

MEN OF COLOR

IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

OCT 25 2023 | 9-11:30AM
BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL

Agenda



WELCOME
CAS-CIAC



OPENING REMARKS

Jude Senah - Senior, Berlin High School

PANEL DISCUSSION

Kendrick Moore - President, Moore Basketball Clinic LLC

Terrence Cheng - Chancellor, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU)

John Ramos II - Assistant Principal, Bunnell High School, Stratford

Bolelembe Iboki - Senior, Bunnell High School, Stratford

Stanley Williams - Founder & CEO, Supreme Being, Inc. and Educator

Justin Marshall - Senior Principal Sales Representative, Medtronic

Dr. Richard Gonzales - Associate Professor in Residence, UConn

BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTERS

Gary Highsmith - Superintendent, Hamden Public Schools

Kendrick Moore - President, Moore Basketball Clinic, LLC

John Ramos II - Assistant Principal, Bunnell High School, Stratford

Bolelembe Iboki - Senior, Bunnell High School, Stratford

Adrian Solis - Teacher & Coach, Abbott Technical High School, Danbury

Jesse White - Principal, Bloomfield High School



Thank you for attending today's event.
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complete the online feedback form,
so we may continue to improve our programs.
<https://casci.ac/9680>

Thank you Berlin High School, for hosting this inspiring event.



Thank you corporate partners, for supporting CAS-CIAC programs.





Jude Senah

Senior
Berlin High School

Jude Senah is a senior at Berlin High School and has an interest in business. He plays football and enjoys broadcasting and commentating other sports in the off-season.



Kendrick Moore

President

Moore Basketball Clinic, LLC

Motivational Speaker, Kendrick Moore, is a leader in personal development with proven experience in culture development and climate change. He truly lives by the title of 'Coach', as he believes YOU already have what it takes inside of you, and HE has what it takes to help you reach your potential. The implementation of his coaching strategies and motivation has empowered individuals and organizations to achieve beyond expectations. Kendrick's innate ability to reach various audiences and his passionate delivery empowers individuals to become better versions of themselves. From his keynote on Mastering the Morning, which guides you through the process of getting yourself to a great space to dominate the day, to his conversations on being accountable and intentional, Kendrick teaches you how to utilize your personal toolkit for success. Those inspired by his work state: 'there is a simplicity to his messages which makes an instant connection and gives a sense of belief' and 'following his presentation, I feel refreshed, energized, and motivated to ACT.'

As president of Moore Basketball Clinic, Kendrick has a number of versatile responsibilities. Along with being a motivational speaker, his life is committed to mentoring youth and life coaching, constructing programs centered around developing leadership skills and building character, facilitating S.E.L., D.E.I., and other professional development trainings, and also implementing personal and player development strategies as a professional basketball trainer. His work in these areas has impacted lives from Connecticut to California, and his Moore Motivation Podcast has also gained a national audience. In addition to his work for MBC, Kendrick serves as the Director of Hartford County for the AAU program, Connecticut Elite, where he is again able to guide and support families throughout the state. He also sits on a few committees, including the CIAC Student Equity Advisory Board. For his commitment and outstanding work in the community he has received numerous honors, which include: PSBL Community Service Award, 100 Men of Color Nomination, Bridge Builder Award, and JCC Schoolboy Classic Distinguished Alumni Award, just to name a few. The impact of his work far exceeds the accolades that he has received, while his purpose to LIVE GENEROUSLY never changes!



Terrence Cheng

Chancellor

Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU)

Terrence Cheng is chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system, which oversees 12 community colleges, four state universities and Charter Oak State College, and serves more than 85,000 students. The Board of Regents unanimously appointed Chancellor Cheng on May 7, 2021, and he began on July 2, 2021. He served as campus director of the University of Connecticut Stamford campus from 2016 to 2021, where he also served as a faculty member in the English department.

He has also held several academic and administrative leadership and faculty roles which include associate provost/assistant vice president, Academic Programs at Brooklyn College; and associate dean, School of Arts and Humanities, and chair, Department of English at Lehman College. Both institutions are part of the City University of New York.

Cheng, a first-generation student, earned a bachelor's degree in English from Binghamton University and an MFA in fiction from the University of Miami, where he was a James Michener Fellow. He is the author of two novels: *Sons of Heaven* (2002), and *Deep in the Mountains* (2007), as well as numerous published short stories and essays. In 2005, he received a Literature Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.



John Ramos II

**Assistant Principal
Bunnell High School, Stratford**

John Ramos II is an Assistant Principal at Bunnell High School in Stratford, CT, where he has led equity initiatives for the school and the district. Under Mr. Ramos' leadership Bunnell has created a number of student leadership groups, created an annual Cultural Showcase (pep rally) and has become a No Place For Hate School. Inspired by the CAS-CIAC Men of Color in Leadership Conference, Bunnell's Men of Color Leadership was created in 2021 under Mr. Ramos' leadership. Members of the MOC attend weekly meetings, participate in volunteer projects, attend leadership conferences and much more.

Prior to assuming his role in Stratford, John was the School Counseling Department Coordinator at Harding High School in Bridgeport, CT. Additionally, John brings over 12 years of experience coaching high school football and wrestling. He takes great pride in being a transformative leader, focused on equity, proactive social emotional strategies, and restorative practices. He earned his Administrator Certification at Quinnipiac University, a Master's degree in Counseling Education at UMass Amherst, an Education Specialist degree in Leadership/Administration at UMass Amherst, and a Bachelor's degree in African-American Studies at Morehouse College.



Bolelembe Iboki

Senior

Bunnell High School, Stratford

Bolelembe Iboki is a senior at Bunnell High School in Stratford. Bolelembe is a hard worker, leader and culture creator. Bolelembe is the epitome of a student athlete as he has maintained a high GPA while being an integral member of Bunnell's football and track teams. He is not only a leader on the field and track; he is a leader in the classroom, completing seven AP level courses.

Bolelembe's biggest accomplishment at Bunnell High School has been his ability to help create and sustain a positive/inclusive school culture. As a founding member and first President of the Bunnell's Men of Color Leadership Group (MOC), Bolelembe has been the leading voice of an historically underrepresented group of our students. Under Bolelembe's leadership the MOC has created a safe space for male students of color and their allies, participated in a number of community service projects, attended leadership conferences, and helped create/facilitate a school wide cultural showcase.



Stanley Williams

MBA, MSA

Founder and CEO
Supreme Being Inc.
supremebeinginc.com

- Hartford native, Weaver HS & UCONN Graduate
- Also completed two Master Degrees, Univ. of Phoenix (Master of Business Administration) and Delaware State University (Master of Sports Administration)
- Published Author, Youth advocate, Humanitarian, Motivational Speaker
- Former football player for the Huskies from 2004 – 2008
- Brief stint with Georgia Force arena football before league folded
- Recipient of “100 Men of Color” award for community works and activism
- Experienced in coaching High School Football, Basketball, and Track
- Works in the Education field

PANELIST



Justin Marshall

**Senior Principal Sales Representative
Renal Denervation Division
Medtronic**

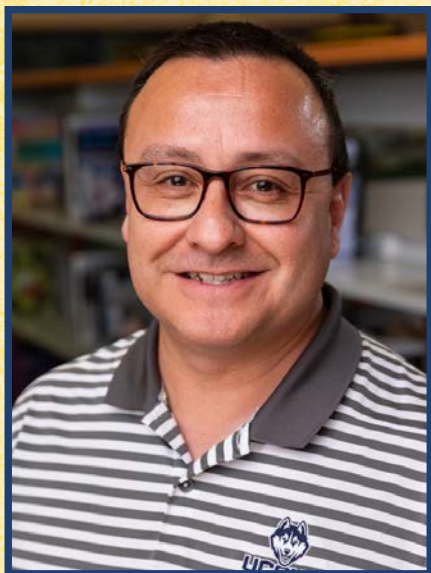
My name is Justin Marshall and I am a Senior Principal Sales Representative in the Coronary and Renal Denervation Division of Medtronic, which is the largest Medical device company in the world.

I coach several youth sports organizations in my community when time permits. I feel that it is my duty to give back when I can.

In my current role, I lead a team in CT and Western Massachusetts. Our primary goal is to expand device utilization and educate physicians/cardiac catheterization lab staff on the use of our therapy and interventional cardiology products.

I married my college sweetheart, and we are raising three children. I was born to Jamaican immigrants and raised in a single-mother household in the north end of Hartford. After high school, I attended Capital Community College and Central CT State University. I funded my education by starting a vending business while in school. My primary location was on Albany Ave in Hartford.

I am a testament to what you will achieve or surpass if you rely on your determination/discipline and suppress your excuses.



Dr. Richard Gonzales

Associate Professor in Residence

Director of Educational Leadership Preparation Programs

University of Connecticut's Neag School of Education

Richard Gonzales is an associate professor in residence and director of educational leadership preparation programs at the University of Connecticut's Neag School of Education. Dr. Gonzales received a B.S. in applied learning and development, a M.Ed. in educational administration, and Ph.D. in education policy and planning from The University of Texas at Austin. Before entering higher education, he worked for sixteen years as an elementary bilingual teacher, an elementary principal, and a district-level administrator. He has collaborated on scholarship that has been published in various journals and worked as a consultant on projects with districts and universities to strengthen the leadership pipeline in four states.

Dr. Gonzales served as principal investigator and project director for UConn's \$5.5 million University Principal Preparation Initiative project which was funded by the Wallace Foundation. The UConn Administrator Preparation Program is one of five university-based principal preparation programs selected to undergo a comprehensive redesign in partnership with three school districts and the state education agency. One outcome of this project is that UConn has graduated more educators of color in the past five years than the total amount in the previous twenty years, and a majority of those individuals are currently working in administrative positions throughout Connecticut.



Gary Highsmith

**Superintendent
Hamden Public Schools**

Gary Highsmith was born in New Haven, CT. He attended New Haven public schools for grades K-12, graduating from Richard C. Lee High School. The youngest of six children, Gary's mother passed away suddenly when he was in middle school, and he was raised thereafter by his two sisters, Eva and Yoland Highsmith.

After graduating from Lee High School, Gary attended Southern Connecticut State University. While at Southern, Gary became an active member of the Black Student Union, eventually becoming President of the organization. It was through his work with the BSU that he met Attorney Michael Jefferson. The two remain best friends to this day.

Gary began his career in education in 1990, under the tutelage of former New Haven Public School's Superintendent Dr. John Dow, Jr. A former social studies teacher at Troup Middle School, Gary served two years as assistant principal at East Rock Global Magnet Studies, and four years as principal of Beecher Elementary School in New Haven. In 2006, Gary became principal of Hamden High School, one of the state's largest and most diverse schools. Gary was the first African-American to serve in that position. After leading Hamden High School for nine years, Gary became the director of human resources for Hamden Public Schools, and eventually became assistant superintendent for Human Resources and Administration in Hamden Public Schools.

In 2022, Gary became superintendent of Hamden Public Schools, and is the first African-American in the history of the town to serve in that capacity.

Gary holds a B.A. in American History, a M.A. in American History, Connecticut teaching certification, a Sixth Year Degree in School Administration, School Administrator Certification (092), and Superintendent's Certification (093).

"To be educated is the only way to be free."

- Jose Marti



Adrian Solis

Social Studies Teacher

Head Soccer Coach

Henry Abbott Technical High School, Danbury

Adrian Solis is a devoted Latino teacher with fifteen years of experience teaching Social Studies at both the middle and high school level. He began his teaching career with the Danbury Public Schools at Rogers Park Middle School where he taught US History to 8th grade students for a total of seven years. Mr. Solis is currently in his eighth year at Henry Abbott Technical High School in Danbury where his courses include 11th grade US History, 12th grade Social Studies Topics, and 12th grade African American and Latino Studies. He also played an intricate role with the new statewide 12th grade African American and Latino Studies course and the Honors version.

Mr. Solis is well-respected among his colleagues and other educators around the state for the significant contributions he makes inside and outside of the classroom walls. Besides his current role as a classroom teacher, he serves as a board member on the CT Council of Social Studies. He was also a member of several State Education Resource Center (SERC) committees that helped create the new African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino course of studies because of Public Act 1912 passed on May 2019. In 2021, he earned the Connecticut Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (CALAS) award for Outstanding Educational Leader.

Adrian is highly effective at connecting with his students. He brings joy to learning in the classroom and on the soccer field. He has coached soccer at the high school level for 15 years, with the last five serving as the head coach at Henry Abbott Technical High School. During these five years, he has won three consecutive league championships and is seeking his fourth in a row within the Connecticut Technical Conference.



Jesse White

**Principal
Bloomfield High School**

**Founder & CEO
Kingdom Culture LLC**

Author & Public Speaker

Mr. Jesse J. White III currently serves the community as principal of Bloomfield High School. A native of Hartford, CT, Mr. White resides in Bloomfield with his wife and three daughters.

He has been involved in the Bloomfield community for 21 years; serving in such capacities as Democratic Town Committee member, Library Building Committee member, and employee of the Bloomfield Public School system.

Mr. White is also the founder and CEO of Kingdom Culture LLC, the author of a book entitled *A is for Affirm*, the Director of Educational Activities for the Beta Sigma Lambda Educational Foundation and a public speaker.

He has a gift and a desire to utilize education as a tool to improve upon the lives of all of the students he encounters. His mission is to make a visible and long lasting impact in the lives of the next generation.