and created the Office of Ex- Offenders Affairs through the DC mayor's office. Currently he hosts the Pacifica radio program "Cross Roads" on WPFW 89.3FM, is Chairman of the Coalition of National Association of Ex-Offenders, and serves on the board of Previously Incarcerated People.

Website: www.theinnervoices.com



Ebony Underwood, is the founder/CEO of WE GOT US NOW, a national nonprofit nonpartisan organization and movement built by and about children and young adults impacted by parental incarceration with the mission to ENGAGE, EDUCATE, ELEVATE & EMPOWER this historically invisible population through the use of digital narratives, safe-spaces & advocacy led campaigns to ensure their voices are at the forefront of strategic initiatives, practices and policies that will help to keep families connected, create fair sentencing and end mass incarceration.



Day 2 | June 18 | Respect

11:45 AM-12:00 PM

Break

If you have extra time, please make sure to check out the videos that center children of incarcerated parents that will be played during the breaks. All videos shown are available on youtube.

12:00 PM-12:30 PM

The Path of Research: Paving The Way to Respect, Accountability & Recognition

Dr. Bahiyyah M. Muhammad
Dr. Britany Gatewood
Dr. Whitney Hollins
Ebony Underwood

This panel introduces and engages participants in a critically honest dialogue about “who are considered the experts?” and “why are they considered experts?”. Research scholars, by default, are often deemed “the experts” by way of educational experience, publications and scholarship. The panel presenters will challenge this concept as they seek to expand the definition of “expert”. In this conversational exploration of extensive “lived experience” vs. extensive “learned experience”, directly-impacted scholars and practitioners debate the importance of recognizing and respecting children of incarcerated parents as experts.

Dr. Whitney Q. Hollins is an advocate for children who have a parent involved in the justice system. As the daughter of a formerly incarcerated parent, her direct experience has led her to explore the ways these children navigate and negotiate the unique set of circumstances that incarceration presents. As a researcher and educator, she believes that teachers play a vital role in supporting children with a justice involved parent. Hollins currently works as an elementary school special education teacher, an adjunct instructor at various CUNY colleges and a research assistant at We Got Us Now. She is also a member of the Justice Across Generations Speakers Bureau through The Osborne Association. She holds a Ph.D. in Urban Education from the CUNY Graduate Center. Her dissertation focused on children who have justice involved parents with an emphasis on lived experience as expertise. She recently published a children’s book featuring a character with an incarcerated parent titled Anna’s Test.

Website at www.docwhitneyq.com
Twitter & Instagram: @docwhitneyq



Britany Gatewood recently earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from the Department of Sociology and Criminology at Howard University. She earned her Ph.D. with a concentration in social inequality and criminology, and a Graduate Certificate in Women’s Studies. She identifies as a Black queer woman scholar activist. She received her BA in Sociology at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and her MA in Liberal Arts at the University of Detroit Mercy. Her research interests include social inequality, criminology, social movements, and scholar activism. Her research focuses on social movements within carceral institutions and well as the political practice and the tradition of resistance of Black women and their children. Britany’s dissertation explores the impact of the criminal justice system on Black women. Specifically, how incarceration in conjunction with one’s political, social, and economic position affect their activism and political participation, collectively and individually.

Instagram and Twitter: @drbjgate



12:00 PM-12:30 PM

The Path of Research: Paving The Way to Respect, Accountability & Recognition

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Website: www.WEGOTUSNOW.org
Instagram and Twitter: @We_GotUsNow
Facebook: @wegotusnow



Bahiyyah M. Muhammad, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Black Criminology at Howard University. She received her B.A. in Administration of Justice from Rutgers University-New Brunswick, NJ, her M.A. in Community Corrections from John Jay College in New York and her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Rutgers School of Criminal Justice in Newark, NJ. Dr. Muhammad teaches experiential learning courses on the graduate and undergraduate levels in the Department of Sociology and Criminology. Her service work has revolved around familial incarceration and led to hundreds of interviews with affected children, parents and caregivers in the United States, Africa, Europe, Uganda, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and various Caribbean Islands. Her most recent work revolves around shifting the negative paradigm among criminologist to highlighting success and resiliency among children of prisoners.

Website: www.drmuhammadexperience.com
Instagram: @drmuhammad_experience @projectironkids
Twitter: @drBmuhammad1



12:30 PM-1:00 PM

Lunch & Book Exhibit

The book exhibit contains various works authored and/or illustrated by children of incarcerated parents. This virtual book display will provide links to publications and a personalized video from the author. Author videos will help viewers gain a better understanding of book content, author motivation and recommended audience.

1:00 PM-2:30 PM

From Trauma to Resiliency And Beyond: Narratives Among Children of Incarcerated Parents

Donald Stevenson
Quamiir Trice
Shamellen Henderson
Charnal Chaney

Research has clearly highlighted that children of incarcerated parents experience a multitude of traumatic experiences. For example, parental incarceration is defined as being an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). We know alot about these negative experiences that occur in their lives. What we need to learn more about, is how they overcome them? This question will be addressed by the panelist and fully contextualized. Participants will gain insight into the strategies used to move from trauma into resiliency.

1:00 PM-2:30 PM

From Trauma to Resiliency And Beyond: Narratives Among Children of Incarcerated Parents

Donald Stevenson was born with tremendous obstacles before him, to a mother serving time in the Federal Bureau of Prisons and an estranged father. As a juvenile he had early involvement in the Juvenile Justice System and spent a tremendous amount of his youth detained at residential facilities. With the help of his mentors, Mr. Stevenson began to acknowledge his potential for leadership and an activist was born. His first initiative led to the incorporation of a course titled "Street Law" into the facilities curriculum taught by Georgetown Law Students. After being released, he helped to establish a youth anti-violence speak out group "Keep it Real" Inc. in 2001. Currently Mr. Stevenson is a Youth Development Specialist with DYRS. He hosts a series of sports activities linking at-risk youth to employment and education programs during the summer. He is co-founder of "Sons of Life," which provides mentoring, social and educational programming for children with incarcerated parents. "Sons of Life" has partnered with Wale, The Board Administration, and JukeBox DC. He produced a documentary, "Son of Life," which received the "Breakthrough Film Award" at the 2011 DMV International Film Festival. Mr. Stevenson also serves as an Ambassador for the DC or Nothing Movement.

Instagram: @dstevensonthephotoactivist



Quamiir Trice is a proud alumnus of Howard University holding a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. As an educator, he works with students from various backgrounds as the majority have experienced paternal incarceration. Quamiir shares similar experiences with his students as his father has been incarcerated since his adolescence. At the age of 15, Quamiir was incarcerated for selling drugs, which ultimately ignited a relationship between he and his incarcerated father. Upon release, he began working towards his father's exoneration. From traveling to Washington D.C to support his father's United States Supreme Court of Justice court hearings, to fundraising for new lawyers, to collecting over 1,700 petition signatures, Quamiir has become determined to fight for justice for his father. In addition, after hearing his father's story by the New York Times, over 15,000 people agreed his dad was wrongfully convicted and illegally sentenced, including President Barak Obama. A trailblazer in the community, it is his life mission to support in his father's clemency, end mass incarceration, and serve those in need of criminal justice reform work due to the lack of support and education within the system.

Instagram: @following_greatness



Charnal Chaney is a native Washingtonian mother of 5 beautiful children, 2 girls and 3 boys. Her mother became incarcerated when she was 3 years old where she remained in prison for 18 years. During that time, Charnal grew up in Ward 8, SE Washington, DC where she had to overcome many obstacles, challenges, and trying times. She has co-facilitated parenting workshops with her mother, Lashonia Thompson-El at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCIW) in Jessup, MD, assisting women who are preparing for release with setting realistic family reunification goals. Charnal works closely with The WIRE assisting children with incarcerated parents achieve their goals and coordinating events. Charnal cites stigma as the most challenging aspect of her mother's incarceration. Charnal is an aspiring entrepreneur, Trauma informed yoga instructor and meditation coach, who's desire is to open her own wellness center within the community to inspire and empower those seeking healing, health, and wellness. Charnal's heart is imbedded in helping to heal communities just as she has healed herself by taking proactive measures through her own health, wellness, and mindful healing techniques such as yoga and facilitating guided meditation sessions. Charnal promotes the power of meditation and prayer as she is a living and breathing example that through it all good, bad, and indifferent, with God's help - if you work it, it works!

Instagram: @black_wealth_wellness

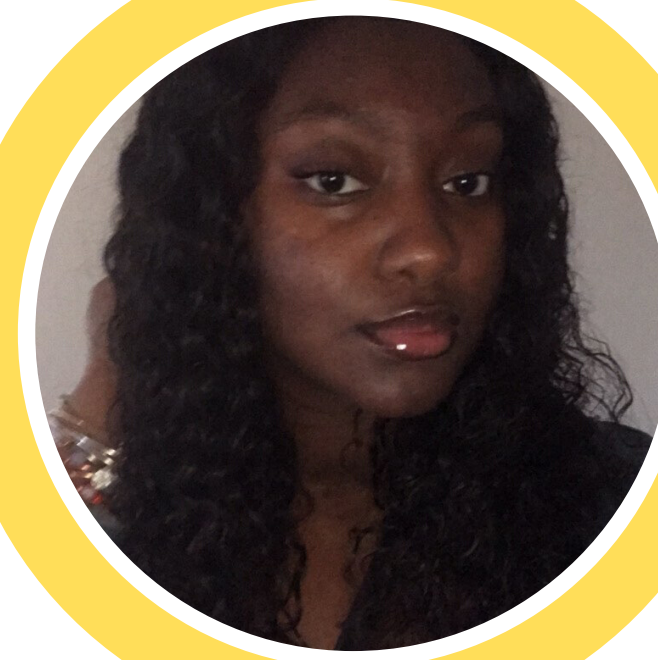


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1:00 PM-2:30 PM

From Trauma to Resiliency And Beyond: Narratives Among Children of Incarcerated Parents

Shamellen Henderson biography available upon request.



2:30 PM-2:45 PM

Break

If you have extra time, please make sure to check out the videos that center children of incarcerated parents that will be played during the breaks. All videos shown are available on youtube.

2:45 PM-3:15 PM

Put Some Respect on Their Names: Strategies for Conducting Research with Children of Incarcerated Parents

Executive Research Team

This panel is a Public Service Announcement (PSA) that serves as a reminder that researchers and practitioners must do the extra work it takes to fully understand children of incarcerated parents, prior to engaging in any dialogue or research. Having a full scope of theories that attempt to describe the population is not enough. In conducting research with directly-impacted individuals, they should be included in all phases of the process because they are the experts. As such, they should also be compensated for their engagement and leadership roles on projects and with programs. For example, it is recommended to bring them on as consultants. This panel of research team executives will provide tips for conducting research with children of incarcerated parents in a respectful way. It will serve to remind conference participants that those with lived experience should be respected for their experiences.



Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad



Dr. Britany Gatewood



Sydni Turner

3:15 PM-3:30 PM

Navigating Ivory Towers: Pathways to Education Among Children of Incarcerated Parents

Executive Research Team

This panel will include a discussion from the Executive Research Team on preliminary study findings around education. Specifically, post secondary acceptance, matriculation and graduation were among the strongest indicators of success among the national sample. Here the research team will share micro and macro thematic areas that emerged from data analysis. In addition, they will contextualize how children of incarcerated parents navigated to and through their post secondary and/or graduate programs.



Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad



Dr. Britany Gatewood



Sydni Turner

3:30 PM-4:00 PM

We Got Us Now: A Day of Respect

KNOW YOUR WORTH: Entrepreneurial ACTIONISTS

**Ebony Underwood
Tiffany Brown
Bree Anderson**

Website: www.WEGOTUSNOW.org
Instagram and Twitter: @We_GotUsNow
Facebook: @wegotusnow

From idea to concept, We Got Us Now Actionists share the components to lifting their voices in the work as Experts & Entrepreneurs.

Bree Anderson is a native New Orleanian that graduated from Warren Easton Sr. High School. Bree is a WE GOT US NOW Actionist, advocate, social entrepreneur and trauma expert, in view of parental incarceration and her story has been featured on talk shows, panels, podcasts and news articles about how mass incarceration affects children. Her social experience led her to become a community leader by helping to eliminate race-based discrimination as a former committee member of the NAACP and actively serve as a board member of Innocence Project New Orleans Young Professional Committee to defy society's stereotype of children with incarcerated parents. Bree has been nominated for several awards in 2019 including Champion of Change and Forbes 30 under 30. As well as, the Co-Founder of Daughters Beyond Incarceration, a non-profit geared towards enhancing the overall life of girls with incarcerated fathers.

Website: www.DBINOLA.org
Instagram@breeofnola



Day 2 | June 18 | Respect

3:30 PM-4:00 PM

KNOW YOUR WORTH: Entrepreneurial ACTIONISTS

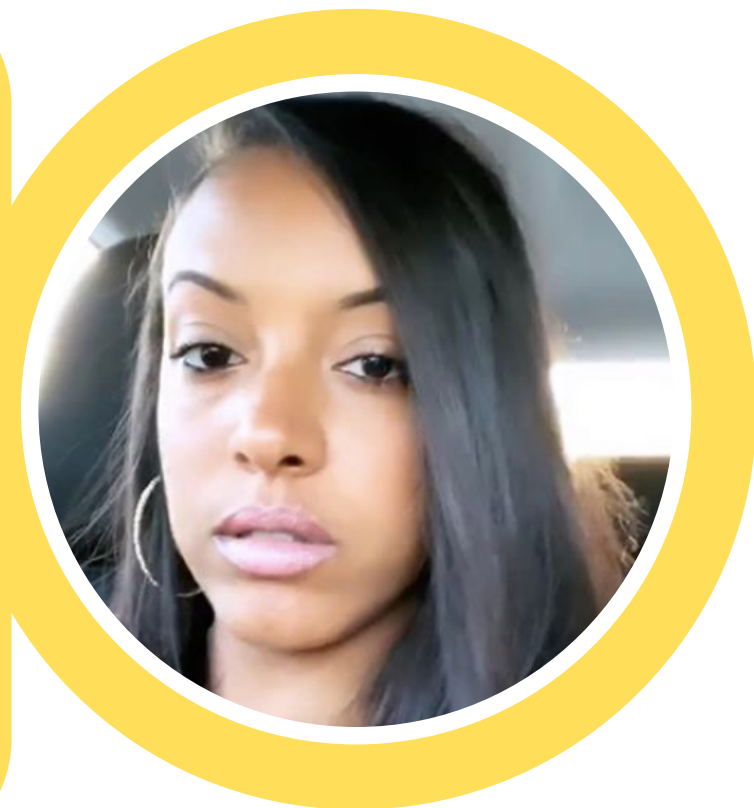
Ebony Underwood, is the founder/CEO of WE GOT US NOW, a national nonprofit nonpartisan organization and movement build by. led by and about children and young adults impacted by parental incarceration with the mission to ENGAGE, EDUCATE, ELEVATE & EMPOWER this historically invisible population through the use of digital narratives, safe-spaces & advocacy led campaigns to ensure their voices are at the forefront of strategic initiatives, practices and policies that will help to keep families connected, create fair sentencing and end mass incarceration.

Website: www.WEGOTUSNOW.org and www.EbonyUnderwood.info
Instagram and Twitter: @We_GotUsNow
Facebook: @wegotusnow



Tiffany Brown is a licensed counselor, youth developer and Founder of Developing Despite Distance, a community based program in Detroit that supports middle and high school aged young men impacted by parental incarceration. Having personally experienced many adversities as a youth, Tiffany knows firsthand the importance of quality youth programs and caring adults. In 2020, Tiffany became an Actionist with WE GOT US NOW. Having experienced parental incarceration as a teen, Tiffany knows firsthand the difficulties of living with a parent in prison. She attended Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia where she received a BA in Communications and then Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan where she earned a MA in Counseling.

Website: www.DevelopingDespiteDistance.org



4:00 PM-4:15 PM
Break

If you have extra time, please make sure to check out the videos that center children of incarcerated parents that will be played during the breaks. All videos shown are available on youtube.

4:15 PM-5:15 PM

Black Girl Magic: Sisters of Parental Incarceration Blazing Trails Forward

Yukia Hugee
Ebony Russ
Destiny Reynolds-Leaks
Ja'Mesha L. Morgan
Tenaj Moody
Akiya Mcknight
Dr. LaToya Mills
Dr. Whitney Hollins
Wanda Johnson
Aniyah Vines
Kleo Nicole Torres

4:15 PM-5:15 PM

Black Girl Magic: Sisters of Parental Incarceration Blazing Trails Forward

Black Girl Magic is a celebratory panel full of exemplary Black sisters of parental incarceration. This panel will allow for unapologetic dialogue among Black women movers and shakers. In this safe space they will be invited to relish in all of their accomplishments and share their future visions. This final presentation of the evening is a token of appreciation to a group of amazing women who deserve to be acknowledged, empowered and saluted for all they have done and will do.

Ebony Nicole Russ, MA, MS, PhD-c and is an award-winning, doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at Howard University, with concentrations in Medical Sociology and Criminology. Her dissertation is titled Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factor Prevention among Formerly Incarcerated African Americans: An Exploratory Study. She holds master degrees in both Counseling Psychology and Higher Education and Student Personnel. She previously worked as a clinical therapist, specifically, working with adolescents involved in the Juvenile Justice system. She has worked as a medical specialist at the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DCDoC). Ms. Russ has developed mentor program curricula to address the school prison pipeline plaguing young black and brown children.

Ebony is a member of the Board of Directors of the Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health as well as a member of various organizations, including the Association of Black Cardiologists, Society for the Study of Social Problems, American Society of Criminology, American Psychological Association, American College Personnel Association, Organization of Graduate Sociologists, and a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Instagram: @dr.ebony.scholar
Twitter: Ebony.Scholar



Aniyah Vines is a rising junior of Howard University and resides in North Carolina by way of Brooklyn NY. Her passion for justice was ignited upon her completion of the Justice and Injustice course during her experience as a 2016 Duke Tip scholar. Her passion became action after the senseless murder of her cousin, Delrawn Smalls, who was killed by an off-duty police officer in Brooklyn. Since then she has engaged in various levels of community and social justice projects which include creating the V.O.I.C.E. (Vision, Outspoken, Inspire, Create, Evolve) mentoring program, implementing and facilitating the Northwest School of the Arts (NWSA) Gun Violence Awareness walk-out, co-directing Howard University Alternative Spring Break at the DC jail, participating in the DC Jail Day of Service 2018 and served as the documentarian for the DC Jail Celebrity Panel - Dr. Muhammad Experience. She currently serves as the NAACP Education Committee Chairwoman-HU Chapter and continues to volunteer and mentor within Charlotte NC. She founded the non-profit organization T.R.A.P. (True Rehabilitation And Prosperity), which focuses on the implementation of strategic programming for youth that have been impacted directly and/or indirectly with the criminal justice system. Aniyah also enjoys the artistic expression of song by using her vocal instrument through classical-opera and gospel music. Her aspiration is to become an attorney and continue her life's work of social justice reform.

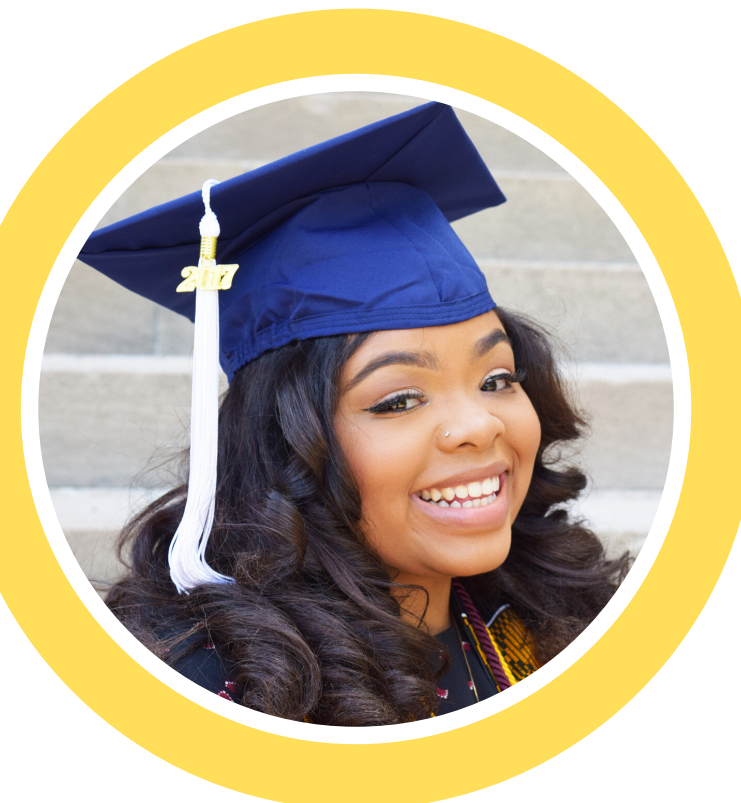
Instagram: @smilingemoji



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Black Girl Magic: Sisters of Parental Incarceration Blazing Trails Forward

Destiny Reynolds-Leak is from the East side of Chicago. She graduated from Howard University, Magna Cum Laude in 2017 with a bachelor's degree majoring in Psychology with a minor in Sociology. While attending Howard, she took courses under the *Dr. Muhammad Experience* that allowed her to go into prison and speak/learn from incarcerated individuals. Taking social justice courses allowed her to gain a more rounded understanding of the criminal justice system from both the personal and street levels. Destiny graduated with a Master's in Early Childhood Education from Erikson Institute in 2019 and is currently an early childhood educator on the south side of Chicago. She has a passion for educating and inspiring individuals who have a similar background/ upbringing to her own. She was born in a correctional facility in Springfield and both her biological mother and father were incarcerated during her early childhood. She has an 'adopted' family who adores, loves, and supports her in all her endeavors. She is the first in her immediate family to go to college and graduate and is a first-generation educator. Through God, love, family, and perseverance she was able to overcome all of the obstacles, barriers, and roadblocks. Destiny states: "My life has shaped me into the resilient and driven woman that I am today. I've accomplished so much at only 25 and my mind is constantly thinking of ways to do more and be more: The hustle and grind for more life never stops."



Ja'Mesha is a dynamic young lawyer with a passion for social justice and community empowerment. A native of Dallas, Texas and a first-generation graduate, Ja'Mesha graduated from the illustrious Howard University in 2015 before pursuing her juris doctor at the University of Southern California's Gould School of Law. She now works as a litigation attorney in Labor, Employment, and Entertainment. In her leisure, Ja'Mesha volunteers with local nonprofits to assist the community in requesting expungement of their criminal record. She also uses her legal acumen to aid formerly incarcerated individuals, and the Black community generally, in legally forming and protecting their small businesses. Most notably, Ja'Mesha serves as a mentor for inner-city youth across the greater Los Angeles area in all areas of their life, including advise and advocacy related to their encounters with America's court system.



Tenaj's intersecting identities as an Afro-Latina millennial raised in North Philadelphia, and the accompanying personal testimonies rooted in these lived experiences, have fostered an unwavering vocational commitment to create systemic change for communities. Raised by a single mother who experienced incarceration over eighteen times, Tenaj became a first generation college student. Now at 27 years old, she is a Licensed Behavior Specialist and holds a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Saint Joseph's University. She currently works at a non-profit as a Program Director called From Prison Cells to PhD, providing reentry support through education, mentoring, and policy change for returning citizens. With over five year of experience, she has worked addressing prison education, special education and victim advocacy. In addition, Tenaj has worked as a special education teacher, counselor, coach, and victim advocate working with survivors of trauma. Through directing her efforts towards victim advocacy, five years after surviving an abusive relationship, she founded Light to Life, LLC. Light to Life is a domestic violence prevention program that educates, engages and empowers people to find their "light to life." Tenaj is committed to providing opportunities for breakthroughs on transformative change that fosters an equitable society for people returning from prison and reentering society.



Instagram: @onemissiononevoice
Website: www.Lighttolife.org

4:15 PM-5:15 PM

Black Girl Magic: Sisters of Parental Incarceration Blazing Trails Forward

Born in a small urban north eastern city, Bridgeport, CT, Akiya McKnight learned very early that using creativity would be a tool through her chaotic environment. Growing up as a latch key kid with two former incarcerated was left alone a lot and used her imagination to past the time and escape reality. She began writing short stories at around age 10 and won numerous contest in middle school. After high school she acquired a Bachelor degree in Mass Communication and a minor in Journalism from the University of Bridgeport. She has written and or produced 6 film festival favorite shorts including SERVED, which centered around two adolescent sisters navigating life after their mother, Reena, has a run in with the law for the first time. Akiya has worked productions such as MTV's Scream Series, Warner Brothers's Doom Patrol and at Tyler Perry Studios. She's served as a board member since 2018 for the Atlanta based organization, Forever Family, which advocates and provides services for children with incarcerated parents. She moved to Los Angeles in 2019 and worked at the The Gersh Agency, a premiere talent agency. Akiya currently works at Shondaland Productions in executive support. Akiya's mission is to entertain, education and enlighten through her films.

Instagram: @visonarher



Dr. LaToya Mills-Thomas is a native of Galveston, TX. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership (Prairie View A&M University) and a Master's degree in Social Work (Our Lady of the Lake University). With over 16 years of experience in the social service and higher education fields, Dr. Mills currently serves as the Coordinator of the Career Readiness & Student Success Center at Galveston College and is the CoFounder of P.U.S.H Foundation, Inc. Dr. Mills' continued passion is to motivate, educate and advocate for those who have not yet gained the strength to do so for themselves. Though continuously pushing others to reach their higher selves; Dr. Mills has also silently pushed herself through the adversities of being a child of parental incarceration. She has journeyed with her biological dad through addiction and incarceration for over 30 years of her life. She continues to be his biggest champion despite his recidivism. Recently, she has decided to open up about her journey as she fights to break the negative stigmas that are placed on children who have survived parental incarceration. Not only has she survived the journey, she continues to thrive and assist others while doing so.

Website: <https://push-foundation.org/>



Dr. Whitney Q. Hollins is an advocate for children who have a parent involved in the justice system. As the daughter of a formerly incarcerated parent, her direct experience has led her to explore the ways these children navigate and negotiate the unique set of circumstances that incarceration presents. As a researcher and educator, she believes that teachers play a vital role in supporting children with a justice involved parent. Hollins currently works as an elementary school special education teacher, an adjunct instructor at various CUNY colleges and a research assistant at We Got Us Now. She is also a member of the Justice Across Generations Speakers Bureau through The Osborne Association. She holds a Ph.D. in Urban Education from the CUNY Graduate Center. Her dissertation focused on children who have justice involved parents with an emphasis on lived experience as expertise. She recently published a children's book featuring a character with an incarcerated parent titled Anna's Test.

Website at www.docwhitneyq.com

Twitter & Instagram: @docwhitneyq



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Black Girl Magic: Sisters of Parental Incarceration Blazing Trails Forward

Wanda M. Johnson, MBA is the Manager of Donor Relations and Stewardship for Howard University. When she is not liaising between donors on behalf of the university, she can be found assisting various campus organizations with reaching their fundraising goals. She's a servant at heart. Therefore, it was no surprise when she diverted her servitude from the citizens of New Orleans, after 6 years, to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Prior to relocating to Washington, DC, she served Dillard University's Institutional Advancement where she realized that she could advocate for first-generation college students, such as herself. Wanda obtained her Bachelor of Science degrees in Management and Business Administration from the University of New Orleans. Then, she obtained her Master's of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. This New Orleans native is a lover of African American history and culture, cooking creole and cajun cuisines, and the arts. She's candid about her strained relationship with her parents, one of which was incarcerated, but hopes to aspire our youth to dream in spite of their limitations.



An entrepreneur and champion of change, Yukia is committed to advocating for children and families with incarcerated parents, returning citizens and giving hope to the under-served population- through her life-building ministry. Conceived in prison, Yukia knows first-hand what it is to defy the odds and draw strength through the adversity life brings when growing up in an urban community with incarcerated parents. She is the Executive Director of London Bridgez, Inc. which leads several initiatives designed to bridge the gap between incarcerated parents and their children by providing mentoring, school supplies, tutoring, and community support. Yukia volunteers weekly at the DC Jail by empowering men and women. She has mentored, tutored and fostered in her very own community in Southeast DC. Yukia enjoys mentoring and serving single mothers through her Suite Zuri Boutique. Yukia Hugee is a mother of two amazing children, Quentin Dion and Zuri Dreme. She currently works as a Community Navigator & Activist. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science at the University of the District of Columbia. She is a graduate of an accelerated program at Ballou Senior High School and serves faithful at The Temple of Praise in Washington, DC.

Instagram @thekingmrs



IKleo Torres is a recent Cum Laude graduate of Alabama State University with a bachelors in criminal justice, as of May 1st, 2020. She is an advocate for many things at ASU, and has served diligently as the 2018-2019 Miss Junior, 2019 Miss Gold representing the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, the 2019 Steven Reed Mayoral Campaign Student Ambassador which contributed to the election of the first ever African American Mayor of Montgomery, Alabama, a 7x SWAC Track and Field Champion and currently a 2020 United States Census Student Ambassador. Though these accolades sound impressive, the road was not easy because she is also a product of a statistic in the United States who has lost both of their parents to the system due to incarceration. She has been on this journey to overcome the odds, and promised herself to make it meaningful. She coordinated a prom dress drive at G.W. Carver, in Montgomery, Alabama. These dresses specifically went to young girls who suffered from the loss of a parent due to incarceration or whom qualified as a ward of the state. Once upon a time, she knew what it was like not having resources coupled with the desire as a high school girl to attend prom. She successfully donated 30-40 gowns. Currently, she is working on her first contribution as an Alumni, which is a scholarship to waive housing deposits for when the housing portal opens annually. This will be awarded to students suffering from the loss of their parents due to incarceration or whom qualifies as a ward of the state. She knows the frustration behind wondering where you will lay your head at night when going through tough transitions. She states, "Reserving housing spots can be costly and chaotic, I figured I'd try to help out as best as I know how."

Instagram and Twitter: @torreskleo



Day 2

June 18

Respect

Responsibility

The overarching theme for Day 3 is **RESPONSIBILITY**. After two full days of engagement in dialogue around the success, resilience and triumphs among children of incarcerated parents, we are confident that you will gain a sense of responsibility in doing your part to shift the negative dialogue and stigma associated with children of incarcerated parents. Thus, moving your research, services and professional development into applied works that incorporate strategies for their leadership in education, occupation, and leisure.

As we enter this final day of our virtual conference, we want to assure that all participants have an opportunity to reflect and center wellness. Over the last couple of days you all have received A LOT of information and we want to assure that this knowledge is put into practice. Although the study has a focus of resilience, success and triumphs, it should still be processed and shared widely. Moving forward the duty falls upon each and every one of us to advance the narrative of resilience around those directly impacted by the American criminal injustice system, specifically among children of incarcerated parents.

Therefore, the Research Team has created a final virtual day full of reflection, promotion of inner strength and a centering of one's faith. We are excited to be leading by example. As such, Day 3 virtual activities and performances are led and curated by children of incarcerated parents from across the nation. Preliminary Findings from this national research study have identified that **FAITH, HEALTH** and **WELLNESS** have served as solid steps on one's pathway toward success among children of incarcerated parents. It is our **RESPONSIBILITY** to shift the narrative and that begins with sharing the positive components of our own stories.

In our celebration today of Juneteenth we acknowledge the importance of this conference in allowing children of incarcerated parents **FREEDOM** from being placed in negative boxes, being stigmatized, being judged, being unheard, being invincible and being hidden. We see you, support you, respect you and will continue sharing your positive narratives to emancipate all others that remain in the dark.

Happy Juneteenth!

9:00 AM-9:30 AM

OPENING

Assistant Dean Nisa Muhammad, Ph.D. Sydni Turner

Day three of the conference will open with welcome back remarks from the research team and Howard University leadership. During this brief segment, Dr. Nisa Muhammad, Assistant Dean for Religious Life at Howard University will provide remarks about the current interfaith work at Howard University. In addition, she will reflect on the importance of faith in moving into a place of resilience. In addition, Dr. Bahiyyah M. Muhammad will provide a conference overview of Day 3, remind participants to post on social media using hashtags #flipthescriptcoip, #successcoip and #drmuhammadexperience, and share any additional highlights and reminders for the day.



Dr. Nisa Muhammad is Howard University's Assistant Dean for Religious Life. She is responsible for religious programming, advocates for the religious needs of Muslim students, faculty and staff, teaches nonacademic classes on the Islamic tradition and works closely as part of the staff in the Office of the Dean of the Chapel to foster inter faith dialogue and cooperation. She organizes Muslim worship and devotion services, counsels and advises students, and answers questions from race to religion to relationships. She is the advisor to the Muslim Students Association, the Juvenile Justice Advocates and the Chess Club. Dr. Muhammad is the president of the Association of Muslim Chaplains. She also works with Sapelo Square an online resource for Black Muslims as their internship coordinator, and co-editor of their Ramadan Series. She also coordinates the Ramadan Prayerline which offers a daily early morning Ramadan Reflection from Muslims around the country during Ramadan and is listened to worldwide. She is a recent graduate from Howard University's School of Divinity with a Doctor of Ministry degree in Sacred Texts and is a Ph.D. student at Howard University in the African Studies Department.

Instagram: @hu_msa, @justusforthem, @howarduchapel



Sydni Turner is a second year Masters student at Howard University within the Sociology and Criminology department. In 2016, she received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology with a concentration in Criminal Justice and a minor in Family Studies from Towson University. Her research focuses on the dynamic shifts in the political economy as it relates to mass incarceration, the Black family, and reentry. More specifically, her Master's thesis will explore the mass incarceration of black fathers who successfully parent and maintain relationships with their children during incarceration.

Instagram: @prettysydni

9:30 AM-10:30 AM

Relax, Relate, Release: Yoga & Meditation to Heal Stress Associated with Parental Incarceration

Charnal Chaney

This 30-minute morning session will be full of stretching, breathing and centering one's energetic power to move through the last day of the conference with a renewed sense of self. The session will be led by Native Washingtonian, Charnal Chaney, a directly impacted black young woman who used meditation to journey through her successes. All virtual participants are asked to come to session in work-out clothing and ready to engage fully in the interactive workshop.



Charnal Chaney is a native Washingtonian mother of 5 beautiful children, 2 girls and 3 boys. Her mother became incarcerated when she was 3 years old where she remained in prison for 18 years. During that time, Charnal grew up in Ward 8, SE Washington, DC where she had to overcome many obstacles, challenges, and trying times. She has co-facilitated parenting workshops with her mother, Lashonia Thompson-El at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCIW) in Jessup, MD, assisting women who are preparing for release with setting realistic family reunification goals. Charnal works closely with The WIRE assisting children with incarcerated parents achieve their goals and coordinating events. Charnal cites stigma as the most challenging aspect of her mother's incarceration. Charnal is an aspiring entrepreneur, Trauma informed yoga instructor and meditation coach, who's desire is to open her own wellness center within the community to inspire and empower those seeking healing, health, and wellness. Charnal's heart is imbedded in helping to heal communities just as she has healed herself by taking proactive measures through her own health, wellness, and mindful healing techniques such as yoga and facilitating guided meditation sessions. Charnal promotes the power of meditation and prayer as she is a living and breathing example that through it all good, bad, and indifferent, with God's help - if you work it, it works!

Instagram:@black_wealth_wellness

10:30 AM-10:45 AM

Break

If you have extra time, please make sure to check out the videos that center children of incarcerated parents that will be played during the breaks. All videos shown are available on youtube.

10:45 AM-11:45 AM

Brothers of Parental Incarceration: Black Male Children of Prisoners Who Defy All Odds

**Santwon Hines
Branden Bufford
Alfonzo Duckett
Keshad "Ife" Adeniyi
Donald Stevenson**

This panel highlights Black males who have succeeded in spite of any obstacles faced. Often thought to be Superpredators and bound for prison. These Black men are so much more than that myth. When you see them, you will see Black Kings. They are the faces of good character and resilience. Each panelist will engage in a dialogue that serves as a reminder that not every Black male with an incarcerated family member is a future criminal. The brothers on this panel will discuss their journey, what keeps them motivated and who serves as role models in their lives.

10:45 AM-11:45 AM

Brothers of Parental Incarceration: Black Male Children of Prisoners Who Defy All Odds



Sawton Hines is a college graduate of Penn State in Business Management who has recently separated from active duty service in the U.S. Navy on his way to obtaining a Master's Degree at the University of Southern California for Film & TV Production. His legacy will be that of impacting individuals in a way that deprograms them and points them towards their truth.

Website: <https://www.xsaintlamont.com/>



Branden Bufford works in urban education. Outside of the being a Black male teacher in the building, Branden focuses on relationship building with students to make learning a joyful thing instead of a necessary task. Relating content in the classroom to the real world and being vulnerable in front of students are his two leverage points. Currently in his work, he is outside of a school building and in a central office role, and in that, he makes sure he speaks for those voices that aren't heard. Branden recruits teachers and makes sure to have the teachers mirror the image of the students to be sort of a portal into how their future will look.

Instagram: @heymrbufford



Washington D.C. native, Alfonzo Duckett, aka Houzmazoo holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Central State University. He is the founder and owner of Houzmazoo Network LLC, a media platform designed to create a safe space for youth to showcase a variety of skills ranging from sports, music, fashion, art, community engagement etc... Mass incarceration has personally impacted Houzmazoo as he experienced parental incarceration. During his childhood, at one point in time, both of his parents were incarcerated in addition to a host of family members being incarcerated. Houzmazoo uses his network as a positive platform for at-risk youth and children of incarcerated parents who share similar backgrounds. His mission is to provide an outlet to these youth as a means to promote success and resiliency through self-expression and presenting talents using media.

Instagram: @Houzmazoonetwork
Twitter: @Houzmazoo
YouTube: Houzmazoo Network



Keshad Adeniyi is a visionary with a heart for education, advocacy, and activism. In addition to academia, he believes that artistic mediums such as poetry, rap, and visual art, are instrumental in connecting with people who come from various walks of life. His thoughts have allowed him to teach others in a number of schools and prisons, both, locally and internationally through organizations that are doing transformational work in carceral spaces. The Prison Education Project (PEP), The Social Justice Learning Institute (SJLI), and Columbia University Rikers Education Program, to name a few. These experiences have offered him the opportunity to travel abroad to do similar work in the maximum-security prisons in Uganda, Africa and London, England. As a native of Watts, CA, Keshad has seen and experienced a lot of turmoil from which he has gained insight and in turn, it has influenced him to take on the moniker, Ife Nira, meaning "love is pain." He most recently graduated from New York University's American Studies, Social Cultural Analysis Program. He conducted research on branding and its implications on race. Here he investigated branding within the context of slavery and incarceration as a way to incite critical discussion regarding methodology when it is used by the state to help track and control Black bodies.

Instagram: @keshad.adeniyi

10:45 AM-11:45 AM

Brothers of Parental Incarceration: Black Male Children of Prisoners Who Defy All Odds



Donald Stevenson has worked to serve and uplift his community for over 10 years. He is the Co-founder of Sons of Life and Brand Ambassador for the DC or Nothing community initiatives. His service in the community humbly started with him serving as a Junior Roving Leader for The Department of Parks and Recreation (CPR) and quickly flourished into a life commitment to empower his community. He is certified in Positive Youth Development, suicide prevention; and a, Certified Life Skills Facilitator (A.R.I.S.E. & Points of Life Youth Leadership Institute) and Professional Community Gang Outreach/Intervention Specialist. Donald takes pride in assisting youth at the Department of Youth and Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) with life skills, educational, conflict resolution and rehabilitation services. He has held countless workshops with DYRS youth to discuss mental health concerns, their emotional triggers and provide strategies they can implement to help establish and maintain safe and healthy living. Mr. Stevenson has received numerous accolades for his work in the community and with youth such as the Peacemaker Award and Dedicated Youth Development Specialist of the Year.

11:45 AM-12:00 PM

Break

If you have extra time, please make sure to check out the videos that center children of incarcerated parents that will be played during the breaks. All videos shown are available on youtube.

12:00 PM-12:30 PM

Hear Me Through My Art: A Spoken Word Performance

Ife

This performance will consist of a spoken word presentation.



Keshad "Ife" Adeniyi is a visionary with a heart for education, advocacy, and activism. In addition to academia, he believes that artistic mediums such as poetry, rap, and visual art, are instrumental in connecting with people who come from various walks of life. His thoughts have allowed him to teach others in a number of schools and prisons, both, locally and internationally through organizations that are doing transformational work in carceral spaces. The Prison Education Project (PEP), The Social Justice Learning Institute (SJLI), and Columbia University Rikers Education Program, to name a few. These experiences have offered him the opportunity to travel abroad to do similar work in the maximum-security prisons in Uganda, Africa and London, England. As a native of Watts, CA, Keshad has seen and experienced a lot of turmoil from which he has gained insight and in turn, it has influenced him to take on the moniker, Ife Nira, "love is pain." He most recently graduated from New York University American Studies, Social Cultural Analysis Program. He conducted research on Branding and its implications on race. Here he investigated branding within the context of slavery and incarceration as a way to incite critical discussion regarding methodology when it is used by the state to help track and control black bodies. His research used the stories of Angela Davis, Assata Shakur, and Dolly as markers for historic moments in the United States where the state leveraged different branding methods to help aid in the capturing of black bodies deemed "out of place." He is currently completing his PhD in Black History at Howard University - Here he is researching the nuances of impressment during the Civil War. He hopes to add to the conversations regarding Abolition.

Instagram: @keshad.adeniyi

12:30 PM-1:15 PM

Lunch & Book Exhibit

The book exhibit contains various works authored and/or illustrated by children of incarcerated parents. This virtual book display will provide links to publications and a personalized video from the author. Author videos will help viewers gain a better understanding of book content, author motivation and recommended audience.

1:15 PM-2:00 PM

Parenting Behind Bars: Maintaining Positive Relationships With Our Children

Executive Research Team

It has been assumed that once incarcerated, parenting stops. This panel highlights how parents manage to maintain positive relationships with their children during incarceration. The Executive Research Team will share preliminary research findings that are directly related to parenting from behind bars. Here the perspectives of children of incarcerated parents are shared and explored.



Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad



Dr. Britany Gatewood



Sydni Turner

2:00 PM-2:15 PM

Break

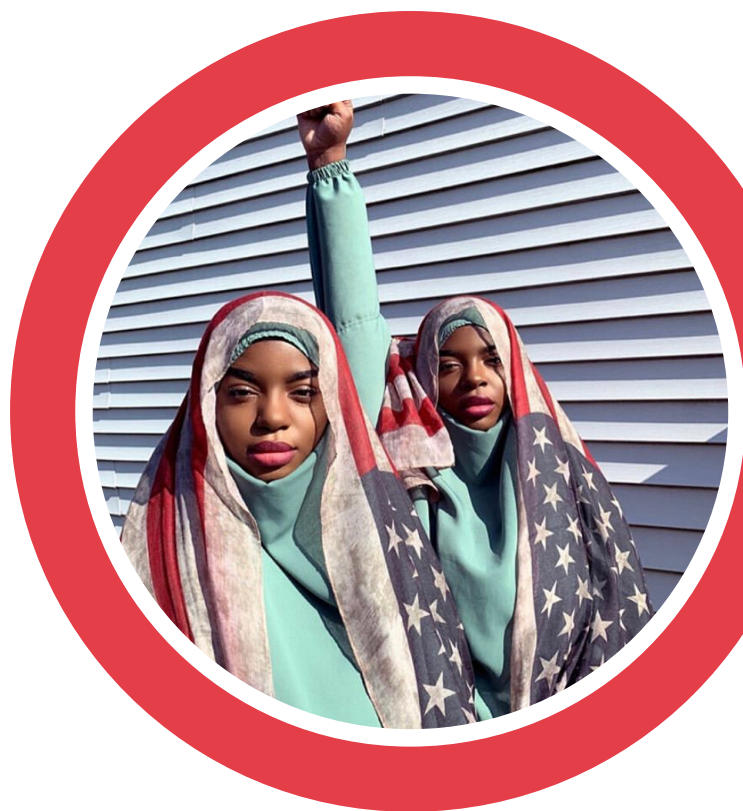
If you have extra time, please make sure to check out the videos that center children of incarcerated parents that will be played during the breaks. All videos shown are available on youtube.

2:15 PM-3:00 PM

Scattered Thoughts: Memories of Our Father's Incarceration

Ain't Afraid

This performance will consist of a spoken word presentation which reflects their story and highlights how the incarceration system has affected their family as a whole. Following the performance will be a question and answer session.



The Movement & artist group Ain't Afraid are dedicated to empowering, inspiring, and motivating the Jannah-ration and people all over the world. Using their talents, the arts, media, and other creative platforms to project this mission in ways that people will listen.

Instagram: @aint.afraid

3:00 PM-3:15 PM

Break

If you have extra time, please make sure to check out the videos that center children of incarcerated parents that will be played during the breaks. All videos shown are available on youtube.

3:15 PM-3:30 PM

Art as a Tool for Healing: A Focus on Parental Incarceration

Shanell Kitt

This creative presentation will show the curated art works of an individual who used art as her tool for healing the process of parental incarceration.



Shanell Kitt is a mixed media artist and social worker from The Bronx, New York. She received her Master of Social Work degree from the Howard University School of Social Work in 2016 and just completed her Master of Fine Arts degree in Painting from the Howard University Department of Art in May 2020. Most often using acrylic paint, Shanell creates highly saturated paintings that are an expression of her innermost thoughts and feelings portrayed in abstracted forms. The eight main points about her art are color, form, process, influence, self-reflection, self-expression, open communication and release. Shanell has interests in supporting mental health wellness through art and has facilitated self-expression through art workshops in New York City, Washington, District of Columbia, and Maryland.

Instagram: @risingsha

3:30 PM-3:45 PM

Ye Are Gods: Reiki Session

Queen Mahdee

This will consist of a Reiki Session for 15 minutes. Reiki uses universal life force intelligence (the intelligence that keeps our hearts beating, body communicating, even how nature is able to operate so swifty) to send healing energy into the chakra centers. It's like an energy massage. Effects are relaxation, stress relief and healing.



Queen Mahdee is an experienced reiki healer, spiritual speaker, vegan chef, event producer, social media influencer, and chief curator for Afro Vegg and The Quantam Queen online communities. Mahdee has served as a church community youth leader in Trenton, New Jersey working with many children/young adults of incarcerated parents as well as siblings, friends and other relatives of the imprisoned. Through the decision to pursue her spirituality without religious affiliations, Mahdee turned to meditation and energy healing as she began to see and understand the importance of unity internally within the body and mind and externally with other people. As a vegan chef, Mahdee has worked with the Youth Entrepreneur Institute giving children, some with incarcerated parents, a chance to showcase their art and talents at one of her pop ups. She has also worked with the Monroe school, speaking with students about channeling their inner power and creating something they can be proud of. Currently, Mahdee is an energy healer and spiritual speaker as she assists her clients with relieving stress, balancing energy centers, helping with facing/addressing traumas and problems through shadow work, and providing spiritual guidance to enhance their life experience. She promotes self-power and healing as a means to embrace individual life calling.

Instagram: @afroveg_wellness

3:45 PM-4:15 PM

When You See Me, See My Resilience: A Tribute to Children of Incarcerated Parents and Their Journey To Success and Beyond

This conference tribute presentation is a celebration of all the great accomplishments that all the children of incarcerated parents have achieved. The slideshow presented here, will show various participants and their journeys to success and beyond. Preliminary study findings provide evidence to support the resilience, success and triumphs among children of the incarcerated This space will be held to celebrate the great work that directly-impacted children create.

4:15 PM-4:30 PM

Where Do We Go From Here? Maintaining The Paradigm Shift to Focus On Resilience Among Children of Incarcerated Parents

Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad

Conference Founder and Research Study PI, Dr. Bahiyyah M. Muhammad will share closing remarks. Dr. Muhammad's ending statements will serve as a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to us all that during the current time of social injustice and pandemic inequality, we must uplift the voice of Black children to assure that their lives truly do matter.

Closing

On behalf of the Executive Research Team, we would like to thank you for your participation. It is our hope that you gained new information and have become motivated to help in advancing this work. Please be reminded to go to the study website (www.drmuhammadexperince.com) to sign up to receive research updates and information on future events. If you missed a session, you can check back in on the website to view and/or download to an external device. In addition, if you are interested in getting involved with my project about children of incarcerated parent, send an email: bahiyyah.muhammad@howard.edu.

Enjoy your weekend! Happy Juneteenth!!!

Dr. Muhammad and the Executive Research Team

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