



MEN OF COLOR

IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

OCT 30, 2024 | 9-11:30AM
BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL





AGENDA



WELCOME

Cherese Odukwe, Student Activities Director
Henry Rondon, Student Activities Assistant Director

OPENING REMARKS

Gabriel Rio, Senior, Berlin High School

PANELISTS

- André Johnson - Investor, Executive, Board Member, Coach & Mentor
- London King - College Student, UCONN
- Lydelle King - Coordinating Producer - ESPN
- Raul Ortiz, Fire Chief, New Britain
- Davinci Prado - Senior, CREC Academy of Aerospace & Engineering
- Christopher Prescott - School To Career Specialist, Bloomfield Public Schools
- Gabriel Rio - Senior, Berlin High School
- Stafford Thomas - Principal, Staples High School, Westport

BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTERS

- London King - College Student, UCONN
- Lydelle King - Coordinating Producer - ESPN
- Kendrick Moore - Assistant Director of Equity and Leadership, CAS-CIAC
- Raul Ortiz, Fire Chief, New Britain
- Christopher Prescott - School To Career Specialist, Bloomfield Public Schools
- Stafford Thomas - Principal, Staples High School, Westport


SCHEDULE

8:30-9:00 AM	CHECK IN
9:00-10:05 AM	PANEL DISCUSSION
10:05-10:15 AM	BREAK
10:15-11:10 AM	BREAKOUT SESSION
11:15-11:30 AM	CLOSING/DISMISSAL

PANELIST

ANDRÉ JOHNSON

**FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE,
BOARD MEMBER, LEADER,
ADVISOR, INVESTOR,
COACH AND MENTOR**



ANDRÉ (DRÉ) JOHNSON GREW UP IN WATERBURY, CT WHERE HIS PASSION FOR SPORTS DEVELOPED AT A YOUNG AGE. HE PLAYED FOR HIS LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL, EARNING ACCOLADES FOR HIS ATHLETICISM AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS. DRÉ WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO EARN AN ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP AT THE DIVISION 1 AND 2 LEVEL WHICH EVENTUALLY LED TO PLAYING PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL OVERSEAS.

AFTER RETIRING FROM PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL, DRÉ SEAMLESSLY TRANSITIONED INTO THE BUSINESS WORLD, ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS IN THE FINTECH AND TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES. HE HAS HELD LEADERSHIP POSITIONS WITH FORTUNE 100 COMPANIES SUCH AS GENERAL ELECTRIC, GE CAPITAL, DELL EMC, AND MORE RECENTLY FOUNDING AND LEADING HIS OWN IT ADVISORY AND CONSULTING FIRM WHERE HE LED TRANSFORMATIVE DIGITAL INITIATIVES. HIS INNOVATIVE MINDSET AND STRATEGIC THINKING HAVE MADE HIM A PLAYER IN DRIVING TECHNOLOGY AND YOUTH SPORTS ADVANCEMENTS.

PASSIONATE ABOUT GIVING BACK, DRÉ FOUNDED A THE LOCKED IN MOVEMENT, INC., WHICH FOCUSES ON EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH SPORTS AND EDUCATION. THROUGH GRASSROOTS ATHLETIC PROGRAMS, MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS AND SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVES, HE AIMS TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF ATHLETES AND LEADERS. HIS BUSINESS AND SPORTS ACUMEN HAS MADE HIM A SOUGHT-AFTER SPEAKER AND CONSULTANT IN THE BUSINESS, TECHNOLOGY AND SPORTS INDUSTRIES.

DRÉ SERVES ON MULTIPLE BOARDS INCLUDING THE YMCA GREATER BOSTON AND THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF GREATER WATERBURY. DRÉ'S JOURNEY EMBODIES THE SPIRIT OF RESILIENCE, COMMITMENT AND COMMUNITY IMPACT!

PANELIST & PRESENTER



**LONDON
KING**

COLLEGE STUDENT

UCONN

A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT, LONDON KING IS A FORMER BASKETBALL PLAYER FROM SOUTH WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL AND A DEDICATED UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL MANAGER.

AS A SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST SURVIVOR, LONDON IS PASSIONATE ABOUT RAISING AWARENESS FOR HEART HEALTH, USING PERSONAL EXPERIENCES TO ADVOCATE FOR LIFE-SAVING MEASURES AND INSPIRE OTHERS.

PANELIST & PRESENTER



**LYDELLE
KING**

COORDINATING PRODUCER

ESPN

LYDELLE KING IS A NEWARK, NJ NATIVE WHO USED HIS PASSION FOR SPORTS TO LAND AT ONE OF THE MOST RECOGNIZABLE COMPANIES IN THE MEDIA INDUSTRY, ESPN. THE FORMER COLGATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL PLAYER, LANDED IN BRISTOL CONNECTICUT IN 2000. HE HAS SPENT MORE THAN 2 DECADES EARNING 13 SPORTS EMMYS AWARDS, WORKING ON A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS SUCH AS 30 FOR 30, ESPN FILMS, SPORTSCENTER, COLLEGE GAMEDAY, UFC, NBA AND NFL COUNTDOWN. HE'S CURRENTLY AN EXECUTIVE OVERSEEING NFL-RELATED STUDIO SHOWS, LIKE NFL LIVE AND MONDAY NIGHT COUNTDOWN. HE'S THE PROUD HUSBAND OF HALEY KING, AND FATHER OF THREE SONS, LONDON , BROOKLYN, AND DALLAS .

PRESENTER



KENDRICK MOORE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
EQUITY & LEADERSHIP

CAS-CIAC

KENDRICK MOORE JOINED THE CAS-CIAC STAFF AS AN ACCOMPLISHED LEADER IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH PROVEN EXPERIENCE IN CULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE. AS A FORMER DIVISION 1 BASKETBALL COACH, HE WEARS THAT BADGE, 'COACH,' WITH HONOR. HE BELIEVES YOU ALREADY HAVE WHAT IT TAKES INSIDE OF YOU, AND HE HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO HELP YOU REACH YOUR POTENTIAL. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HIS COACHING STRATEGIES AND MOTIVATION HAS EMPOWERED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO ACHIEVE BEYOND EXPECTATION.

KENDRICK IS ALSO THE PRESIDENT OF MOORE BASKETBALL CLINIC/MOOREMOTIVATION, WHERE HE HAS BECOME A DYNAMIC MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER. IN ADDITION, HE HAS SPENT DECADES CONSTRUCTING PROGRAMS CENTERED AROUND DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND BUILDING CHARACTER, FACILITATING S.E.L., D.E.I., AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING COURSES, AND HE IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS OF COUNTLESS YOUNG ADULTS, THROUGH HIS PERSONAL AND PLAYER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AS A PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL TRAINER. HIS WORK IN THESE AREAS HAS IMPACTED LIVES AROUND THE WORLD, AND HIS MOOREMOTIVATION PODCAST HAS ALSO GAINED A NATIONAL AUDIENCE. FOR HIS COMMITMENT AND OUTSTANDING WORK. HE HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS. HOWEVER, THE IMPACT OF HIS WORK FAR EXCEEDS THE ACCOLADES THAT HE HAS RECEIVED, WHILE HIS PURPOSE TO LIVE GENEROUSLY NEVER CHANGES!

KENDRICK IS A GRADUATE OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE WHERE HE EARNED HIS BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MARKETING AND HIS MASTER'S IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

PANELIST & PRESENTER



RAUL ORTIZ FIRE CHIEF NEW BRITAIN

IN 1999, RAUL ORTIZ JOINED THE RANKS OF THE HARTFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT WHERE HE SERVED AS A FIREFIGHTER, LADDER DRIVER, FIRE INVESTIGATOR, TRAINING LIEUTENANT, SUPPRESSION LIEUTENANT, FIRE CAPTAIN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AND UPON HIS RETIREMENT, AS A DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE HARTFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT.

HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY CONTINUED THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER WHERE HE SERVED AS AN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER OF THE LATIN AMERICAN FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION AS WELL AS PRESIDENT FOR FOUR OF THOSE YEARS. HE ALSO WAS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE CONNECTICUT INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PAST PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZATION.

CHIEF ORTIZ CURRENTLY SERVES AS THE FIRE CHIEF IN NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT SINCE HIS SWEARING IN DATE OF APRIL 16, 2018, WHERE HE HOLDS THE DISTINCTION OF SERVING AS THE FIRST LATINO FIRE CHIEF IN THE DEPARTMENT'S 190-YEAR HISTORY.

CHIEF ORTIZ SERVES AS A COMMISSIONER FOR THE CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL. AS A MEMBER OF THE CONNECTICUT CAREER FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, CHIEF ORTIZ ALSO SERVES AS THE CHAIR OF THE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE. HE SITS AS MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS EXECUTIVE DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.

CHIEF ORTIZ ALSO HOLDS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WITH A FOCUS IN FIRE ADMINISTRATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN. HE RECEIVED HIS BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY.

PANELIST

**DAVINCI
PRADO**

SENIOR

**CREC ACADEMY OF
AEROSPACE & ENGINEERING**



A RISING SENIOR AT THE ACADEMY OF AEROSPACE AND ENGINEERING IN WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT. DAVINCI IS A PASSIONATE ADVOCATE FOR SCHOOL SYSTEM REFORM, ADDRESSING MISTREATMENT AND GOVERNMENTAL INEQUALITIES IN URBAN COMMUNITIES, AND EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. BEYOND HIS ADVOCACY WORK, HE EXCELS AS A TRI-SPORT ATHLETE, IS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY, AND NOW SITS AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE CRAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP.

PANELIST & PRESENTER



CHRISTOPHER PRESCOTT

**SCHOOL TO CAREER SPECIALIST
BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

CHRIS PRESCOTT FROM BLOOMFIELD, CONNECTICUT, HAS CHARTED AN INSPIRING PATH FROM THE BASKETBALL COURT TO THE EDUCATIONAL SPHERE. AS A FORMER DIVISION 1 BASKETBALL LUMINARY AND PROFESSIONAL PLAYER OVERSEAS, CHRIS HAS ADEPTLY TRANSFERRED THE DEDICATION, COLLABORATION, AND LEADERSHIP MASTERED IN THE GAME INTO A DRIVING FORCE FOR EMPOWERING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW.

WITH A RICH EXPERIENCE EXCEEDING TEN YEARS IN THE EDUCATIONAL SECTOR, CHRIS CURRENTLY LEADS AS THE SCHOOL TO CAREER SPECIALIST FOR BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS. IN THIS STRATEGIC ROLE, HE IS THE MASTERMIND BEHIND CUTTING-EDGE PROGRAMS THAT SEAMLESSLY CONNECT ACADEMIC LEARNING WITH THE PROFESSIONAL REALM. CHRIS'S INITIATIVES IN INTERNSHIPS, JOB SHADOWING, AND DELVING INTO GLOBAL CAREER TRENDS TO DESIGN WORKSHOPS THAT HONE CRITICAL SKILLS PIVOTAL IN EQUIPPING STUDENTS FOR THE DYNAMIC DEMANDS OF THE GLOBAL JOB MARKET.

BEYOND THE CONFINES OF THE CLASSROOM, CHRIS IS THE VISIONARY FOUNDER OF MPACT MENTORING INC., AN ORGANIZATION THAT STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO THE TRANSFORMATIVE INFLUENCE OF MENTORSHIP. MPACT MENTORING INC. COMMITS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE GROWTH OF THE YOUTH, UTILIZING THE UNIVERSAL APPEAL OF SPORTS TO FOSTER ACADEMIC SUCCESS, EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE, AND CAREER PREPAREDNESS. THROUGH MPACT MENTORING INC., HE CULTIVATES A NURTURING GROUND WHERE MENTAL, PHYSICAL, AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH ARE IN HARMONY, ENABLING THE YOUTH TO UNLOCK THEIR HIGHEST POTENTIAL AND CREATE A SIGNIFICANT RIPPLE EFFECT IN SOCIETY.

AS A MENTOR, EDUCATOR, AND COMMUNITY LEADER, CHRIS PRESCOTT CONTINUES TO EXEMPLIFY THE ESSENCE OF HARD WORK AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CONTRIBUTING POSITIVELY TO SOCIETY. WHETHER IT'S STRATEGIZING CAREER PATHWAYS OR COACHING ON THE BASKETBALL COURT, CHRIS'S LIFE STORY SERVES AS A BEACON OF MOTIVATION, SHOWCASING THAT WITH TRUE PASSION AND A CLEAR PURPOSE, EVERY CHALLENGE CAN BE CONVERTED INTO A MILESTONE OF SUCCESS.

STUDENT MODERATOR

GABRIEL RIO

SENIOR

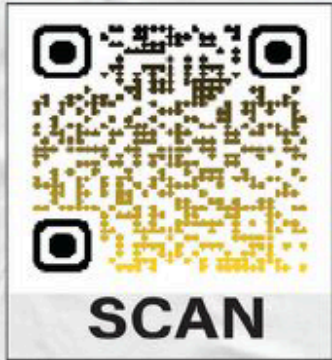
BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL



GABRIEL RIO IS CURRENTLY A SENIOR AT BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL. HE PLAYS AS A WIDE RECEIVER AND SAFETY ON THE VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM, KNOWN AS THE REDCOATS. IN ADDITION TO HIS ATHLETIC COMMITMENTS, HE MENTORS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR THE TOWN'S YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL TEAM. OVER THE SUMMER, GABRIEL WORKED TO SAVE MONEY FOR HIS FUTURE. AFTER GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL, HE ASPIRES TO PURSUE A DEGREE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE WITH THE GOAL OF BECOMING A POLICE OFFICER SOMEDAY.



JOIN CONNECTICUT'S HOME TEAM



THE BENEFITS

- Free tuition to Connecticut State Colleges
- Monthly check
- Student loan repayment (up to 50K)
- Affordable insurance - Health/Dental/Life
- Montgomery G.I. Bill (paid \$407 mo, full-time college)
- Federal Tuition Assistance
- Call or Text for More Information on our Benefits!

Benefits can be combined with athletic scholarships and yes, you can serve while being a full-time student and athlete.

1-800-GO GUARD



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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TODAY'S EVENT. PLEASE CLICK ON THE BUTTON ON THE RIGHT TO COMPLETE THE ONLINE FEEDBACK FORM, SO WE MAY CONTINUE TO IMPROVE OUR PROGRAMS.

THANK YOU, BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL,
FOR HOSTING THIS INSPIRING EVENT!

