

THE CCMA GAZETTE

Spring Into Action with Norma Joy Barnes

From conquering gender discrimination, battling the horrors of workplace inequality, to helping change the racism and prejudice in the lives of young men of color, Ms. Norma Joy Barnes is a super woman who has made a massive difference in how young men of color are treated and portrayed in our modern world.



Like Rosa Parks, whose single act of defiance and courage on a Montgomery bus many years ago continues to stand as a testament to the righteousness of the civil rights movement - Norma continues to fight for the dignity and equality of the poor and underserved males in the Atlanta Metro area. The same way Harriet Tubman led slaves into freedom, Norma Joy is using her persistence and passion to break down walls and leap over obstacles in an effort to make a difference - she is leading the march for President Obama's "My Brother's Keeper" Initiative.

As a result of Norma's ongoing march to becoming what our Constitution calls "a more perfect union" - local organizations are collaborating, meetings and teleconferencing have been implemented, and partnerships are being created in order to intensify the impact of "My Brother's Keeper" on our culture. When this remarkable woman leads, we are reminded that the journey is not over. We must help her to make ours a more representative democracy.

President Obama's mission is headed for a huge success with Norma leading the way. "My Brother's Keeper Task Force", which is tasked with determining what

we can do right now to improve the odds for boys and young men of color, and make sure our agencies are working more effectively with each other, with those businesses, with those philanthropies, and with local communities to implement proven solutions."

The statistics rattled off by the President make the case for his initiative.

- "During the first three years of life, a child born into a low-income family hears 30 million fewer words than a child born into a well-off family... And if a Black or Latino kid isn't ready for kindergarten; he's half as likely to finish middle school with strong academic and social skills."
- "If a child can't read well by the time he's in 3rd grade, he's four more times less likely to graduate from high school by age 19 than one who can. And if he happens to be poor, he's six times less likely to graduate."
- "We know that Latino kids are almost twice as likely as white kids to be suspended from school. Black kids are nearly four times as likely. And if a student has been suspended even once by the time they're in 9th grade, they are twice as likely to drop out."
- "We know that students of color are far more likely than their white classmates to find themselves in trouble with law. If a student gets arrested, he's almost twice as likely to drop out of school. By making sure our criminal justice system doesn't just function as pipeline from underfunded schools to overcrowded jails, we can help young men of color stay of prison, stay out of jail."

And then there are the harrowing murder statistics. According to the White House, "African American and Hispanic young men are more than six times likely to be victims of murder than their white peers- and account for almost half of country's murder victims each year."



UPCOMING EVENTS

CCMA CALENDAR 2015						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2 3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

My Brother's Keeper Local Action Summit
Sponsored by the City of Atlanta, Office of the Mayor
May 21, 2015
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Atlanta City Hall
Old City Council Chambers
55 Trinity Avenue, Second Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Measure What Matters:

PMI Project Highlights:



During the July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014, reporting period, CCMA achieved the following outcomes with Priority Male Institute (PMI) graduates:

Enrollment, Work Readiness, GED, Mentoring & Life Skills:

25 participants enrolled and were served by CCMA. Of these:

2 participants (8%) left the program for full time employment

23 participants (92%) successfully completed work readiness training

16 participants (70%) successfully worked with mentors/life skills coaches

6 participants (26%) enrolled for GED prep

Of the total served, 22 participants (96%) are currently employed

11 participants (48%) benefited from additional external training opportunities.

14 participants (61%) received referrals to obtain housing and counseling services

Project Outcomes:

CCMA participants (96% of total participants served) secured 22 positive employment outcomes during the reporting period, including:

18 of the 23 participants (78%) were placed into initial jobs with an average hourly wage of \$7.25 per hour.

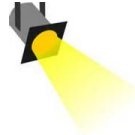
10 of the 23 participants (43%) were placed in a second or third job during the reporting period (due to either loss of their initial job or securing a better-paying job).

Participants who were offered employment not readily accessible by public transit were forced to refuse offers because CCMA cannot provide ongoing transportation services to and from their worksites.

Job Retention:

96 percent of employed CCMA participants positively retained their employment more than 3 months.

91 percent of employed CCMA participants are still working at the 10 month follow-up.



SPOTLIGHT General Education Diploma (GED)



Pierre Sorrell- 2014 PMI Graduate

Pierre Sorrell is working on obtaining his GED. He's very committed and dedicated to attaining his goals and objective. He was hired by one of our partners, and will start work on April 29th. We salute Pierre with the CCMA Gold Star!

Legislative Update:

Gov. Nathan Deal signs House Bill 91, allowing former students who failed the old state high school graduation test to more easily get diplomas.

Thousands of former high school students who couldn't pass a state graduation test that used to be required will find it easier to obtain diplomas under a bill signed by Gov. Nathan Deal on Monday, March 30, 2015.

House Bill 91 retroactively eliminates any tests that are no longer required for students to graduate from high school, including the Georgia High School Graduation Test. Passing that multi-part test, established in 1994, was eliminated as a graduation requirement in 2011.

The law allows former students who failed the tests to petition for a diploma from the local school board where they were last enrolled, instead of going through a drawn-out waiver process through the state education board. Deal said it could help thousands of former students who have been held back by their lack of a diploma.

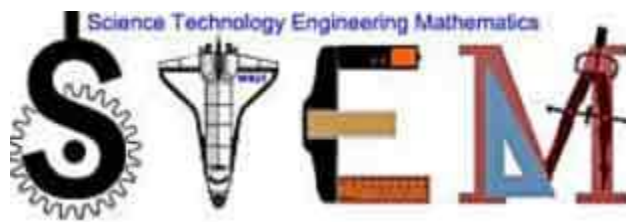
"This will hopefully be an opening of a door for them," Deal said.

The measure was sponsored by House Education Chairman Brooks Coleman, R-Duluth, who said some students took the test 20 or more times and failed a section, depriving them of a diploma despite the fact that they got good grades.

He expects more than 9,000 Georgians could now get diplomas they couldn't get in the past because of the old requirement.

***** Please call the office (404) 221-1222 if you are interested and need help applying:**

What's New



CCMA Introduces STEM Education in New PMI Curriculum

STEM education is a sequence of courses or program of study that prepares participants, including underrepresented groups:

- for successful employment, that requires different and more technically sophisticated skills including the application of mathematics and science skills and concepts, and to be competent, capable citizens in our technology-dependent, democratic society.

STEM Education is CCMA's innovative new strategy for 2015. In order to make the PMI program even more effective, the curriculum will be expanded to 16 weeks. This will include 4 additional weeks of training for entry-level **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)** positions. This is phenomenal because STEM jobs are projected to grow at a fast pace relative to other occupations. In fact, STEM jobs are expected to grow 17.0 percent compared to 9.8 percent for non-STEM jobs through 2018, so the time is ripe! Workers in STEM occupations earn more on average than their counterparts in other jobs, regardless of their educational attainment.



"Changing Lives - Enriching Communities"

"You are not here to merely make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand." - Woodrow Wilson

The profound words of Woodrow Wilson were shared by Norma Joy Barnes with twenty-five guests attending the CCMA Breakfast Symposium: "Changing Lives – Enriching Communities", on Thursday, March 26th at the Buckhead Club. This event was underwritten by Panton Holding to acquaint community and business leaders with the work of the CCMA. Mr. Jason Halliburton, Head of Community Relations, Panton Capital Holdings, convened the event in his role as Capital Development Chairman of CCMA Advisory Council.

The keynote speaker was the Honorable Sam Olens, Attorney General, State of Georgia. For the past 11 years, Georgia Trend magazine has listed Olens as one of the "100 Most Influential Georgians", who devotes much time assisting non-profit organizations, and has received numerous awards and honors for his leadership and public service. The Attorney General emphasized the need to reach out to young men in the 18-28 years old age group served by CCMA because they are often overlooked and underserved, due to their age.

Special emphasis was placed on CCMA's signature program, the Priority Male Institute (PMI), a 16-week life skills and job readiness institute for young black males, 18-28 years of age. Barnes advised that CCMA will expand the Priority Male Institute this year to include four weeks of training for entry-level STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) positions, further enhancing the career development of graduates. If these young men are empowered to live more productive lives by providing training, job readiness resources, and employment, their families and the community itself will be enriched.

As a result of the Breakfast Symposium, a number of guests have joined the CCMA as community partners to help "change lives and enrich communities". Future events will be held this year.

Poet's Corner

**Blasphemed Truth By:
Radavius Thomas - 2014 PMI Graduate**



The Wars.
The Blood spills.
The Governed.
The judged Politicians.
Tell me who is it?
The Fame.
The drug talk.
The gun sound blown
Towards a knowledgeable mind.
An exhilarated heart
Of an Silenced intermediary,
Damn is this the realest.
What's ill then?
Tell me.
Is it the Sparks in the soul.
The invisible bliss
Of the wise,
I'm blind folded.
Speaking in tongues,
The devil wrote me
A friendly letter.

"The Statement"
"The Agreement"
It's better!
To wear the Color of death.
You the sinner,
Let's Be.
Stand beside Me.
And let's watch the crashing devours
Roll over the hills,
Take this deal,
Or follow the chills deep.
I'm bold.
I am an undeniable.
That ill stuff you keep.
I rather look cheap.
Walking in Wonders of Milk and Honey.
Paradise rising in Fascination.
Oh my it's sweet,
And then it repeats,
It's the same.
"Showing me "That foiled token Won't fill Me."

CCMA welcomes Social Work Intern From Clark Atlanta University

Mr. Kenneth Hunter joined our staff in February as our in-house group mentor. Kenneth is a Master of Social Work (Child and Family) graduate student. He brings a wealth of education and experience in the field and looks forward to working with PMI grads and participants. With a winning smile and personality plus, Kenneth is an asset for CCMA. He works very closely with Dr. Judy Jordan, CCMA's Program Coordinator and Dr. Sandra Foster, Professor for the CAU Clinical Social Work Program. The following are two different types of mentoring that are currently being successfully used with young male participants:



Facilitated Group Mentoring: Facilitated group mentoring will allow CCMA grads/participants an opportunity to participate in a learning group and to benefit simultaneously from the experience and expertise of a mentor. The richness of the experience multiplies as each group participant brings personal experiences into the conversation. The facilitator (Kenneth) will ask questions to keep the dialogue thought provoking and meaningful; he will share his own personal experiences, provide feedback and serve as a sounding board. A comparative analysis of this model versus the traditional one-on-one mentoring will be conducted upon completion of the internship.

Peer-Group Mentoring: Peer-group mentoring brings together peers with similar learning interests or needs. The group is primarily self-directed and self-managed. It takes responsibility for crafting its own learning agenda and for managing the learning process so that each member's learning needs are met and everyone derives maximum benefit from each other's knowledge, expertise and experience. Kenneth monitors and evaluates the peer-group mentoring process.

Spring into Action

*"The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created spring."
Bernard Williams*

Spring is a time of hope, preparation, growth, redemption, and renewal. The CCMA is committed to enhancing the personal and career growth of at-risk young men, 18-28 years of age.

We invite you to **"Spring into Action"** by giving hope to twenty at-risk young men, who will attend **2015 PRIORITY MALE INSTITUTE**. With your support, we can empower them with life skills to become productive members of our society!



SPECIAL NEEDS:

- 16-Week Stipends - \$1600 per Student
- Scholarships - \$1100 per Student
- 16-Week MARTA Card - \$384 per Student
- 16-Weekly Lunches - \$320 per Students
- Books & Supplies - \$95 per Student
- Weekly MARTA Cards - \$24 per Student
- Donations – Any Amount

In order to meet our mission and provide services in our community, we rely on the generosity of individuals and businesses for support. Without the assistance of community-minded individuals just like you, we wouldn't be able to serve young men of color in our communities each year. This year our goal is \$50,000. Your

generosity will make a difference by allowing us to continue to provide services.

All donations are tax-deductible, and will be graciously accepted. You may donate online at www.communitycouncilma.org or mail your donation to: Community Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc.
653 Beckwith Street, SW Suite 103
Atlanta, Georgia 30314

Donate Now



*Community Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc. (CCMA) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. The **PRIORITY MALE INSTITUTE**, CCMA's 16-week life skills and job readiness program, serves at-risk young males, 18-28 years of age.*