

**BLACK MEN SPEAK**™

HEALTH COMMUNITY & HOPE

**MENTOR**

**ME!**

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*our*

**HEALTH**

YOUR GUIDE  
TO HEALTHY  
LIVING

**matters..™**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024 | 10:00AM**

**GEM THEATER: 1615 E. 18TH STREET, KANSAS CITY, MO 64110**

**[www.kcourhealthmatters.com](http://www.kcourhealthmatters.com)**

# BLACK MEN SPEAK™

HEALTH COMMUNITY & HOPE



Once again, the community will hear from a frequently unheard voice—Black men. ***Our Health Matters™*** and Swope Health introduce **Black Men Speak: Mentor Me! I Can & I Will.**

This special edition features the voices of Black men who offer their opinions and insight into the need to “step up” in supporting the development of young boys today. Mentor Me chronicles their experiences and shares their visions for moving the needle forward for our brothers, sons, nephews and grandsons, as they

enter adulthood and become future leaders.

We hope you enjoy this edition as much as we have enjoyed presenting this uncompromising body of work. Thank you to our authors, sponsors, partners and contributors for your support of Mentor Me. We hope you enjoy today’s program.

All the best,

Ruth Ramsey, Publisher

Jeron L. Ravin, CEO and President, Swope Health



## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

**Eric Wesson, Founder, The Next Page KC**

Born and raised in Kansas City, MO, Eric L. Wesson is a graduate of Southwest High School. He graduated from Morehouse College HBCU with a BS in Political Science. Mr. Wesson graduated from Howard University with a Master’s degree in Clinical Psychology and Early Childhood Development. He is a former reporter, Managing Editor and Publisher for Kansas City CALL newspaper. In June 2023, he founded and launched The Next Page KC, a weekly newspaper.



### **Bernard Franklin, Ph.D., Uncornered**

Dr. Franklin is nationally recognized as a passionate advocate for children and youth who come from hard places. One of the first African American students to be elected student president on a predominately Caucasian campus in the U.S, he graduated from Kansas State University in 1976. Franklin went on to make Kansas history by becoming the youngest person ever appointed to the Kansas State Board of Regents at 24. Currently, he is managing director of Uncornered, an urban violence elimination program.



### **Louis E. Negrón, 100 Black Men of Atlanta**

Louis Negrón is the CEO and President of 100 Black Men of Atlanta. Using his more than 20 years of nonprofit fundraising experience, Negrón develops partnerships that support his organization's initiatives to mentor, educate, enrich and empower at-risk youth. Negrón's goals include establishing 100 Black Men of Atlanta as the protector for the city's children.



### **Dr. L. Nathan Gause, MD, FOAA**

Dr. L. Nathan Gause is a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon at University Health in Kansas City; he is just one of 600 Black orthopaedic surgeons in the U.S. He serves as Vice Chair and Assistant Professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at UMKC School of Medicine, where he is dedicated to promoting diversity, inclusion and equity in orthopaedics and medicine as a whole.



### **Brian Hyppolite**

Brian Hyppolite is an author, musician and mentor. In January of 2020, Brian published his first book: *Manifesting You: 111 Keys to Unlocking Your Divinity*. Brian is the creator and founder of Manifest University and Manifest Academy, online learning centers offering personal development and successful living classes, coaching and mentorship for moms, dads and kids. [www.BrianHyppolite.com](http://www.BrianHyppolite.com)

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## **Jamal Berry**

Jamal Berry is the CEO of EducareDC, a 25-school national network that serves as a platform for broader change, inspiring high-quality programs in communities, improving public policies, and demonstrating a comprehensive approach to the first five years of life and learning. EducareDC serves over 400 children from prenatal to age 5. “Excellence in everything” is Jamal Berry’s guiding principle. He is living out his passion by guiding the next generation of leaders.



## **Jesse Frazier III, Videographer**

Jesse selected the marketing industry because as a child, his dad taught him to use cameras and allowed him to film himself and create content. When he was 10, he started his first YouTube channel and over the years built skills in video production, graphic design, SEO and digital content strategy. As a junior in high school, he met a man who told him that he could use the skills he had been building professionally in the marketing industry.

Jesse Frazier III holds an Associate’s Degree from Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley and a BBA in Marketing from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Frazier is the owner of Saturn Branding Agency. His professional skills include digital marketing, video production, photography, graphic design, search engine optimization, consulting, brand management and networking. He strongly believes in helping others and giving back, using the talents that God has given him.

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## PROGRAM

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024**

**GEM THEATER: 1615 E. 18TH STREET, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108**

Master of Ceremonies.....	Eric Wesson, Founder The Next Page KC
Welcome & Greetings.....	Ruth Ramsey, Publisher <i>Our Health Matters™</i>
Jeron L. Ravin, J.D.....	President & CEO, Swope Health
Sponsors' Greetings.....	Robert Gibson Health Forward Foundation Janelle H. Jordan, COO Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center
Mayor's Greeting .....	Mayor Quinton D. Lucas
Invocation.....	Rev. Jesse Frazier, Sr., Ebenezer BC
Musical Selection.....	CAI Youth Jazz Band
Video Presentation .....	Jesse Frazier III Saturn Branding Agency
Why Mentoring is Important .....	Bernard Franklin, Ph.D.
Black Men's Health.....	L. Nathan Gause, MD, MBA
Message of Empowerment .....	Brian Hyppolite Author, Recording Artist
Panel: Early Childhood Education .....	Bernard Franklin with Jamal Berry
Mentoring Workshop .....	Anita Maltbia
Keynote Address .....	Louis E. Negrón, Sr. Executive Director & COO 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc.
Closing Remarks.....	Ruth Ramsey

Thank you for your support to increase awareness about the value and benefits of Black men, mentoring Black boys.

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## **KNOW YOUR HISTORY, KNOW YOUR WORTH**

**Jarvis L. Collier, Pastor, Pleasant Green Baptist Church, Kansas City, Kansas**

I believe Black youth need to know Black and American history, particularly the time between the 1950s and early 1960s when America was racially, socially, politically and economically segregated in all aspects of life. These times were real—not imagined. My advice is read, read, read! Reading provides reflection and insight into times not too long ago when Black leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, John Lewis, James Meredith, Rosa Parks, Diane Baker, Dick Gregory and A. Phillip Randolph stood up and unselfishly gave their very lives.

White supremacy and white privilege that project systemic racism, redlining of neighborhoods and lack of capital for new businesses are challenges that must be addressed in 2024.

Mentors need to expose mentees to the multifaceted problems Blacks face, including: closing educational and economic achievement gaps; voting; eliminating Black-on-Black crime; and adoption of intentional, healthier lifestyles (diet, exercise, health screenings). I am convinced that the more we learn about things that hinder the progress of Black men and boys, the better we can work together to resolve them.

Blessings through Christ.

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# THE CHALLENGES FACING BLACK MEN – A CASE FOR ACTION

According to Camille Busette, “To be male, poor and either African-American or Native American is to confront, on a daily basis, a deeply held racism that exists in every social institution. No other demographic group has fared so badly, so persistently and for so long.” Busette went on to call this an “appalling crisis” and called for nothing less than a New Deal for Black men.

## EDUCATION

In 2019, 28% of Black men ages 25-29 had a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to 30% of Black women, over 40% of white men and more than 50% of White women. Only about 4% of Black men hold Master’s degrees and higher, compared to 9% of Black women, 8% of White men and 13% of White women.

## UPWARD MOBILITY

Black men raised by low-income parents are less likely to rise up the income ladder. By comparison, a third of White men raised by low-income parents end up in the top 40% of the income distribution, compared to only 19% of Black boys. *Source: Raj Chetty, Opportunity Insights. Black Boys are More at Risk for Remaining in Poverty.*

## EARNING POWER

Black men earn \$378 less per week than White men, and \$125 less per week than White women.

## EMPLOYMENT

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates, participation in the labor force for Black men age 20 and over is 5.6 percentage points lower than for White men. Black men have the highest unemployment rates of Black and White workers, and are twice as likely to be unemployed as White men.

## LIFE EXPECTANCY

Black men are more likely to die prematurely and have the lowest life expectancy of any group. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Black men were more likely to die at twice the rate of White men.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Black men make up the largest share of prisoners.

*SOURCE: The Brookings Institute*

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**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF KANSAS CITY**

For more information about upcoming workshops, visit  
[www.kcourhealthmatters.com](http://www.kcourhealthmatters.com) or call 816-361-6400