



## AAMI 10th Anniversary Conference 2012

"Creating A More Educated Georgia"

### MEDIA ADVISORY

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**University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative (AAMI) to convene in Atlanta**  
*Nearly 300 conferees will commemorate 10<sup>th</sup> year of improving educational outcomes for Black males*

**KENNESAW, Ga. (Sept. 24, 2012)** — The University System of Georgia's (USG) nationally recognized program aimed at enhancing the recruitment, retention and graduation of black males within the state's public colleges and universities — the USG's African-American Male Initiative (AAMI) — **will hold its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference 2012 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Atlanta, on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 28-29.**

#### What:

The two-day conference is designed to share outcomes and best practices garnered from the University System of Georgia's AAMI program, highlight exceptional programs, and honor individuals who contribute to the initiative's success in helping African-American males gain access to college, matriculate successfully and graduate.

#### Who:

Some 300 AAMI program administrators and student participants from 25 USG campuses, along with honorees, special guests and featured speakers, including:

- [Tina Gridiron Smith](#), program officer for the Lumina Foundation, specializes in removing barriers to college for minority and under-served students. She currently manages a portfolio of grants that includes more than 50 projects designed to support higher education leadership; improve postsecondary preparation, access and attainment for all students; and increase educational success of men of color, foster youth and other vulnerable populations. **Smith will speak Friday, Sept. 28, at 10:30 a.m.**
- [Will Packer](#), one of *Variety's* "10 Producers to Watch," is chairman of Rainforest Films and producer of several recent films, including "Stomp the Yard," "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man" and "Takers." **Packer will speak Friday, Sept. 28, at noon.**
- [William C. Rhoden](#), award-winning sports columnist for *The New York Times*, is the bestselling author of "Forty Million Dollar Slave" and "Third and A Mile: The Trials and Triumphs of The Black Quarterback." **Rhoden will speak Friday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m. He also will host an open dialogue with the Black male students from 9:15 – 10:45 p.m.**
- [Freeman Hrabowski](#), president, University of Maryland-Baltimore County, was named one of *Time Magazine's* 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2012. He is a co-founder of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program, a national model for attracting high-achieving minority students to advanced degrees and research careers in science and engineering. **Hrabowski will speak Saturday, Sept. 29 at 9 a.m.**
- [Randal Pinkett](#), chairman and CEO of BCT Partners, scholar and author, holds five academic degrees in electrical engineering and business from Rutgers University, the University of Oxford in England and a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The season four winner of NBC's *The Apprentice*, Pinkett and his business partners recently were awarded federal contracts of up to \$21 billion over the next 10 years to provide health-care technology solutions for two U.S. agencies. **Pinkett will speak at the conference's Closing Plenary on Saturday, Sept. 29, at noon.**

#### Where/When:

Hyatt Regency Hotel, 265 Peachtree St., Atlanta, Ga.; Friday and Saturday, Sept. 28-29

**VIEW A COMPLETE SCHEDULE:** AAMI's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Best Practices Conference 2012 at <http://www.usg.edu/aami/bestpractices12/schedule.phtml>

**FOR MORE ON AAMI:** Please visit the project's website at <http://www.usg.edu/aami>

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[www.usg.edu/aami](http://www.usg.edu/aami)