

Press Release

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100 Black Men of America Challenges More Men to Mobilize and Mentor

Atlanta, GA – The 100 Black Men of America, Inc. (the “100”) is using National Mentoring Month to challenge more African American men to make a difference in the lives of disenfranchised youth by becoming mentors. Mentoring is a proven youth development strategy that has positive impact when the adult-youth relationship is consistent and sustained. National Mentoring Month was launched by the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR in 2002 to raise mentoring awareness and increase volunteerism. On December 22, 2010, President Barack Obama proclaimed January 2011 as National Mentoring Month.

The deteriorating condition of youth in Black communities, particularly males, has been documented by numerous studies. According to 100 Chairman Albert E. Dotson, Jr., “This deteriorating condition has reached a state of crisis requiring immediate attention and multiple points of intervention by caring adults who recognize that mentoring is a critical component of the solution.”

A study by the Schott Foundation for Public Education indicates that only 47% of Black males graduate from high school in the United States. The 100 has been engaged in innovative mentoring programs with measurable results to help improve this unacceptable statistic. “*Mentoring the 100 Way Across A Lifetime*®, our signature program, has demonstrated that reading levels advance, behavioral issues diminish, graduation rates significantly improve, and the opportunity gap is drastically narrowed when our members and friends commit themselves to sustaining their mentoring activities within the communities they serve,” said Dotson.

The 100 is a proud 2012 Partner for the 2nd Annual National Mentoring Summit, “*Invest in the Future: Mentor a Child*,” being held on January 24 – 25, 2012 at the Fairmont Washington, D.C. For more details on the 2012 National Mentoring Summit or MENTOR, contact summit@mentoring.org.

Through its network of over 100 Chapters, the 100 provides mentoring services primarily to disenfranchised students enrolled in K-12 public schools and post-secondary institutions to help them graduate and reach their full potential. “We have achieved success through our *Mentoring the 100 Way Across A Lifetime*® programs that emphasize excellence in education, health & wellness, economic empowerment, and leadership. But many more mentors and role models are needed in African American communities,” said Dr. Howard Rasheed, Vice Chairman of Programs.

Disenfranchised young people need more support now in the form of caring and committed mentors. The 100 is challenging more African American organizations, businesses, churches, fraternities, and individuals to mobilize and mentor. “National Mentoring Month is ideal for accepting the call to serve youth in our communities. We need to help guide them along pathways of success so they become participants in the country’s economic fabric. The future of our youth depends on our present action and our targeted intervention,” said Dotson.

Join the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia for its 26th Annual Conference where thought leaders, educators, executives, celebrities, and subject-matter experts from across the country convene with the 100 and its mentees to share innovative mentoring best practices and celebrate year-long success.

100 Black Men was founded in New York City in 1963. The national organization, 100 Black Men of America, Inc., began with nine chapters in 1986 as a national alliance of leading African American men from diverse professions with a mission to improve the quality of life for African Americans, particularly youth. With Chapters in the United States, England and the Caribbean, the 100 serves as an international coalition focused on creating positive mentoring relationships and educational opportunities, promoting economic empowerment, and addressing health disparities.

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