

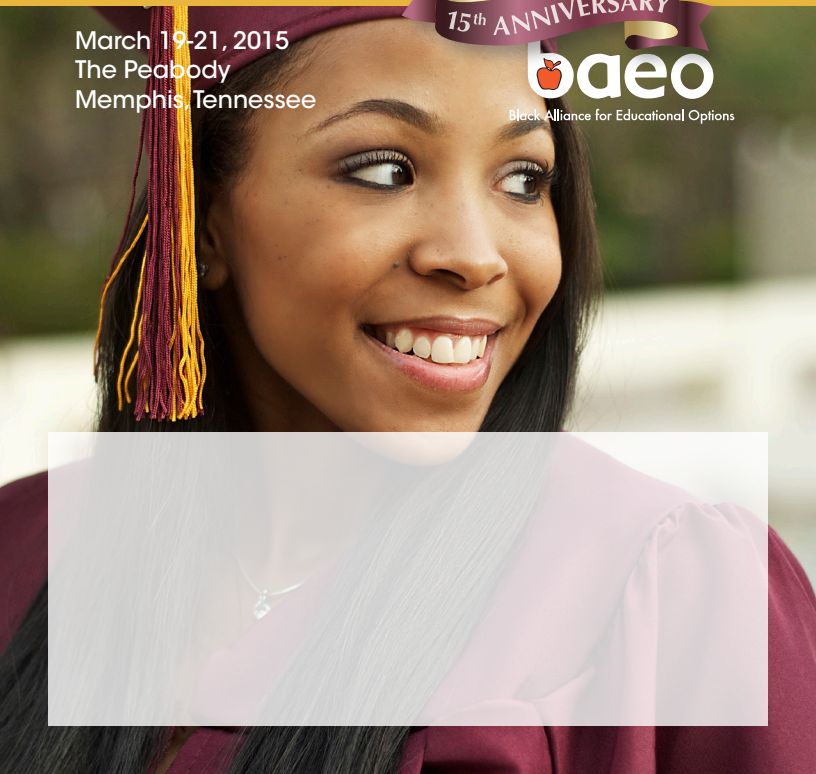
# SYMPOSIUM 2015

15<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

March 19-21, 2015  
The Peabody  
Memphis, Tennessee



Black Alliance for Educational Options



## THURSDAY, MARCH 19

7:00am – 8:00am	Breakfast on Your Own
8:00am – 12:00pm	High-Quality School Visits <i>(Pre-registered School Visit Participants Only)</i>
12:00pm – 6:00pm	Registration
12:00pm – 3:00pm	Networking
12:00pm – 5:00pm	Recharge Room
12:30pm – 2:30pm	School Visit Debrief <i>(Pre-registered School Visit Participants Only)</i>
2:00pm – 5:00pm	Special Feature: PowerBreaks Complimentary Massage
3:00pm – 5:00pm	Welcome and First-Timers Orientation
5:00pm – 5:30pm	Meet the Author: Howard Fuller
5:00pm – 6:00pm	Host Region Networking Reception
6:30pm – 8:00pm	Opening General Session & Dinner

## FRIDAY, MARCH 20

8:30am – 3:00pm	Registration
8:30am – 9:30am	Networking Breakfast
8:30am – 9:30am	Local Advocacy Breakfast Meetings
9:00am – 12:00pm	Special Feature: PowerBreaks Complimentary Massage
9:00am – 12:00pm	Recharge Room
9:30am – 10:00am	Networking

## FRIDAY, MARCH 20

10:00am – 11:30am	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parents: Using the Courts for Change</li><li>• Reclaiming the Black Narrative</li><li>• Getting to the "Core" with iPad</li></ul>
11:30am – 12:00pm	<b>Networking</b>
12:00pm – 1:30pm	<b>Lunch and General Session</b>
1:30pm – 2:00pm	<b>Meet the Author: Howard Fuller</b>
1:30pm – 2:00pm	<b>Networking</b>
1:30pm – 5:00pm	<b>Recharge Room</b>
2:00pm – 5:00pm	<b>Special Feature: PowerBreaks Complimentary Massage</b>
2:00pm – 3:30pm	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bailey-Sullivan Leadership Institute Presents: Storytime</li><li>• Testing as a Tool for Choice</li><li>• Engaging the Community</li><li>• Getting to the "Core" with iPad</li></ul>
3:30pm – 4:00pm	<b>Networking</b>
4:00pm – 5:00pm	<b>Closing General Session and Ceremony</b>
5:00pm – 7:00pm	<b>Host City 2016 Social Event</b>

## SATURDAY, MARCH 21

9:00am – 12:00pm	<b>National Board of Directors Meeting</b>
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*We thank the generous sponsors that have helped make Symposium 2015 possible.*

**CHAMPION \$50,000 OR MORE**



**VANGUARD \$25,000 TO \$49,999**

**DORIS & DONALD FISHER FUND**



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## ACTIVIST \$5,000 TO \$9,999



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## SENTINEL \$1,200 TO \$4,999

*(for individuals only)*

MASHEA ASHTON

KENNETH AND SHELIA CAMPBELL

JACQUELINE AND MICHAEL COOPER

ANGELO DeVIGAL

HOWARD FULLER

DEBORAH M. MCGRIFF

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## BENEFACTOR \$500 TO \$1,199

*(for individuals only)*

OFFIONG BASSEY

DAWN CHAVOUS

DARRYL COBB

VERNARD GANT

KEVIN HINTON

ALKINEE JACKSON

JENNIFER LITTLEJOHN

SHREE MEDLOCK

KEVIN MILLS

MONIQUE PITTMAN

LASHUNDRA RICHMOND

DAVID THOMAS

MARIBEL TORRES-PINERO

# Ain't No Stopping Us Now

**W**elcome to Memphis and to Symposium 2015! This year we celebrate the 15th anniversary of Symposium and our theme *Ain't No Stopping Us Now* reflects our history of unwavering passion and commitment to empowering families to choose a high-quality education for their children that enables them to pursue the college and career path of their choice, become economically independent adults, and engage in the practice of freedom. We are honored to host over 500 parents, educators, elected officials, clergy, BAEO board members, staff, emerging leaders, funders, and partner advocates. The next two days will **inform**, **inspire** and **empower** you.

As we look to the future, it is fitting that we're in Memphis, a city that is working to increase parental choice and implement transformational education reforms. We challenge you to reflect on the progress that has been made, consider new ways to advocate, and continue to embrace the urgency of acting now on behalf of our children.

Events begin on Thursday morning with **visits to local high-quality schools** for pre-registered participants. In the afternoon, all participants are invited to the **Welcome and First-Timers Orientation** where you will learn more about BAEO's vision, history and mission. Afterwards, join us for a **Networking Reception** hosted by Tennessee BAEO. This is your opportunity to connect with old friends and meet new partners in the struggle. The **Opening General Session and Dinner** honors outgoing Board Chair, Howard Fuller, and former BAEO President, Kenneth Campbell.

We start Friday morning with **BAEO local advocacy breakfast meetings** for participants from Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Newark. All participants are welcome to join our **Networking Breakfast**. During the morning and afternoon, you can select from a variety of concurrent sessions across different topics including: the opportunity to explore how some **parents have used the courts as an advocacy strategy**; hear how Black thought leaders, as well as the emerging leaders who are current and past fellows of the Bailey-Sullivan Leadership Institute **use personal narratives to tell**

## Welcome!

**their stories of parental choice and education reform**; find out how **testing is used as a tool for enhancing parental choice**; learn how BAEO is **engaging the community to support advocacy campaigns**; and learn how the **Apple learning ecosystem can support the Common Core**.

At our Friday lunch, we will have a special tribute to BAEO warrior **Bertha Gilkey-Bonds**, and **Mark Fraley** of Leadership for Educational Equity will facilitate a conversation with **Howard Fuller**. They will explore Howard's organizing career, highlight several pivotal moments in his recent book *No Struggle, No Progress: A Warrior's Life From Black Power to Education Reform*, reflect on BAEO's first 15 years, and look forward to the future. All participants will receive a complimentary copy of the book. There are scheduled opportunities to **Meet the Author** throughout Symposium where you will be able to get your copy signed!

At the **Closing General Session and Ceremony**, Howard Fuller will pass the gavel to Board Chair Elect, Mashea Ashton, and will inspire us with a rousing keynote speech that will send us home ready to continue the struggle!

And finally, at the **Closing Social Event** hosted by our newest site, Newark BAEO, we will look ahead to another year of advocacy, organizing and mobilizing that will fuel the program at Symposium 2016.

In the words of songwriters McFadden and Whitehead, "Ain't no... stopping us now... we're on the move." Again, welcome to Symposium 2015 and thank you for joining us in the movement!

**ADDRESS:** 888 16th Street NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20006

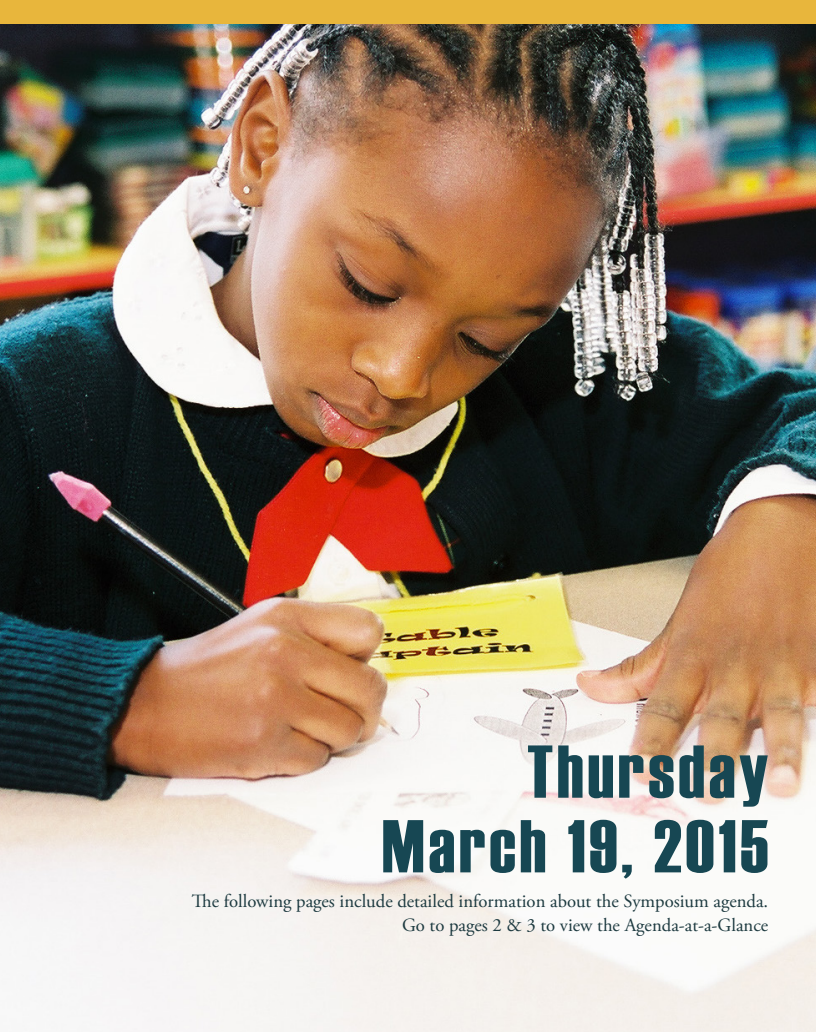
**PHONE:** (202) 429-2236

**WEBSITE:** [www.baео.org](http://www.baео.org)

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/baео.org](http://www.facebook.com/baео.org)

**TWITTER:** @ntlbaео

**TWITTER HASHTAG:** #BAEOSymposium



**Thursday**  
**March 19, 2015**

The following pages include detailed information about the Symposium agenda.  
Go to pages 2 & 3 to view the Agenda-at-a-Glance



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**7:00am – 8:00am**      **Breakfast on Your Own**

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**8:00am – 12:00pm**      **High-Quality School Visits**

A Symposium tradition continues as we tour local schools on a rapid trajectory to high-quality. Our goal is to inspire you as you meet educators, students and parents who are pursuing a world-class education. Take notes while you learn how the achievement gap is being closed and go back to your communities with fresh ideas, solutions and recommendations that enhance the lives of Black Children. *(Pre-registered School Visit Participants Only)*

- **Collegiate School of Memphis**
- **St. George's Independent School**
- **St. Augustine Catholic School**

*Facilitator:*      **Sherry Pitts** *sherry@baeo.org*

**LOCATION:**      **Meet in the Main Lobby**

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**12:00pm – 6:00 pm**      **Registration**

**LOCATION:**      **Grand Ballroom West Foyer, Mezzanine Level**

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**12:00pm – 3:00pm**      **Networking**

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**12:00pm – 5:00pm**      **Recharge Room**

Stop by, charge your mobile device and experience product solutions for education from some of our sponsors.

**LOCATION:**      **Venetian Room, Mezzanine Level**

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**12:30pm – 2:30pm**

**School Visit Debrief**

After a morning of touring some of the most inspiring, progressive and innovative schools in Memphis, participants will return to share lessons learned, best practices on what makes these schools a quality educational option, and how they are preparing the leaders for tomorrow today.

*(Pre-registered School Visit Participants Only)*

*Facilitator:*

**LaShundra Richmond** [lashundra@baeo.org](mailto:lashundra@baeo.org)

**LOCATION:**

**Grand Ballroom E, Mezzanine Level**

**2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Special Feature:**

**PowerBreaks Complimentary Massage**

Treat yourself to something renewing and relaxing. Take a stroll over to the Symposium Spa for a soothing 10-minute massage. Enter the realm of relaxation. Don't miss this opportunity to RELAX, RENEW AND REVIVE your soul.

*Massage Therapist:*

**Lillian Pounds** [renew@randrproductions.net](mailto:renew@randrproductions.net)

**LOCATION:**

**General Moorman Room, Mezzanine Level**

**3:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Welcome and First-Timers Orientation**

Is this your first Symposium? Do you want to learn more about BAEO and the educational options and reforms BAEO supports? First-Timers will receive an overview of the Symposium, the history of BAEO, and the quality options and reforms BAEO supports.

*Presenter:*

**Howard Fuller** [@howardfuller](https://twitter.com/howardfuller)

**LOCATION:**

**Continental Ballroom, Mezzanine Level**

**5:00pm – 5:30pm**

**Meet the Author: Howard Fuller**

Please bring your copy of *No Struggle, No Progress* to have it signed by the author.

**LOCATION:**

**Continental Ballroom Foyer, Mezzanine Level**

**5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**Host Region Networking Reception**

Join us to connect with old friends and meet new partners in the struggle.

*Hosted by:*

**Tennessee BAEO @tennesseebaeo**

**LOCATION:**

**Grand Ballroom D-F, Mezzanine Level**

**6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**

**Opening General Session & Dinner**

Special Tributes to Howard Fuller and Kenneth Campbell

*Presiding:*

**Mashea Ashton @mashea**

**Offiong Bassey @offiongbassey**

**Jacqueline Cooper @jacquelincooper**

**LOCATION:**

**Grand Ballroom A-C, Mezzanine Level**



**Thursday March 19**



**Friday  
March 20, 2015**

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**8:30am – 3:00pm**

**LOCATION:**

**Registration**

Grand Ballroom West Foyer, Mezzanine Level

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**8:30am – 9:30am**

*Location:*

**Networking Breakfast**

Grand Ballroom A-C, Mezzanine Level

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**8:30am – 9:30am**

**LOCATIONS:**

**Local Advocacy Breakfast Meeting**

*Alabama Participants Only:*

**Hernando Desoto Room, Mezzanine Level**

*Louisiana Participants Only:*

**Continental Ballroom, Mezzanine Level**

*Newark Participants Only:*

**Ben Hollander Room, Mezzanine Level**

*Tennessee Participants Only:*

**Forest Room, Mezzanine Level**

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**9:00am – 12:00pm**

**Special Feature:**

**PowerBreaks Complimentary Massage**

Treat yourself to something renewing and relaxing. Take a stroll over to the Symposium Spa for a soothing 10-minute massage. Enter the realm of relaxation. Don't miss this opportunity to RELAX, RENEW AND REVIVE your soul.

*Massage Therapist:*

**Lillian Pounds** [renew@randrproductions.net](mailto:renew@randrproductions.net)

**LOCATION:**

**General Moorman Room, Mezzanine Level**

---

**9:00am – 12:00pm**

**Recharge Room**

Stop by, charge your mobile device and experience product solutions for education from some of our sponsors.

**LOCATION:**

**Venetian Room, Mezzanine Level**

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**9:30am – 10:00am      Networking**

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**10:00am – 11:30am      Concurrent Sessions**

**Parents: Using the Courts for Change**

Parents continue to use the courts to fight for better educational opportunities for their children. Participants in this session will hear from several parent leaders who used the judicial system as an advocacy strategy. Honest dialogue between participants will be encouraged as the group considers when to use litigation as an effective strategy.

*Facilitators:*

**Derrell Bradford** @dyrnwyn

*Presenters:*

**Keoni John Wright** keoni.gm@gmail.com

**Isha Dotson** isha12774@aol.com

**Carla Williams** @cwilli07

**Mona Pradia** mpradia68@gmail.com

**Nina Doster** @bossladie116

**Navis Hill** nachill113@yahoo.com

**LOCATION:**

**Grand Ballroom E-F, Mezzanine Level**

### **Reclaiming the Black Narrative**

In May 2014, BAEO hosted its first Black Thought Leaders convening to discuss ideas and issues key to ensuring that the needs of the parents and children we serve were being met. We will continue the conversation, begun in 2014, on how we can expand Black voices in the parental choice and education reform movements. You will leave the session with ideas on how you can actively participate in championing these initiatives.

*Facilitators:*

**Tiffany Forrester** @baeopolicy

*Presenters:*

**Jamilah Prince-Stewart** @jamilahps

**Naomi Shelton** @naomisheltondc

**Jeremiah Grace** @jlgvotes

**Anjelica Hardin** @anjelicalhardin

**LOCATION:**

**Grand Ballroom D, Mezzanine Level**



**Friday March 20**

### **Getting to the “Core” with iPad**

The Common Core State Standards are designed to reflect the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. These standards require rigorous and robust curriculum materials, teacher professional development and more. Apple’s iPad along with digital content from iTunes U, iBooks, apps and more can facilitate these needs. Come learn how students, teachers, parents, and administrators can support the tenets of the Common Core leveraging the Apple Learning Ecosystem. *Seating limited to 30 participants*

*Facilitator:*

**Cathleen Richardson** @cre8tivmind

**LOCATION:**

**Louis XVI, Mezzanine Level**

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**11:30am – 12:00pm**

**Networking**

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**12:00pm – 1:30pm**

**Lunch and General Session**

Organizing: Past, Present, and Future with a Special Tribute to Bertha Gilkey-Bonds

*Presiding:*

**Deborah M. McGriff** @dmmcgriff

*Presenters:*

**Mark Fraley** @mark\_fraley

**Howard Fuller** @howardfuller

**Duncan Kirkwood** @duncankirkwood

**LOCATION:**

**Grand Ballroom A-C, Mezzanine Level**





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**1:30pm - 2:00pm**

**Meet the Author: Howard Fuller**

Please bring your copy of *No Struggle, No Progress* and have it signed by the author.

**LOCATION:**

**Grand Ballroom, West Foyer, Mezzanine Level**

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**1:30pm - 2:00pm**

**Networking**

---

**1:30pm - 5:00pm**

**Recharge Room**

Stop by, charge your mobile device and experience product solutions for education from some of our sponsors.

**LOCATION:**

**Venetian Room, Mezzanine Level**

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**2:00pm – 5:00pm**

**Special Feature:**

**PowerBreaks Complimentary Massage**

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*Massage Therapist:*

**Lillian Pounds** [renew@randrproductions.net](mailto:renew@randrproductions.net)

**LOCATION:**

**General Moorman Room, Mezzanine Level**

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**2:00pm – 3:30pm**

**Concurrent Sessions**

***Bailey-Sullivan Leadership Institute Presents:***  
**Storytime**

Sharing personal stories and perspectives helps education reformers communicate with diverse audiences. Participants in this session will hear several personal stories from emerging leaders and current and past fellows of the Bailey-Sullivan Leadership Institute. You will also hear about the pivotal work they are doing to advance choice and transformational initiatives.

*Facilitator:*

**Gerard Robinson** [gtr924@aol.com](mailto:gtr924@aol.com)

*Presenters:*

**Allison Gibb** [agibbs07@gmail.com](mailto:agibbs07@gmail.com)

**Shinar Little** [slittle157@gmail.com](mailto:slittle157@gmail.com)

**Daniel Rumley** [dmr.al@icloud.com](mailto:dmr.al@icloud.com)

**Nikotris Perkins** [@nikotrisp](mailto:@nikotrisp)

**LOCATION:**

**Grand Ballroom D, Mezzanine Level**

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### **Testing as a Tool for Choice**

Testing is a valuable tool for helping parents make wise school choices. This session explores why standardized testing is used, how it increases accountability, and how standardized testing policies can be improved. Participants will learn why standardized tests matter to the Black community and to parent choice.

*Facilitator:*

**Tiffany Forrester** @baeopolicy

*Presenters:*

**Kati Haycock** @edtrust

**Ryan Mahoney** ryan@excelined.org

**LOCATION:**

**Grand Ballroom E-F, Mezzanine Level**

### **Engaging the Community**

Community engagement is critical for long-term success and is required throughout the decision making process in any advocacy campaign. In this session, participants will learn effective strategies, and identify challenges in organizing stakeholders and mobilizing community support for education reform and parental choice.

*Facilitators:*

**Tracie Craft** @craftytf

*Presenters:*

**Akiesha Anderson** akiesha@ymail.com

**Keith Williams** williamsmtnebo@aol.com

**Shanell Dunns** sldthornes@gmail.com

**LOCATION:**

**Forest Room, Mezzanine Level**



### **Getting to the “Core” with iPad**

The Common Core State Standards are designed to reflect the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. These standards require rigorous and robust curriculum materials, teacher professional development and more. Apple’s iPad along with digital content from iTunes U, iBooks, apps and more can facilitate these needs. Come learn how students, teachers, parents, and administrators can support the tenets of the Common Core leveraging the Apple Learning Ecosystem. *Seating limited to 30 participants*

*Facilitator:*

**Cathleen Richardson @cre8tivmind**

**LOCATION:**

**Louis XVI, Mezzanine Level**

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**3:30pm – 4:00pm      Networking**

---

**4:00pm – 5:00pm      Closing General Session and Ceremony**

*Presenters:*  
**Howard Fuller @howardfuller**  
**Mashea Ashton @mashea**

**LOCATION:**      **Grand Ballroom A-C, Mezzanine Level**

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**5:00pm – 7:00pm      Host City 2016 Social Event**

*Hosted by:*  
**We will be joined by Memphis Mayor A C Wharton, Jr.**  
**Newark BAO @newarkbaeo**

**LOCATION:**      **The Skyway, Rooftop “S” Level**



**Friday March 20**

**Saturday  
March 21, 2015**



**9:00am – 12:00pm**

**National Board of Directors Meeting**

**LOCATION:**

**Venetian, Mezzanine Level**



## Thirteen Time Repeaters

Mashea Ashton

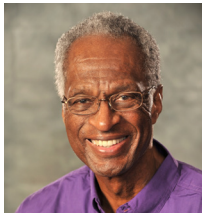
Howard Fuller

K. Miata Fuller

Deborah M. McGriff

**Saturday March 21**

**S**ince BAEO's founding in 1999, Howard Fuller and Kenneth Campbell have been instrumental in the launch and growth of the organization, each serving in several different capacities over the past fifteen years. This year's theme *Ain't No Stopping Us Now* is an appropriate launchpad to continue the work of empowering low-income and working-class Black families to choose a high-quality education for their children, enabling them to pursue the college and career path of their choice, becoming economically independent adults, and engaging in the practice of freedom. During this Symposium, we hold their leadership, vision and commitment close as we look to the future. From your BAEO Family – thank you!



### **Howard Fuller**

As a BAEO Founder and Board Chair, Howard Fuller has given an inspirational voice to BAEO's mission every day. Through his leadership, BAEO has raised more than \$50million over the past 15 years to support its mission to increase access to high quality education options for Black children by actively supporting transformational education reform initiatives and parental choice policies that empower low-income and working-class Black families. We thank him for being our warrior for progress!



### **Kenneth Campbell**

As a Founder, Board Member and longest serving President, Kenneth Campbell deepened BAEO's relationship with clergy and the community through the School of Choice Tour with Pastor Marvin Sapp. He also helped re-launch the Bailey-Sullivan Leadership Institute to support Black emerging leaders. We salute him for his faithful service and dedication!



**T**he founding and development of BAEO was blessed by the contributions of many. During this and each Symposium, we celebrate the legacies of Lisa Yvette Sullivan, Deirdre Lynn Bailey, Reverend Eddie Edwards, John Walton, Harriet Ball, and Bertha Gilkey-Bonds. We hold their beliefs, values and leadership close to our hearts as we all continue the struggle for our children.



Lisa Yvette  
Sullivan  
(1961-2001)



Deirdre Lynn  
Bailey  
(1970-2003)



Reverend  
Eddie Edwards  
(1936-2004)



John Walton  
(1946-2005)



Harriett Ball  
(1946-2011)



Bertha Gilkey-Bonds  
(1949-2014)

# SYMPOSIUM

2016



Black Alliance for Educational Options

MARCH 10-12, 2016  
Hyatt Jersey City

Questions contact:  
events@baeo.org

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SAVE THE  
DATE

