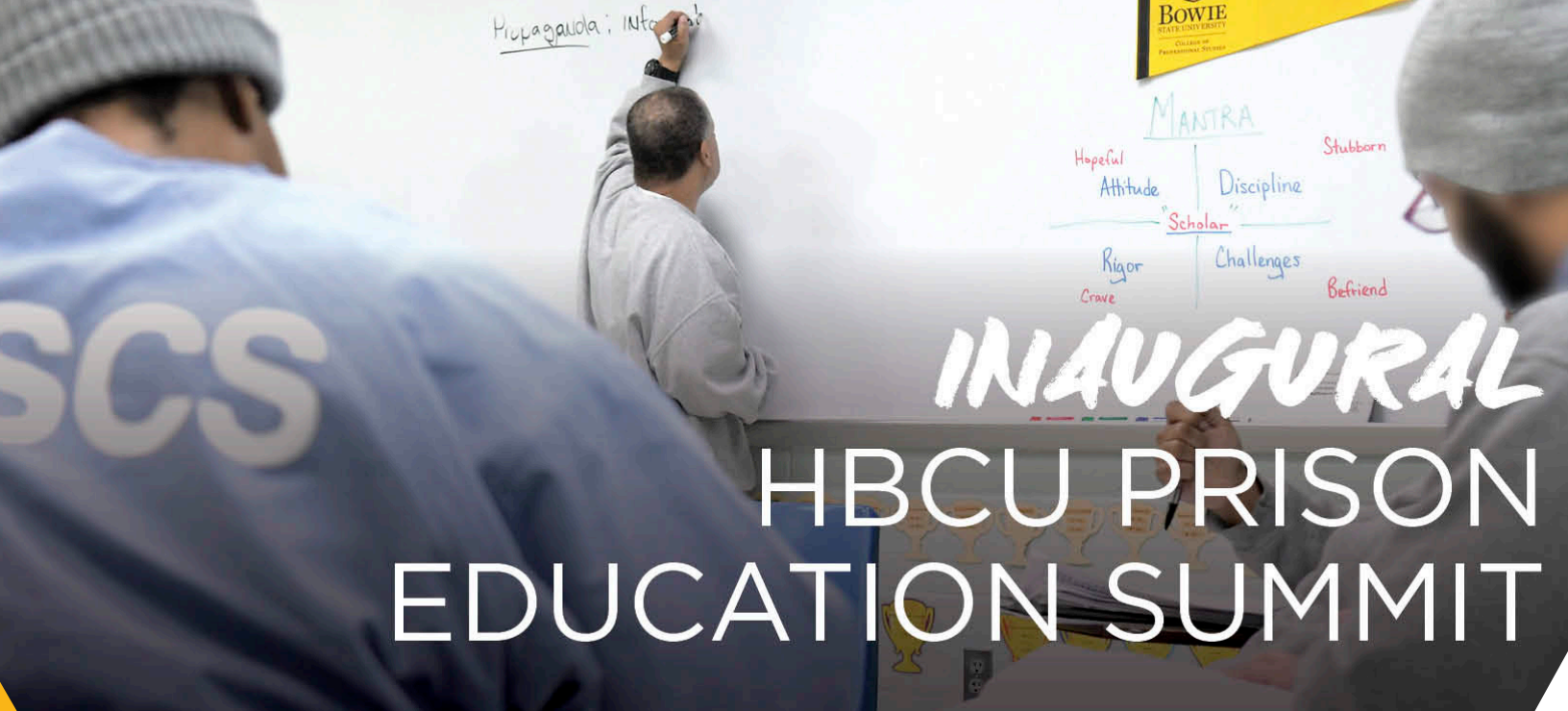




The background image shows a classroom setting. In the foreground, the back of a student's head and shoulders are visible, wearing a blue sweatshirt with 'SCS' printed on it. In the background, a teacher is writing on a whiteboard. The whiteboard has the word 'MANTRA' written at the top, with a diagram below it. The diagram consists of a central box labeled 'Scholar' with arrows pointing to six surrounding boxes: 'Hopeful' (top-left), 'Attitude' (top), 'Discipline' (top-right), 'Stubborn' (right), 'Challenges' (bottom-right), and 'Rigor' (bottom-left). Below 'Rigor' is the word 'Crave'. To the right of the 'MANTRA' diagram, the word 'Befriend' is written. The main title 'INAUGURAL HBCU PRISON EDUCATION SUMMIT' is overlaid on the right side of the image in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

INAUGURAL HBCU PRISON EDUCATION SUMMIT

SUMMIT OVERVIEW REPORT

April 4–6, 2025



Prepared by:
Britany J. Gatewood, Ph.D.
Anthony J. Jackson, Ph.D.

January 19, 2026



LETTER FROM SUMMIT CHAIR

Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,

It is with deep gratitude that I reflect on the success of the Inaugural HBCU Prison Education Summit. This historic event brought together more than 200 participants from over 60 institutions, including HBCUs, correctional agencies, grassroots organizations, and higher education advocates—each united by a shared commitment to dismantling barriers to education and building a transformative Prison-to-HBCU Pipeline.

The summit was more than a gathering; it was a powerful statement of collective will. It affirmed that Historically Black Colleges and Universities, with their enduring legacy of educating the historically marginalized and excluded, are uniquely positioned to transform the landscape of prison education in this country—and are central to this effort.

Throughout the summit, we engaged in critical dialogue and deep reflection. Our panels and workshops addressed urgent challenges facing the field: launching and sustaining prison education programs, navigating technology restrictions, providing trauma-informed and culturally relevant instruction, securing funding, and designing organized pathways from incarceration to reentry to degree completion and more. What emerged was a shared vision—of expanding access, building infrastructure, and offering more than just courses, but community, belonging, love and hope.

Most importantly, the summit laid the groundwork for sustained collaboration. We are now cultivating a national network of HBCUs committed to expanding the Prison-to-HBCU Pipeline—a transformative initiative that positions HBCUs as leaders in educating incarcerated students, particularly Black and Brown people who have been historically denied access to quality education due to cycles of racialized punishment and systemic exclusion. This work goes beyond degree attainment; it reclaims education as a vehicle for self-determination, community empowerment, and resistance to dehumanizing systems. Through strategic partnerships, faculty and student engagement, and innovative practices, we are co-creating a model of prison education rooted in care, justice, restoration, and social transformation.

This is just the beginning. The movement is growing—and the work ahead is urgent. We invite you to continue this journey with us: to build, to imagine, and to act. Because education behind the walls is not just about earning degrees—it's about affirming dignity, restoring humanity, and advancing liberation using the transformative power of education.

In Solidarity and Struggle,

Dr. Anthony J. Jackson
Assistant Professor of Sociology, Bowie State University
Founding Chair, HBCU Prison Education Summit
Director of Operations, BSU Prison Education Program



SUMMIT SPONSORSHIP

The Inaugural HBCU Prison Education Summit was made possible through the generous support of the Adobe Foundation. As part of its \$200,000 investment in Bowie State University's Social Justice Initiative, Adobe's grant funded the summit in full—ensuring that registration, meals, and materials were provided at no cost to participants. This critical support advanced the university's mission to expand higher education opportunities for incarcerated individuals and position HBCUs at the forefront of prison education. The Adobe Foundation's commitment reflects a bold investment in racial equity, digital access, and educational justice, aligning with their broader "Adobe for All" pillar.



In addition to Adobe's foundational grant, we raised an additional \$4,000 from community sponsors. These funds supported enhanced programming elements, materials for participants, and logistical support to help deepen engagement across sessions. Together, Adobe and our sponsors enabled us to welcome over 200 attendees—including representatives from 15 HBCUs and more than 60 institutions—to a gathering that was not just an event, but a movement-building milestone. These investments helped us model what is possible when institutions and communities come together to affirm that education behind the walls is not just a service—it is a right. Thank you to our sponsors:

Justice Policy Institute (\$1,000)
Jamii Sisterhood, LLC (\$1,000)
Tennessee Higher Education Initiative (\$1,000)
The Dr. Muhammad Experience Inc. (\$1,000)
Liberation and Justice Project Foundation, Inc. (Donated Services)



ORGANIZATION TABLING

The Liberation and Justice Project Foundation, Inc. generously sponsored and coordinated the tabling component of the summit, helping to create a space for dialogue, resource-sharing, and visibility among participating organizations. In addition to managing logistics, the Foundation also assisted in developing the sponsorship tier structure that supported the event's broader fundraising strategy. Their partnership was instrumental in ensuring meaningful engagement with community partners committed to advancing prison education and social justice.

Participating Organizations

College in Prison Survey of Student Engagement (CIP SSE)

Virginia Department of Corrections

Lee College (Huntsville Center)

Jobs for the Future

JSTOR

EdTrust

Liberation and Justice Project Foundation, Inc.

It Takes a Village Collaborative Inc

The DME INC.

Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs

Tennessee Higher Education Initiative

The Petey Greene Program

Employ Prince George's

Virginia Consensus for Higher Education in Prison

Inspiring Word, LLC

Maryland Juvenile Services Education Program

DPSCS - ITCD Telecom

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program at Swarthmore College

State vs Us Magazine

AKD

JAMII

MD DPSCS

BSU Clinical Pastoral Counseling

Reentry united-book signed

Mettle-Works Behavioral Health



PARTICIPANT HIGHLIGHTS

246

Registrants

15

HBCUs

5

State
Governments

25

Non-HBCU
Institutions

62

Nonprofits &
Community
Organizations



HBCUs

- Grambling State University
- Barber-Scotia College
- Benedict College
- Bowie State University
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Coppin State University
- Hampton University
- Harris-Stowe State University
- Howard University
- Lane College
- Langston University
- Morehouse College
- Oakwood University
- Stillman College
- The University of the District of Columbia

PROMINENT SPEAKERS



President Aminta H. Breaux
President of Bowie State University



Aisha N. Braveboy
State's Attorney for Prince George's County



Dr. Charles Adams
Founding Executive Director, Bowie State University Prison Education Program

THE VEIL: STUDENT-LED PLENARY ON PRISON EDUCATION

One of the most powerful and moving moments of the summit was The Veil: Student-Led Plenary on Prison Education, featuring currently incarcerated students enrolled in Bowie State University's Prison Education Program. Named in reference to W.E.B. Du Bois' concept of "the veil," the session gave students the opportunity to reflect on the metaphysical and material barriers of incarceration and how education helps them navigate, resist, and rise above them. With raw insight and intellectual clarity, panelists shared their journeys through education inside prison walls, the challenges they face, and their dreams for the future.

What made this session especially impactful was the centering of HBCU education—an education rooted in a legacy of resistance, affirmation, and transformation for Black students. Panelists emphasized how being educated within an HBCU framework, even while incarcerated, instills a deep sense of pride, identity, and purpose. HBCU prison education offers not only academic instruction, but cultural grounding and community connection that empower students to see themselves as scholars, leaders, and agents of change.

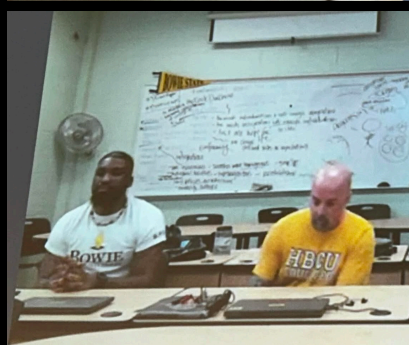
PANELISTS

Ryan Samuel

David Jefferson-Smith

Lawrence Trolan

James Dixon



This groundbreaking plenary was made possible through our technology partnership with Orijin, whose innovative tools and support enabled real-time participation and storytelling from behind the walls. The session not only embodied the spirit of the summit but powerfully demonstrated the transformative impact of HBCU education—and the need for continued investment in incarcerated students' voices, dreams, and futures.



DAY 1: FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH

Introduction of BSU President

Dr. D. Elliott Parris

Welcome

President Aminta H. Breaux
President of Bowie State University

Remarks

Aisha Braveboy
State's Attorney for Prince George's County

Tholyn Twyman
Director of Community Investment for DPSCS

Prison Education-to-HBCU Pipeline: Why HBCUs Must Lead in Prison Education

Dr. Anthony J. Jackson

Prison Education as Social Justice: Incarceration, Education & Race

Moderator: Dr. Brittany Gatewood

Panelists: Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad & Dr. Zoe Spencer-Harris

The Veil: Student-led Plenary on Prison Education

Moderator: Dr. Anthony J. Jackson

Panelists: Ryan Samuel, David Jefferson-Smith, Lawrence Trolan, & James Dixon

Prison Education under the Trump Administration: Policies, Challenges, and Future Direction

Moderator: Ms. Erin Corbett

Panelists: Dr. Amy Lopez, Dr. Masica Jordan, Dr. Johannes Badejo
Ann-Michelle Roberts, Keith Reeves, & Elyshia D. Aseltine

Success Stories from HBCU Prison Education Programs: Inspiration & Motivation

Moderator: Dr. Anthony J. Jackson

Panelists: Dr. Brittany Gatewood, Dr. Charles Adams, Judge Winfield Murray, & Dr. Nathaniel Normont

Closing Remarks

Dr. Charles Adams



DAY 1: FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH



DAY 2: SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH

Building a Prison Education Program: From University Buy-In to Preparing Your Application

Facilitators: Ms. Sheila Meiman & Dr. Charles Adams

Policy Advocacy in Prison Education: Shaping Legislation, Funding, and Institutional Support

Facilitator: Le Shaun Quander-Mosley

Faith, Hope, and Love in Prison Education: The Role of Faith Based Institutions & Community Support

Moderator: Dr. Ron Garrett

Panelists: Dr. Bahiyyah M. Muhammad, Dr. Carmen Johnson, Reverend Dr. Harold Dean Trulear

Prison Education Programs: The Financials, The Processes, and the Implementation

Facilitator: Ms. Sheila Meiman

The Role of Sex & Gender in Prison Education: Barriers, Experiences, and Mentorship

Facilitator: JAMII Sisterhood

Lived Experiences: Justice-Impacted Loved Ones on the Transformative Power of Prison Ed

Moderator: Dr. Ron Garrett

Panelists: Terrence Packer, Oswald Newbold, Felecia M. Hayward, Ed.D., Carlos Walker Leslie Johnson, & Curtis Alston

Correctional Administration & Prison Education Programs: Navigating The University, The Host Correctional Institution, & The State

Moderator: Dr. Charles Adams

Panelists: Danielle Cox, Damean Stewart, Micah Wilson, & Ellen Rappaport

Reentry Services for Returning Students: Building Pathways From Prison to Higher Education

Moderator: Mr. Michael Williams

Facilitator: Le Shaaun Quander-Mosley, Klarisse Torriente, & John T. Deadwyler

The Need for Revolutionary Education: An Education for Liberation in Prison Education

Moderator: Dr. Walda Katz-Fishman

Panelists: Dr. Anthony Jackson, Dr. Zoe Spencer Harris, & Dr. Joyce Edwards

Operational Launch of a Prison Education Program: Running The Program Successfully

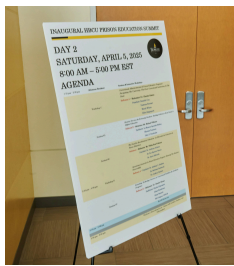
Panelists: Dr. Anthony Jackson, Dr. Britany Gatewood, & Dr. Andrea Cantora

Extending Technology Services to Correctional Facilities for Academic Programs

Moderator: Dr. Charles Adams

Facilitator: Charles Uguomere, Adam Henderson, Stacy Burnett, & Bill Crippen

DAY 2: SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH



DAY 3: SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH

Funding Prison Education Programs: Presentations from Funders And Experts

Moderator: Charles B. Adams

Panelists: David Lee Thompson & Ann-Michelle Roberts

Building the HBCU Prison Education Coalition – Uniting for Impact

Panelists: Dr. Anthony Jackson, Dr. Bahiyyah M. Muhammad, Dr. Ron Garrett



SUMMIT ORGANIZERS

Dr. Charles B. Adams

Founding Executive Director, Bowie State University Prison Education Program

Dr. Adams is the Founding Executive Director of the Prison Education Program at Bowie State University. A former Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, he also founded the Institute for Restorative Justice and Practices. His vision has been foundational in establishing BSU as a leader in prison education and restorative justice efforts across the state and nation. As the founding executive director, Dr. Adams provides essential vision and direction towards the viability and expansion of Bowie State University's Prison Education Program.

Dr. Anthony J. Jackson

Director of Operations, Bowie State University Prison Education Program

Founding Chair, Inaugural HBCU Prison Education Summit

Dr. Jackson, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Bowie State University, served as the visionary and architect behind the Inaugural HBCU Prison Education Summit. As Founding Chair, he was responsible for the summit's full design and execution—from developing its central themes and building the program schedule to overseeing registration, creating the website, and shaping the overall experience. His leadership extended across every detail of the summit, grounded in a deep commitment to revolutionary education, movement building, and the transformative power of the Prison-to-HBCU Pipeline. Dr. Jackson also manages the daily operations of the Prison Education Program, where he continues to lead with clarity, compassion, and purpose.

Dr. Britany J Gatewood

Program Assistant, Bowie State University Prison Education Program

Dr. Gatewood supported core logistical planning for the summit, communications coordination, and assisted with program development. Her expertise in carceral studies and social justice brought critical depth to the planning process.

Dr. Ron Garrett

Site Coordinator, Bowie State University Prison Education Program

A justice-impacted scholar and leader, Dr. Garrett manages on-site coordination for the program within correctional facilities. His lived experience, combined with his professional commitment to educational equity, brings unmatched insight to student engagement and institutional collaboration behind the walls.



We Too, were responsible for some the most important aspects of the Summit, the logistics. Responsible for organizing and executing all aspects of the event, ensuring a smooth and successful experience for attendees. Their expertise in event planning and years of experience made it possible for faculty to focus on content as they handled registration, volunteers, catering, and space rental, swag, decor, and all of the little details that made the Summit so special. WeToo provided the following services for this Summit:

- Concept Development
- Venue Selection and Negotiation
- Budget Management
- Media and Videographer Coordination
- Logistics
- Registration and Attendee Management
- Overall conference experience
- Post-event analysis
- Summit Decor



SUMMIT FACULTY FELLOWS

Dr. Anas Askar

Assistant Professor of Sociology

Dr. Ashley Griffin-Gilchrist

Assistant Professor of Child & Adolescent Studies

Drs. Askar and Gilchrist collaboratively led summit-related research and assessment efforts. Their work included institutional data collection, program evaluation, and analyzing the broader social impact of prison education. Their contributions are essential to documenting outcomes and shaping future strategic growth.

Dr. Kim Barnett

Full Professor of Child & Adolescent Studies

Dr. Leonna Davis

Assistant Professor of Child & Adolescent Studies

Drs. Barnett and Davis played a vital role in coordinating summit logistics and managing day-of operations. From session transitions to attendee support, their hands-on engagement ensured the summit ran smoothly and professionally. Their thoughtful planning and execution created a welcoming and organized environment for presenters, participants, and guests.

Photographers

Derrel Todd & David Bryant

Videographer

Miesha Dennis



The Inaugural HBCU Prison Education Summit affirmed what many of us have long believed: that Historically Black Colleges and Universities are uniquely positioned to lead a new era of prison education rooted in justice, equity, and liberation. Over the course of three days, more than 200 attendees from across the country came together to envision and begin building a transformative Prison-to-HBCU Pipeline. From keynote addresses and powerful plenaries to hands-on strategy sessions, the summit provided a blueprint for what is possible when HBCUs commit their legacy, talent, and moral authority to the work of education. This is not the end—it is a beginning. The conversations started here will fuel future policy, programming, and partnerships. Together, we are not just reimagining prison education—we are redefining what freedom means.



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WE CURRENTLY HOLD CLASSES IN JESSUP CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION (JCI)

