



# African-American Male Initiative

*"Creating A More Educated Georgia"*

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**UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE INITIATIVE**  
**HOSTS FIRST-EVER BEST PRACTICES CONFERENCE**  
***More Than 250 Conferees Will Focus on Improving Educational Outcomes for Black Males***

**KENNESAW, Ga.** — The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative (AAMI) will convene its Inaugural Best Practices conference on the campus of Kennesaw State University, on Friday, Nov. 30 and Saturday, Dec. 1 — sharing best practices and outcomes from the USG's efforts aimed at enhancing the recruitment, retention and graduation of Black males within the state's public colleges and universities.

The first University System-wide conference of its kind will assemble more than 250 statewide AAMI administrators, student participants, notable dignitaries and other special guests in a day-and-a-half of activities aimed at enhancing educational outcomes for Georgia's African-American male students.

The conference will launch on Friday evening, with a networking reception followed by an Awards and Recognition Dinner showcasing best-practice AAMI programs and administrators within the University System of Georgia. In addition, high-profile national and local honorees that have strongly supported the AAMI project also will be saluted.

Saturday's activities will include three plenary sessions featuring nationally recognized speakers, and more than 10 specialized workshop sessions tailored to the concerns and needs of the adult and youth participants. Networking breaks on Saturday will provide additional opportunities for conference attendees to meet and exchange information with University System of Georgia colleagues dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for Black males.

Conference participants will hear from nationally recognized speakers such as:

- Mr. Jeff Johnson, Black Entertainment Television host, producer, political motivator and social commentator;
- Dr. William Cox, president and CEO, *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*;
- Dr. Rosa Smith, former president of the Schott Foundation/publisher, "Public Education and Black Male Students: A State Report Card;"
- Dr. Thomas Parham, past president, National Association of Black Psychologists;
- Mr. Kevin Powell, author, "Who's Gonna Take the Weight? Manhood, Race, and Power in America," and convener, "State of Black Men Tour;" and
- Dr. Tyrone Bledsoe, founder and executive director, Student African American Brotherhood.

"The University System of Georgia has done pioneering work in identifying and addressing the educational challenges faced by Black males, and our work is frequently benchmarked," said AAMI Project Director Arlethia Perry-Johnson. "We are convening to share the vital information we have learned with our USG colleagues and others doing this important work. Our goal is to demonstrate what works, so that others might replicate, expand and — most importantly — fund these important programs."

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**USG To Host AAMI Conference**  
**November 19, 2007**  
**Add One**

Launched in the summer of 2002 by the University System of Georgia (USG), AAMI focuses on increasing the enrollment, retention, and graduation rates of Black men throughout the state of Georgia through a wide variety of programs that foster academic achievement, encompassing tutoring, mentoring, leadership development, and college visitation.

In July 2002, there were three known programs in the USG focusing on improving Black males' educational participation. Today there are more than 20 such programs at 15 different USG institutions focusing on the K-12 pipeline, college retention, leadership development and student life.

Since the program's inception, Black male enrollment in the University System of Georgia has increased by 24.5 percent — from 17,068 in fall 2002 to 21,249 students in fall 2007. Most recent numbers for fall 2007 are up 7.4 percent over year, adding another 1,465 Black males to the ranks of students at state institutions of higher education.

For more information on the USG'S AAMI, please visit the project's website at <http://www.usg.edu/aami>. For more information on the AAMI Best Practices conference, please visit the conference website at: [www.usg.edu/aami/bestpractices07/](http://www.usg.edu/aami/bestpractices07/)

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**ONLINE PRESS KIT**

**SAVE THE DATE:** A “save-the-date” card, featuring key highlights of the conference, is available at [www.usg.edu/aami/bestpractices07/date-saver.pdf](http://www.usg.edu/aami/bestpractices07/date-saver.pdf).

**FAST FACTS:** A fact sheet with information regarding the scope and success of AAMI is available as an Adobe PDF file, online at [https://files.kennesaw.edu/xythoswfs/webui/\\_xy-670677\\_1](https://files.kennesaw.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-670677_1).

**GO IN-DEPTH:** The Fall 2007 edition of *Kennesaw State University Magazine* includes an in-depth article about the AAMI, plus information about the program's new assistant director. It is available for download at: [https://files.kennesaw.edu/xythoswfs/webui/\\_xy-670681\\_1](https://files.kennesaw.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-670681_1).