

National Black Church Initiative

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THE NATIONAL BLACK CHURCH INITIATIVE ANNOUNCES NEW EDUCATION INITIATIVE

*Former L.A. Public Schools Superintendent, Vice Admiral
David L. Brewer III Spearheads NBCI Education Initiative*

Washington DC – The National Black Church Initiative, a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans, is proud to announce the rollout of our NBCI Education Initiative in collaboration with Vice Admiral David L. Brewer III on March 16, 2011 at 10:00am at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. NBCI has a long and distinguished history of implementing education programs within the African-American community and 20 years of experience as a faith-based leader. Vice Admiral Brewer is the former Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District and a distinguished retired Naval Officer. NBCI is proud to present Vice Admiral Brewer's comprehensive education model: *Breaking the Cycle of Ignorance, Poverty and Crime - A Marshall Plan for the Public Education of Disadvantaged Youth*.

The United States of America is a nation at a critical crossroads between either continued greatness or the beginnings of a dramatic decline. It is apparent that the greatest threats to America's freedom, national security, economy and form of democracy are the domestic enemies of ignorance, poverty and crime, affecting millions of our schoolchildren and their families. The statistics paint an alarming picture - in many urban and poor rural school districts:

- Dropout rates top 50%
- An average of only 57% of our best and brightest students finish college after six years
- U.S. college graduation rates have declined to 12th internationally
- U.S. 15 year olds rank 17th of 29 countries in science
- The U.S. has 25% of the world's inmates, despite comprising only 5% of the total world population

- Our youth are becoming more obese, with healthcare costs for diabetes expected to skyrocket from \$174 billion today to over \$300 billion in 20 years, with the concomitant loss in individual productivity and decrease in life expectancy.

Black and Brown children are disproportionately represented in these disturbing statistics, many of whom are being educated in school districts where as many as 90% of the schoolchildren are living at or below the poverty level. We must break this vicious cycle if we are to remain a great nation.

Therefore, NBCI recognizes the need for a new approach, acknowledging the adverse impact of poverty and disadvantaged social circumstances on academic achievement among large segments of our schoolchildren populations. Educators cannot effectively educate many of the disadvantaged youth of this nation without significant public and private community support and a fundamental paradigm shift to a holistic birth to career systemic approach to education. While various reform efforts, such as decentralized control, charter schools, weighted student formulas, vouchers, increased teacher accountability, etc., are worthy of note, none of these in isolation will break the cycle of ignorance, poverty and crime for disadvantaged families without this community-based, systemic approach.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI says, “NBCI is immensely proud to present a comprehensive educational approach which addresses the social and academic factors affecting dropout rates among African Americans. We believe that Vice Admiral Brewer’s approach addresses the stubborn obstacles undermining African-American achievement. We believe this is the magic bullet.”

Admiral Brewer advocates a proven community-based, holistic, full-day, 50 week Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K), starting at two years old to post-secondary college graduation or degreed career technical training model, and a comprehensive prisoner education program. Holistic entails a whole family approach, wherein we also account for all of the adverse socio-economic factors impacting student achievement and family structure. In addition to rigorous, full year academic and enrichment programs, the community must become an integral part of the solution and provide the families with centralized social services, healthcare, parent leadership, education and job training, enhanced community center services, travel, full summer programs, and comprehensive prisoner education and training programs.

The foundation for this model is the 17 year, community-based Tangelo Park Program (TPP) in Orlando Florida, the Sunshine Lady Foundation’s prisoner education program at Sing Sing and San Quentin, and other well researched and proven programs. These programs have produced some impressive results.

- 100 percent HS graduation (currently); 98% since inception
- Approximately 75% four-year college acceptance rate
- 70% of entering first graders reading at or above the 1st grade level

- **77%** college graduation rate for a predominantly low income, African-American student population. This percentage is higher than the national average of 57% and higher than ALL ethnic groups' national averages which are currently 42% for African Americans, 67% for Asian Americans, 48% for Hispanics and 60% for Whites.
- Approximately **52% reduction in neighborhood crime.**
- Housing values have doubled
- Prisoner education - 196 men have graduated with a bachelor's or associate's degree. Of these, 41 have been released from prison with zero returning.

Join us on March 16, 2001 at 10:00am at Mt. Zion Baptist Church at 5101 14th St. NW in Washington, D.C. for a presentation on this exciting initiative.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African-American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. The National Black Church Initiative's methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science. The National Black Church Initiative's purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.

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