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Largest Convening of Black Men in Education
Focused on Reimagining the Next 100 Years of Education

Philadelphia, PA, Nov. 17, 2026 — The Center for Black Educator Development (CBED) hosted approximately 1,500+ educators, elected officials, school leaders, and scholars at its ninth annual Black Men in Education Convening (BMEC) in Philadelphia from November 13-15.

Inspired to shape the future of the Black teacher pipeline and anchored in the theme, ***"Rooted in History: Constructing the Next 100 Years of Education,"*** the event focused on translating a century of lessons into practical, culturally grounded strategies that will sustain Black educators and improve student outcomes for the next 100 years.

Attendees engaged in workshops, panel discussions, and community conversations focused on rebuilding the Black teacher pipeline and advancing equity in classrooms nationwide.

Dr. Chris Emdin, Maxine Greene Chair for Distinguished Contributions to Education and professor at Teachers College, Columbia University, and a scholar in science education and pedagogy with strong influence in culturally responsive teaching, urban teacher-education, and engagement; **Nikole Hannah-Jones**, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and creator of The 1619 Project, closed out the convening.

Hannah-Jones said, "If you followed my work at all, especially on the 1619 Project, then you know it was a Black male educator that changed my life."

Additional speakers included **Dr. Denise Smith Allen**, president and lead consultant at Allen Consulting and Research; **Asa Burbage**, underground hip-hop artist and pioneer from North Philadelphia; **Dr. Greg Carr**, associate professor of Africana Studies at Howard University, well known for scholarship around African and African American history, education, and reparations; **Shamaya Combs-Simmons**, beauty entrepreneur; **Freeway**, Philadelphia rapper; **Councilmember Jamie R. Gauthier,** who represents West and Southwest Philadelphia as the City Councilmember for the third district; **Gillie Da Kid**, Philadelphia hip-hop artist and podcaster; **Dr. William Hayes**, chief executive officer of the Boys' Latin of Philadelphia;

Father-son duo **Dr. Jaleel Howard**, graduate student researcher at UCLA, and **Dr. Tyrone Howard**, professor of education in the School of Education and Information Studies at UCLA; **Senator Vincent Hughes**, who represents the seventh senatorial district in Philadelphia and Montgomery County; **Cyril Innis, Jr.**, vice president of the Black Panther Party Commemoration Committee; **Dr. Suad Lawrence Islam**, chief executive officer of Amanah Educational Services; **Mark Kerr**, probation officer at Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas; **Baba Hamid Khalid**, veteran of the Black Panther Party; **Dr. Bettina Love**, professor at Teachers College, Columbia University, and one of the nation's leading voices on race and education; **Baba Jalil Muntaqim**, political activist and former member of the Black Panther Party; **Cherelle Parker**, the 100th mayor of Philadelphia, and the first woman to lead the city; **Rep. Greg Scott,** who represents the 54th Legislative District in Montgomery County; **Michael Scott**, executive director of the Juvenile Justice Department; **Chris Stewart,** principal of One Public Media; and Philadelphia City **Councilmember Isaiah Thomas**.

Founder and CEO of CBED, Sharif El-Mekki, said, "The students who joined us this weekend from high schools and college campuses are not future teachers. They are teachers now, and that intergenerational spirit is what makes this community so powerful. Our work is to carry it back into our schools and communities, especially the places that have the least of us represented, so that what we shared this weekend lives on beyond it."

Throughout the convening, participants called for real investment and steadfast support to recruit, prepare, and retain teachers, particularly Black teachers, amid persistent national teacher shortages.

Dr. Bettina Love's keynote speech reflected on the importance of teaching students to question whose stories get told. "Students are asking, well, whose voice is not being heard? Who is not being taught in this room? Who is missing from this narrative? How do we be more inclusive? How do we get all the ideas out on the table?" said Dr. Love.

BMEC will celebrate its 10th anniversary from Nov. 18 - 20, 2027, at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown.

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About The Center for Black Educator Development

The Center for Black Educator Development was founded in 2019 to address and accelerate change in the educational ecosystem. Its mission to rebuild the Black Teacher Pipeline to achieve educational equity and racial justice is achieved through the alignment of pathways into the profession, professional learning and public policies to ensure greater educator diversity, cultural responsiveness and improved student outcomes for Black children.