

# THE BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATOR

VOLUME 1. NUMBER 1



JANUARY 2020

## Welcome

Welcome to the *Black School Educator*, a publication of the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE). Designed to keep our members apprised of developments which impact our learning community, the Black School Educator will be published on a monthly basis. We welcome your input as we endeavor to effectively communicate with our members and partners.

This issue is dedicated to our recently held conference. Please send you comments and news items to [executivedirector@nabse.org](mailto:executivedirector@nabse.org)

## NABSE's Conference 2019

During five days of mid-November, approximately 1300 Educational practitioners, scholars, administrators, parents, students and strategic business partners gathered at the Hyatt Regency Dallas, as NABSE convened its 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. The attendees deliberated on the many issues which confront African American Educators and the students with whom, they work.

The theme of the conference was *Empowering Educational Excellence Through Equity*. To that end the various speakers and presenters focused their work on the importance of equity, the challenges and obstacles which often impede its realization and the work that is needed for us to achieve it.

The Conference was divided into several Categories: Preconference Activities; Conference Workshops; Working Dinners, Luncheons and the Culminating Awards Gala.

### Pre-Conference Activities - Wednesday, November 13

**NABSE's Aspiring Superintendents Academy**  
NABSE hosted its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Aspiring

Superintendents Academy. Hosted by the team of Harrison-Williams Collins, approximately 40 participants engaged in a daylong set of activities and learning exercises which provided invaluable strategies and tips for individuals who are seeking to enter the superintendency.

### 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Emma Marshall Epps Presidential Golf Tournament

The NABSE Foundation (NABSEF) hosted the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Emma Marshall Epps Presidential Golf Tournament. The proceeds of which contribute to the funding of NABSE's African American Youth Leadership Summits. It was a rather cold day in Dallas, but the participants braved the weather and partook in a worthy cause with good fellowship.



### 14th Annual Parents Summit

Approximately 200 parents and parent involvement/engagement personnel attended the 14th Annual Parents Summit. The Summit kicked off with a continental breakfast, with invocation by Dr. Tarren Dames, Senior Pastor and Elder, North Dallas Community Bible Fellowship. He was followed by a welcome from Liliana Valadez, Executive Director, Parent Advocacy and Support Services, Dallas ISD.

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Parents Commission Chair Betty Maceo

A General Session on ESSA, Section 1116 was presented by Skip Forsyth and Lauren McKinney which informed parents of State legislative information that they need to know, regarding their rights as parents.

The General session was followed by three concurrent workshop series which each offered four different workshop sessions covering topics pertaining to: Home to School, School Safety; Health and Wellness; Communication for Student Success; and Financial Planning for College to Career Readiness for a total of 12 workshop breakout sessions. Two of the sessions were presented in Spanish to accommodate the Spanish only speaking parents.

A lunch was provided and Sponsored by Ed Choice and Dr. Darwin Spiller, Executive Director of the Lake Highlands Learning Community, Richardson ISD served as the luncheon keynote speaker. Two individuals, a parent and an employee working in parent involvement/engagement from Richardson ISD and Crowley ISD were awarded for their outstanding involvement, and work with parents. The day concluded with soft real talk discussions of personal issues at home which effect a child's daily performance and behavior at school and cautions to parents to always consider their child/children when making personal decisions for themselves. Soft real talk was followed by a round table discussion of

parents, school, and community concerns which may be roadblocks to helping students. This focused on continuing the lines of communication between home and school and providing practical solutions and tips on partnering and sharing the responsibility for the learning process of the children.

Another highlight of the event was that 4 photography students from Crowley ISD joined us for the day and took pictures throughout the day which helped to capture the entire occasion!!

## College Tour to HBCU's

The Higher Education Commission organized a tour of the campuses of the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) and Paul Quinn College. The participants were warmly welcomed by the staff and students of both institutions.

Both Texas Southern University and Jarvis Christian College are interested in maintaining contact with and engaging in mutually beneficial activities with NABSE.

## November 14 – 16

President McFarland opened the conference by welcoming all in attendance. He set the tone for the three days by stressing the importance of this year's theme.



He was followed by host superintendent Dr. Michael Hinojosa of the Dallas Independent

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School District, who welcomed NABSE to Dallas, and offered his support for a successful conference.



and building on the work that was done since then.



Our Keynote speak was Educator and Scholar Dr. Donyall Dickey, who focused on the importance of ensuring that all children are sufficiently literate to succeed in our society. He presented strategies, and evidence of their efficacy as he engaged the audience.



Dr. Mark Bedell, Superintendent of the Kansas City School District spoke to the invisible wall of inequality. He used his community as an example of how inequity can be subtly and effectively maintained, and some of the strategies of combatting it.



During the two days there were multiple workshops and presentations that addressed many aspects of public education, with special focus on the conference's theme of Equity.

Attendees at the **Founders' Dinner** were treated to a compelling historical analysis by NABSE Founding President Dr. Russell Jackson. During his presentation, he contextualized the founding of NABSE, and the importance of continuing

The **Delegate Assembly** adopted the 2020 budget and passed a resolution authorizing the President of NABSE to begin the process of selling the property which is owned by NABSE. The resolution also, empowered the President to create a committee that will explore the site for a suitable location of the new NABSE Headquarters.

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## The Awards Gala

The Awards Dinner and Gala provided attendees the opportunity to honor those members of NABSE who distinguished themselves as they endeavored to be the best for our children. The following individuals were honored by their colleagues:

The **HALL OF FAME AWARD** was presented to Dr. Kelvin Adams, Superintendent of St. Louis Public Schools

The **MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD** was presented to Ms. Tracey Savage, teacher in the JP Starks Elementary School, Dallas Independent School District

The **PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AWARD** was presented to Mr. Richard Gordon of the Paul Robeson High School, West Philadelphia

The **W.E.B. DuBois HIGHER EDUCATION AWARD** was presented to Dr. Derek Rovaris, Vice Provost for Diversity of the Louisiana State University and President of the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education (AABHE).

The **MARCUS FOSTER DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD** was presented to Ms. Jacqueline Herriot, Director of Programs of the Black Educators Association, Hardwoodlands, Nova Scotia.

The **JOSEPH E. HILL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD** was presented to Dr. Roosevelt Nivens, Superintendent of the Community Independent School District of Nevada, Texas.

The **SCHOOL BOARD/SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD** was presented to Dr. Devin Del Palacio of the Tolleson

Union High School District, Tolleson Arizona and Chair Elect of the National Council of Black School Board Members

The **IDA B. WELLS RISK TAKER AWARD** was presented Dr. Melissa B. Smith, Principal of the Alternative Learning Center and Special Sites, Lamar, Texas.

The **LIVING LEGEND AWARD** was presented to Dr. Joris Ray, Superintendent of Shelby County Schools, Memphis, Tennessee.

The **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** was presented to Dr. Ina Gloria Howell, Retired Administrator, Seattle, Washington.

In addition to the presentation of the awards those present were treated to performances from local students, professional artistes, and an inspiring presentation by Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson, Superintendent of the Oakland Schools, Michigan.



During her presentation, Dr. Cook-Robinson focused on the barriers and hurdles to achievement of equity, and perseverance that is necessary for all students to succeed in our country.

Overall, the Conference was a success given that our attendance increased over the previous two years, the feedback from attendees was generally positive and our organization was able to realize a financial profit.

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President McFarland and President- Elect King challenge NABSE to rise in the name of black children around the world.

Thanks to our participants, staff, officers and volunteers for making the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Alliance of Black School Educators a success

See you at our 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Los Angeles

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