The Black Child and Family:
Strengthening and Empowering the Village

APRIL 8-10, 2004
Phyllis P. Marshall Center
University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida
Greetings:

It is a pleasure to welcome you and express appreciation for your participation in this most important conference: "Black Child and Family: Strengthening and Empowering the Village". I am honored to serve as the Honorary Chair for this Conference and fully support the mission and goals of USF’s Institute on Black Life. Their work is instrumental in addressing the many issues that affect the economic, educational, social and political life of our entire community.

This Conference will provide a forum for researchers, community advocates, service providers, and others to engage in discussions on issues surrounding African American families and offer recommendations that could perhaps reverse the current trend of crisis in the Black community. I firmly believe that building successful communities begins with the single most important unit of society - the family. A strong and stable family is crucial for the development of moral character and self-esteem in our youth. Your participation will help us ensure that we have the right tools to make a positive and lasting impact on their lives.

Again, welcome to Tampa and thank you for your involvement in this important Conference.

Sincerely,

Pam Iorio
Letter from the University President...

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
Office of the President

April 8, 2004

Welcome to the University of South Florida and the Institute on Black Life’s Annual Conference “The Black Child and Family: Strengthening and Empowering the Village.”

This important event brings together faculty, researchers, students, service providers and community advocates. Together, they will provide an overview of contemporary issues affecting black children and their families and will lead vigorous discussions of strategies for progress.

Through this conference, we reaffirm our partnership and our commitment to a shared vision for the entire community. We must maximize the opportunities, while addressing the challenges. This conference focuses on opportunities and challenges such as “Strengthening and Empowering the Village,” “Ensuring a Quality and Equitable Public Education for Every Child,” “Rebuilding the Village,” “Building Strong Communities,” “Restoration of Family Values” and “Power, Politics, and Empowerment: Black Male/Female Relationships.”

The University of South Florida is committed to exploring new ideas and putting those ideas to work to strengthen our communities. I encourage you to take part in the Fun Fest Activities at the University Area Community Development Complex on Saturday at noon, as well as to use it as an opportunity to meet with service providers and attend lectures on strengthening and empowering all families.

While many USF faculty, staff, and students have worked to make this conference a success, equally important are our many community partners and organizations that have generously committed resources for these activities. Together, we are strengthening and empowering the village for all people.

Sincerely,

Judy Genshaft
President

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Institute on Black Life
Letter from the Provost...

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
Office of the Provost

Greetings:

It is an honor and privilege to extend greetings on behalf of the University of South Florida to all of the speakers, participants and attendees to the Ninth Annual USF Institute on Black Life Conference, “The Black Child & Family: Strengthening and Empowering the Village.” This Conference is a premier example of USF’s commitment to ensure that the academic community and our students support and are engaged in the work of the Institute on Black Life. Dr. Geoffrey Okogbua, Director of the Institute on Black Life, and his staff have shown tremendous creativity and leadership building this Conference and creating a strong base for the work of the Institute.

This Conference seeks to define and address many of the issues that impact the African American community. For example, it is widely known that there are substantial disparities in health and health care among minority groups in the United States. One of our achievements has been to strengthen the Aging Studies Department. Many of the talented faculty in the Aging Studies Department focus their research and scholarships on issues that affect communities of color. A sample of the classes taught on this subject includes Minority Aging, Sociocultural Aspects of Aging and Physical Aging and Change. Another example of USF’s commitment can be found in the collaborative work of faculty and graduate students in the department of Anthropology and the College of Medicine. These departments are engaged in interdisciplinary research that addresses improving health care for children of color. I am extremely proud of their work.

Public higher education must be instrumental in America’s effort to address health care, education and socioeconomic disparities that create inequitable systems. As Interim Provost of USF, my commitment to diversity, and supporting faculty whose research and teaching impacts communities of color will be just as strong as when I served as Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences.

I want to personally thank you for your attendance and support of this Conference. I hope you will enjoy the sessions and workshops, as the subject matter is most relevant for today’s times. I encourage you to have a strong voice, participate, and provide Dr. Okogbua with feedback in order that we may continue our important work.

Sincerely,

Renu Khator, Ph.D.
Provost and
Vice President for Academic Affairs

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The University of South Florida is an Affirmative Action/Equal Access/Equal Opportunity Institution.
The family is the epicenter or the “nucleus” of any civilization. Without the family, there is no context to shared or lived experiences or relationships. The mission of the Institute on Black Life is to serve as a resource center with specific focus on those issues that affect the Black experience, specifically the African Diaspora experience, as well as their interaction with the larger world community. Changes in the human condition come about when individuals consider the community good as paramount, superseding personal comfort and progress. In that vein the Institute is dedicated to fostering an enabling environment where individuals can engage in meaningful dialogues and debates that strengthen relationships, generate solutions that lead to empowerment, enhance resiliency, and foster collaborations that stand the test of time. And given all the structural changes evident in today’s global and familial relationships, it is only fitting that the Institute continues its quest to explore but also understand the dynamics of the Black family. The Institute’s efforts in that regard are consistent with the University of South Florida’s goal of fostering strong community connections and engagement, and in the process generate the needed capacity to serve the larger community.

The theme of our conference “The Black Child and Family: Strengthening and Empowering the Village”, stems from our commitment to be part of all of the voices that advocate for our families and children. The notion of shared values and commitment is consistent with the African metaphor, “It takes a village to raise a child.” In concert with that notion, the individual does not and cannot exist alone except corporately. The individual owes existence to other people, including those of past generations as well as contemporaries. Whatever happens to the individual is believed to happen to the whole group, and whatever happens to the whole group happens to the individual. The individual can only say: “I am because we are, and since we are, therefore I am. This is a cardinal point in the understanding of the African view of man” (J.S. Mbiti 1990; 106). We extend that view of the individual to include the family as a unit consisting of several members which we then consider as a system of interacting but strongly interconnected components. We believe that this system’s and holistic view of the family is important if we are to sustain the kind of meaningful dialogue that is needed to understand and address the problems and opportunities that these issues generate.

We are grateful to all of our supporters, participants and conference attendees. We are particularly fortunate to have the support and participation of the Honorable Lt. Governor of the State of Florida, Ms. Toni Jennings who, throughout her career has been and continues to be a true champion for all the people of our great state. We owe a debt of gratitude to Honorable Secretary Jerry Regier of the Florida Department of Children and Families; Mr Warford, Chancellor of K-12 Education for the state of Florida; Drs. Julia and Nathan Hare of the Black Think Tank; Mr. Thomas Dortch of the 100 Black Men of America Inc; Dr. Rosa Smith of the Schott Foundation, Dr. Brenda Eheart of Generations of Hope, Mr. Khatib Waheed of the Center for the Study of Social Policy, and other distinguished participants. We are humbled and honored by the presence of our esteemed keynote speaker, Dr. Ben Carson. His work and life time devotion of service to humanity is an inspiration to us at the Institute and we will always cherish our association with him. We appreciate the work of the distinguished members of the Conference Honorary Organizing Committee and the Conference Planning Committee. Finally, we are grateful to President Genshaft and Provost Khator for their support and encouragement and for affording us the opportunity to reach out to the community through these conferences and our other activities and programs.

We look forward to your participation at our next conference entitled: Black Child and Family: Celebrating the Family. Thank You

Director, Institute on Black Life
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Plenary Session Ball Room

**Strengthening and Empowering the Village**

**Dr. Julia Hare**, Black Think Tank

Presiding: Dr. Joanna Tokley
Greater Tampa Urban League

Greetings: Sonja Garcia
Trustee, USF

Introduction: Dr. Catherine Batsche
Associate Dean, FMHI

Appreciation: Dr. Chloe Coney
Community Development Corporation

**Dr. Julia Hare** is the National Executive Director of the Black Think Tank, and is widely regarded as one of the most dynamic motivational speakers on the major podiums today. She is an educator, author and lecturer. Dr. Hare is the co-author of The Endangered Black Family; Bringing the Black Boy to Manhood; Crisis in Black Sexual Politics; and the journal, Black Male-Female Relationships.

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Plenary Session Ball Room

**Ensuring a Quality and Equitable Public Education for Every Child**

**Dr. Rosa Smith**, Schott Foundation

Presiding: Dr. Paulette Walker
USF College of Education

Introduction: Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell
Tech Solutions, Orlando

Appreciation: Dr. Donnie Evans
Hillsborough County School Board

**Dr. Rosa Smith** is the President of the Schott Foundation. A focus of the Foundation is to develop excellent public schools in underserved communities. Prior to joining the Schott Foundation, Dr. Smith served as the Superintendent of the Columbus, Ohio Public Schools for four years and the Superintendent of the Beloit, WI School District. She has served in a variety of other administrative positions, including high school principal, assistant director of Curriculum and Instruction, and assistant superintendent for Planning and Support Services in the St. Paul and Minneapolis Public School Systems. She also has experience as a 3rd grade and music teacher in South Bend, IN and St. Paul, MN.
Mr. Thomas Dortch began his career by seeking to aid disenfranchised people by proposing projects for the State of Georgia. In 1974, he became the associate director of the Georgia Democratic Party. In 1978, Dortch began working as an administrative aide for U.S. Senator Sam Nunn and eventually became state director, the first African American to serve in this position. Dortch worked tirelessly to represent the interests of small businesses, minorities and other marginalized individuals.

Mr Dortch joined 100 Black Men of America in 1986, a mentoring program intended to improve the quality of life and opportunities for education and employment for African Americans. He served as chairman of 100 Black Men of Atlanta and later became the chairman of 100 Black Men of America’s national board. Dortch has won numerous awards highlighting his achievements, including a Presidential Citation for volunteerism, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Award, and the Concerned Black Clergy’s Salute to Black Fathers Leadership Award.

In 1994, after more than sixteen years of government service, Dortch left his position to pursue his own business interests. He became CEO of the consulting firm TWD, Inc. and Atlanta Transportation Systems. He currently holds both of these positions.
Mr. Khatib Waheed is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Study of Social Policy in Washington D.C. From 1999-2001, he was a Senior Associate with the Aspen Institute Roundtable on Comprehensive Community Initiatives while also serving as the Special Assistant to the Director, Missouri Department of Social Services. In the latter capacity, Khatib established a violence prevention coalition called Regional Response Coalition to Prevent Youth Violence, Drug Addiction and Teen Pregnancy (RRC). He currently serves as a Senior Advisor to the Aspen Roundtable.

Glenda Brown has spent her career in education. She began her teaching career in the School District of Hillsborough County as a Kindergarten teacher at Clair-Mel Elementary School. She served as the Assistant Principal of Elementary Instruction at Tampa Bay Boulevard Elementary from 1998 until August, 2003, when she was promoted to her current position as Supervisor of Elementary Reading/Language Arts.
The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Black Children and Families

Presiding: Dr. Elizabeth Onjoro
Facilitator: Ms. Georgette King, USF College of Arts and Sciences
Appreciation Dr. Joan Holmes, USF Honors College

Georgette King is currently completing a PhD in Applied Medical Anthropology at USF, and works for the Department of Pediatrics as an HIV prevention researcher. Ms. King will provide an overview of the pandemic and its impact on Black children and families on a global, national and local level.

Lisa Sampson is a Client Advocate with the Tampa Hillsborough Action Plan HIV services program. She provides outreach, support and linkage services for HIV positive women who are handling their own health challenges while raising children. Ms. Sampson will give insight into the challenges that HIV positive Black mothers face.

Antoinette M. is victim of HIV. She will discuss her personal experiences of receiving her HIV diagnosis while attending a Tampa Bay area high school. She will also discuss the work that she now does to serve the Tampa Bay community by participating on a national board that allows HIV positive youth to plan prevention activities and to provide guidance in the creation and implementation of clinical trials for HIV positive youth.

Edith Ellerson is the Regional Minority AIDS Coordinator for the Florida Department of Health’s Area 6 HIV/AIDS Program Office. She will discuss her efforts to engage Black Churches in the types of HIV prevention and care efforts that will lead to a reduction of the stigma and shame often associated with an individual’s HIV status. She will also provide an overview of the HIV prevention planning efforts that take place in this area of Florida.

Kevin Lindsay the Peer Educator Supervisor with the Youth Education Services program at USF. YES hires and trains young people to do neighborhood-based HIV testing and to provide peer-to-peer HIV prevention education, with the goal of increasing the number of high-risk youth who know their HIV status and are subsequently engaged in appropriate medical care. Mr. Lindsay will discuss the issues of stigma that often prevent youth from learning their status and that prevents them from protecting themselves from contracting HIV infections and other sexually transmitted diseases.
Eminent sociologist, and psychotherapist, Nathan Hare was the first coordinator of a Black Studies program in the U.S. and the founding publisher of The Black Scholar. Nathan Hare is the editor and publisher of the magazine, Black Male/Female Relationships and is the author of The Black Anglo Saxons.

Dr. Brenda Krause Eheart is executive director of Generations of Hope, an innovative foster-adoptive agency and neighborhood community dedicated to improving the lives of children through adoption and the establishment of caring intergenerational communities. Dr. Eheart is also the director of hope for the children research and policy Program in the Institute of Government and Public Affairs and a Research Specialist with the Department of sociology at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.
Secretary Jerry Regier was recently appointed to head Florida’s Department of Children and Families. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Regier served as Cabinet Secretary of Health & Human Services for Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating where he provided policy oversight to some 70 boards and commissions and 13 agencies, including the Department of Human Services, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Health Care Authority, the State Health Department and the Office of Juvenile Affairs. Concurrent with his Cabinet role, he served as Acting Director of the Oklahoma State Department of Health. He was appointed in an emergency action to restore integrity and accountability to the Department during a crisis situation involving Medicare fraud in nursing homes and “ghost employment” of former legislators. Before going to the Health Department, he was with the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs for five years as Deputy Director and Executive Director. He has previously served in a variety of positions in the federal government, most recently as Acting Administrator of the National Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) in the U.S. Department of Justice. President George Bush nominated him for this Senate-confirmed position in 1992. Prior to that position, he served the Bush Administration as Acting Director of the Bureau of Justice.

Mr. Regier has received a number of special appointments and awards. He was a U.S. presidential appointee to the National Commission on Children (1988-93); in 2001 he was named the Administrator of the Year in Oklahoma by the American Society of Public Administration (Oklahoma Chapter); other appointments include Director of Long Term Care Issues, White House Conference on Aging; Member of the National Task Force, White House Conference on Families; and the Outstanding Young Men of America award.

Mr. Regier is a nationally recognized speaker on youth and family public policy, including issues related to marriage, child welfare, health, long-term care of the elderly, and juvenile justice.
Closing the Achievement Gap

Ms. Monica Hayes, Florida Department of Education
Ms. Debra Simmons, Florida Department of Education

Presiding: Dean Colleen Kennedy
USF College of Education

Introduction: Dr. Brenda Townsend
USF College of Education

Appreciation: Ms. Joyce Miles
Oak Park Elementary School

Monica Hayes is a former teacher, public health care and public transportation administrator, and clinical therapist. She has her Master of Arts in Teaching and a Masters in Clinical Social Work. Mrs. Hayes is the Director of the statewide Office of Equity and Access and the Chair of the State Board of Education One Florida Coordinating team.

Debra Simmons has extensive experience working to promote family involvement in education. Her current position, supporting the Governor’s faith-based and family initiatives, affords her the opportunity to reach out into the community to provide educational services to families that help their children set and reach high academic goals.

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Florida Faith-Based Initiatives

Ms. Liza McFadden, Volunteer Florida Foundation

Presiding: Ms. Ruth Hall
Hillsborough County Schools

Introduction: Ms. Ruth Hall
USF College of Education

Appreciation: Ms. Deborah Love
USF Diversity & Equal Opportunity

Liza McFadden currently serves as the President of the Volunteer Florida Foundation - a foundation aimed at strengthening Florida families to address community needs through volunteerism and community service. The Volunteer Florida Foundation is closely aligned with the education reform work of Governor Bush and oversees the Governor’s Family Literacy and Mentoring initiatives. The Foundation is also spearheading efforts for the Governor on his Strengthening Families Initiative and work with Faith and Community-based programs.
SPECIAL SESSIONS


Wali Shabazz, National Trust

Introduction: Samuel L Wright
USF Student Affairs

Appreciation: Harold Jackson
HCPRC

The focus of this session is to speak directly to middle and high school students and their families about the importance of their roles in maintaining a health family.

Building Strong Communities

Khatib Waheed, Center for the Study of Social Policy

Presiding: Judy Jetson
USF Collaborative FMHI

The focus of this session is to provide service providers with an opportunity to speak with Mr. Waheed personally to maximize the strengths of the African American community.
Dr. Ben Carson has dedicated his life to inspiring others to excel by using their God-given talents. He was born in Detroit, Michigan where his childhood journey was filled with poverty. He struggled with poor grades and a violent temper. After his mother, who only had a third-grade education, challenged him to strive for excellence, Ben rose from the bottom to the top of his class. His achievements earned him academic scholarships to college and medical school.

Dr. Carson is director of pediatric neurosurgery at The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore, Maryland. He is world-renowned for leading a medical team that separated West German conjoined twins in 1987, as well as leading a team of South African doctors in the first successful separation of vertically conjoined twins in 1997. He has refined the techniques for hemispherectomy, a radical brain surgery to stop intractable seizures, and has developed, along with the Hopkins plastic surgery division, a craniofacial program to help children who need combined neurosurgical and plastic surgical reconstruction.
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This Symposium is coordinated by the University of South Florida Institute on Black Life.

The Institute on Black Life serves as a resource center on the African American Community and other Peoples of the World African Community, and also for those issues that affect their interaction with the larger world Community. In pursuit of this mission the Institute conducts and promotes interdisciplinary research University/community based programs, faculty and student development programs and activities related to social and economic initiatives to enhance the quality of life for all peoples.

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