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## HBCU alumnus commits to run online technology school for Black boys full time



*Gerald Moore, Sr. (left), a Norfolk State University alumnus and founder/CEO of the nonprofit, Mission Fulfilled 2030, is committed to impacting 100,000 Black boys in a variety of technologies by 2030. He will be rolling out an improved online platform for Black boys to learn technology topics such as: Coding; Web Design; App Development; Basic Electricity; Automotive Technology; Google Docs; and Technology Entrepreneurship. Online courses are now being offered free of charge. (Above): Students from Eagle Academy All Boys Charter School in the Bronx, N.Y. at a convocation ceremony in 2019 where they met author Gerald Moore. (See article on page 6). Photo Credit: Selfie by Gerald Moore*

# Education in the Age of Snake Oil, Part I

By Jayne Hopson

At every step, the United States has fumbled its response to the nation's deadliest infectious disease outbreak in a hundred years. Since Covid19's sudden arrival, a jaw dropping series of missteps, miscalculations and missed opportunities have directly contributed to the pain, fear, and suffering of millions. As the traditional start of the school year approaches, the caretakers of our children's education are in danger of following the same kinds of disjointed, poorly planned, sometimes desperate attempts to keep the economy off life support and control the virus's spread.

As Americans began to understand the seriousness of COVID 19, most expected the Federal Government to implement a First World response. People believed, or at least hoped the country would quickly harness science and technology to stem outbreaks and crush the disease. Instead, the government's response has been decidedly Third World.

With alarming frequency science-based recommendations have been disregarded, replaced by cheap, fast and even life-threatening solutions.

We became the laughingstock of the world when President Trump offered his own lethal cyber-prescription for fighting corona. After Trump tweeted that drinking Clorox would kill corona virus germs, some were people gullible enough to follow this murderous advice. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) had to issue public warnings telling people not to swallow bleach.

Is there any doubt we are living in a time when pseudo-science is given the same value as sound medical advice? Welcome to the Age of Snake Oil.

Now, Baltimore is already struggling public school system has the daunting task of developing a plan to safely restart instruction. The three options are distance learning, classroom instruction, and a hybrid of the first two models. The gravity of these deliberations cannot be overstated.

Ideal school leadership will need a skill set that includes the Wisdom of Solomon, a steadfast refusal to let political pressure dictate mandates, and the expertise to wrap science and technol-



ogy around sound policymaking.

For now, Baltimore City's Board of Schools Commissioners has decided not to reopen classrooms. Virtual learning is scheduled to begin September 8, 2020. Although, it is generally agreed classroom instruction is the most effective way to educate students, the health of students, their families, teachers and staff comes first. The Commissioners continue to develop a long term, safety-driven plan that meets both the academic, mental health, and social service needs of its pupils.

Access to science-based studies is essential to making well-informed, health-related decisions. However, scientific documentation does come with a caveat. When research and professional organizations like the CDC or the American Pediatric Association (APA) call for reopening public schools, it is helpful to be aware of factors that may lend support for their recommendation.

It may be a best practice to rely on science, but policymakers should always know the demographics of the population studied. For example, does APA's research indicate children do not get as sick when exposed to the virus, apply to kids in a broad spectrum of school settings? If the test group is limited, their endorsement may only be valid for a narrow group of students. Perhaps the low rate of

illness only applies to children who live in wealthier, healthier jurisdictions.

It is widely accepted that students attending poor, overcrowded urban schools have higher rates of respiratory ailments, such as asthma. The increase rate of pre-existing disease makes it far riskier to reopen classrooms in Baltimore City than in a less crowded suburb.

The importance of doing a deep dive into the data and carefully examining the science supporting public health recommendations cannot be overstated: initially the Superintendent proposed reopening classrooms and decreasing the CDC's widely accepted social distancing guidelines from six to four feet. The given reason for reduced social distancing was Baltimore's public schools lacked the classroom space "to accommodate a greater number of students in-person in school buildings."

This idea was so unacceptable it was

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quickly and quietly abandoned. The proposal is a lesson in how tempting it can be to put science aside to accommodate an ongoing problem like overcrowding. Relaxing the CDC's social distancing recommendation is looking to *snake oil* to solve a problem resistant to earlier interventions. By concocting a questionable, but expedient solution, the remedy ignores sound medical advice for a strategy that could spread sickness and death.

I believe no nefarious intent was behind the Superintendent's flawed solution to overcrowding. It was a judgment shining a light on the proverbial elephant in the room. Baltimore's public schools have suffered from a "pandemic of poverty" for years. Beyond overcrowding, there are aging; poorly ventilated school buildings; low standardized test scores; declining graduation rates; increased demand for school-based social services; and decreased operating budgets.

What shall become of our public schools? Can the City's cash poor education system survive an infectious disease crisis? Without question the schools will require a much bigger budget to meet the academic and mental health needs of its highly vulnerable population.

Then there is this troubling, existential question: now that classrooms will continue to be closed, who is keeping track of students who depend on school-based social services for sustenance, shelter and safe-keeping? Can meaning learning thrive in a digital desert, or will the lack of reliable, affordable broadband put Baltimore City children further behind?

*Jayne Hopson is a former educational advocate for students with dyslexia. Education matters because in the words of former slave, Greek philosopher Epictetus—only the educated are free.*

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# Local Veteran Shares Story of Kidney Transplant and Importance for Minorities

By Stacy M. Brown

Statistics have revealed that minorities comprise about 60 percent of those currently on the United States organ transplant list, yet, in 2019, only 32 percent of donors were from those communities.

Health officials note that, while donors and recipients are not matched based on race or ethnicity, the chances of finding a match and having a successful transplant are increased when both are closely matched in terms of shared genetic background. They say this underscores why it's crucial to close this gap.

Desert Storm Veteran and Maryland Resident Daronta Briggs and The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) have an essential message for communities of color, which they hope to resonate particularly during August, which is designated as National Minority Donor Awareness Month.

"Organ tissue donation is so important for minorities. It's important to promote the idea of those become organ donors



**Desert Storm Veteran and Maryland Resident Daronta Briggs received a kidney transplant in October 2012. He was one of 28 people to receive a kidney transplant at the Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda and 16,487 transplants in America in 2012.**  
Courtesy Photo

so that they can help those in need," said Briggs, who was diagnosed in 2008 with

end-stage renal disease.

Briggs received a kidney transplant in October 2012 and he says he "feels like new money now."

UNOS officials noted that Briggs was one of 28 individuals in 2012 to receive a kidney transplant at the Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda. That year, 16,487 such operations occurred in America.

According to the National Kidney Foundation, African Americans represent 13.2 percent of the overall U.S. population, but more than 35 percent of all patients receiving dialysis for kidney failure.

Sixty percent of those currently on the U.S. transplant waiting list are minorities, with more than 32,000 being African American.

"You have to have a positive mindset and understand what it means to be an organ tissue donor," Briggs said. "It makes a difference in someone's life and allows them to have a second chance. I'm a big advocate of UNOS and my own nonprofit called the Veterans Transplantation Association."

Brigg started his nonprofit four years ago and has implemented a mentorship program for veterans currently on dialysis.

"I want to give back to the veterans and my community, and this is how I feel I should," he said.

Born in Hampton, Virginia, Briggs served in the U.S. military during the Persian Gulf War in the early 1990s. It was during his out-processing that he began to realize a health problem.

"I had protein in my urine, some kidney issues, and I had hypertension," Briggs said.

However, it wasn't until nearly two decades later when he realized how much his health had declined.

"I was told I needed to start dialysis, and it was a shock because of all of the uncertainty, and when you hear the words 'end-stage renal and dialysis,' it was unsettling," he said.

At the time of his diagnosis, Briggs had worked in the Virginia Department of Corrections, and he was married with four daughters.

"I had to tell my daughters who I needed to take care of, and I had to tell my human resources supervisor that I couldn't work anymore," Briggs recalled.

He was also told it would take at least six years to get a new kidney. In 2010, he learned of a special program for veterans at the Walter Reed Medical Center that allowed his transplant to occur after just a two-year wait.

"I became motivated and, during dialysis, which happened three days a week from 8 a.m. to noon, I'd stay awake and read, and I even wrote a book," Briggs said. "I wanted to be aware of my surrounding and prepared. I wanted to be able to use this experience to help others."

"With medicine now, and despite the side effects, I have a better quality of life, and I'm able to do the things that I wanted to do before but couldn't because I was on dialysis."

"I want to be able to share my story with others and help others. I'm a minority, and I want other minorities to understand that they can do this. They can donate organ tissue, and they can be recipients."

For more information about organ donation and transplants, visit: [www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org).



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# Commentary

## On Civil Disobedience

By Rev. Dr. Jeff Hood, *Texas Metro News*

His huge fist repeatedly struck her face. This wasn't the first time her boyfriend beat her up...but this was definitely the worst. Hours later, she awoke with blood caked between her face and the floor. Seeing that her boyfriend was asleep, she quietly ran out the door. Due to multiple warrants, she was too scared to call the police. So, she ran to the only place she knew to go. Seeing the steeple in the distance, she ran harder. For many years, her church was known as a place that would help victims of domestic violence. It was her only hope.

Once she got on the lawn, she raced to the side door. There was always someone there. Running up, she missed the sign. Over and over again, she banged on the door. Nobody came. Backing up, she realized that there was a sign, "Churches are not considered essential based on the recent COVID-19 order...so we have been forced to suspend all social services until the order is lifted."

He was sitting at home watching television. The phone rang. On the other end of the line, was a voice he did not know. After identifying himself as a local police officer, the voice proceeded to tell him that his son was shot and killed earlier that night. Devastated, the man called his pastor. After hearing the anguish in his voice, the pastor raced over to his parishioner's house.

Not long after he got off of the exit, he was pulled over. Unable to understand what he had done wrong, he rolled down the window. The officer asked where he was going. After his explanation, the pastor thought he was just going to be able to go. Instead, the officer went back to his car. After a few minutes, the officer came back with a citation. Immediately, the pastor demanded to know the reason for this ticket.

The officer didn't hesitate, "Ministers are not considered essential workers under the recent COVID-19 order." She needed food. The church was closed. He needed emergency counseling. The church was closed. He needed help with his bills. The church was closed. She needed somewhere to sleep. The church was closed. He needed to take a shower. The church was closed. She just needed help. The church was closed. He just needed help. The church was closed.

The church is the largest provider of social services in our country. Dallas County and various other counties have discouraged/inhibited such work. Repeatedly, churches and their ministers are not included in the definitions of what is essential to our society. The language is all about businesses. While there is room given for churches to meet "virtually," churches can't do the vast majority of their work over a computer screen. More lives will be lost if the church stops being the church. I can't accept this.

We must love our neighbors. We must stand up for the marginalized and oppressed. We must. To do anything else would not be the church. When someone asks for the help of churches, I encourage you to help them...no matter what any authority says. Civil disobedience might be the hallmark of our faith at this point.

*Prominent theologian and local activist, Rev. Dr. Jeff Hood studied at Brite Divinity School.*

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**"AND WHAT GRADE ARE YOU IN?"**

## Community Affairs

### Governor Hogan reopens coronavirus special enrollment to uninsured Marylanders as COVID-19 pandemic continues

Annapolis— Governor Larry Hogan joined Insurance Commissioner Kathleen Birrane; insurance companies; and the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to announce the reopening of the coronavirus emergency special enrollment period until December 15, 2020.

More than 54,000 Marylanders enrolled in health coverage during the special enrollment period from March 16 to July 15. With today's announcement, Maryland will offer the longest special enrollment period in the nation related to the coronavirus emergency.

"The people of our great state have endured so many personal, medical, and economic challenges, and this crisis is not yet behind us," said Governor Hogan. "Reopening the special enrollment period is another way we are helping Marylanders weather this storm, get back on their feet, and recover."

"As Maryland continues to battle this

global pandemic, we would like to make it as easy as possible for uninsured Marylanders to address their health concerns by reopening the coronavirus special enrollment period to help our Maryland families get the health coverage they need," said Michele Eberle, executive director of Maryland Health Benefit Exchange.

Maryland Health Connection plans cover testing, visits relating to testing and treatment of COVID-19. Consumers will not be billed for a copay, coinsurance, or deductible for services to test, diagnose, and treat COVID-19. Marylanders do not need to be sick to enroll in coverage. This special enrollment is for private health plans only. Those who qualify for Medicaid may enroll any time of year.

To enroll, visit [MarylandHealthConnection.gov](http://MarylandHealthConnection.gov) or download the free "Enroll MHC" mobile app. For free consumer assistance, call 855-642-8572 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays. Help is available in more than 200 languages through the call center, as well as Relay service for the Deaf and hard of hearing. Trained navigators and brokers statewide offer free help enrolling by phone.

## Trump Administration Ramps Up Efforts to Dismantle Post Office

By **Stacy M. Brown**, NNPA Newswire  
Senior National Correspondent  
**@StacyBrownMedia**

President Donald Trump has made no secret of his desire to dismantle the United States Postal Service or revamp the agency in a way that has angered Democrats and others who said it's a tactic to prevent mail-in voting for the upcoming election.

The CARES Act passed in April authorized the postal service to borrow up to \$10 billion from the Treasury Department for operating expenses if it determines that, due to the COVID-19 emergency, the post office would not fund operating expenses without borrowing money.

"They have withheld that money. They have broken the law," Congressional Black Caucus Chair Karen Bass told BlackPressUSA during a livestream interview last month. Other Democratic lawmakers, including Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), and Rep. Hank Johnson (D-Ga.), also told

BlackPressUSA that the president is trying to dismantle the postal service.

Trump has steadfastly opposed funding the postal service. Despite recently voting with his wife by mail in a Florida primary election, the president said he's against mail-in voting.

"Trump is not stupid. He knows if there is a decent-sized turnout in this election, he loses," Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.) wrote on Twitter. "He and his friends believe they can suppress the vote by destroying the post office. We aren't

Toulouse Oliver (D), Louisiana Secretary of State R. Kyle Ardoin (R), Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson (D) and Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose (R) joined in signing the letter.

"State and local election officials are busy planning for the November general election, and many expect an increase in the use of absentee and mail ballots, along with other election-related mailings," the state officials wrote. "We view the [United States Postal Service] as a vital partner in administering a safe, suc-

cessful election and would like to learn more about any planned changes around USPS service due to COVID-19, preparations for increased election-related mail, USPS staffing levels and processing times, and other pertinent issues."

actions contribute to voter suppression. "DeJoy has fired or reassigned much of the existing USPS leadership and ordered the removal of mail sorting machines that are fundamental to the functioning of the postal service. Meanwhile, mail delivery is slowing down under other decisions made by DeJoy, such as eliminating overtime for postal workers," the organization wrote in a statement.

This week, the U.S. Inspector General opened an investigation into DeJoy's policy changes at the post office.

According to some lawmakers, those changes are reportedly taking a toll on military veterans who are experiencing much longer wait times to receive mail-order prescription drugs.

Slowdowns at the post office have reportedly also resulted in seniors receiving their medications late and other important mail like social security checks. It has also angered those who work for the agency.

Postal workers throughout the country have reported low morale, and many have cited the actions of DeJoy, who was appointed by Trump. On Friday, August 14, 2020, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), a union that boasts nearly 300,000 active and retired postal workers, endorsed Presumptive Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden.

"Vice President Biden is, was, and will continue to be a fierce ally and defender of the United States Postal Service, letter carriers, and our fellow postal brothers and sisters," NALC President Fredric Rolando said in a statement. "Together, Biden and [vice presidential running mate] Sen. Kamala Harris fully exhibit the experience, dedication, thoughtfulness and steady hands that will work to ensure that letter carriers and working families are put first."

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***The CARES Act passed in April authorized the postal service to borrow up to \$10 billion from the Treasury Department for operating expenses if it determines that, due to the COVID-19 emergency, the post office would not fund operating expenses without borrowing money.***

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going to allow that to happen."

Several postal workers have reported the removal of sorting machines at postal facilities and the removal of sidewalk mailboxes.

Postal officials reported that in the last week, the agency had removed letter collection boxes in at least four states: New York, Oregon, Montana, and Indiana.

Postal workers in at least three states—West Virginia, Florida and Missouri—have received notification that retail operating-hours also face reduction.

Removing mailboxes had become a practice along marathon and parade routes since the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, however, the latest removals are believed intentional and strategically coordinated to impact the election.

In response to the removal of mailboxes and a slowdown in the delivery of mail, the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) sent a letter to the Postmaster General on August 7, 2020, New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie

successful election and would like to learn more about any planned changes around USPS service due to COVID-19, preparations for increased election-related mail, USPS staffing levels and processing times, and other pertinent issues."

The postal service has sent letters to warn 46 states that it could not guarantee all mail-in ballots cast for the November election would arrive in time to be counted.

Some states, like Maryland and Virginia, received a "heightened warning" that the postal service could not meet state-mandated deadlines.

In response, a large group of protesters staged a "noise demonstration" on Saturday, August 15, 2020 outside of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's home in Washington, D.C.

The demonstration was organized by the direct-action group "Shut Down D.C." The organization said they believe DeJoy is "dismantling" the U.S. Postal Service in favor of President Donald Trump's re-election. They said his

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# HBCU alumnus committs to run online technology school for Black boys full time

By Andrea Blackstone

Many educators and parents located in a wide array of school districts are scrambling to figure out how to maintain student achievement, while youth learn online from home beginning in September due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Proactive parents have been searching for enrichment opportunities to help fill in learning gaps. One example of an established resource can be found in a STEM (Science, Technology, Education and Math) Education Advocate who is on a journey to empower Black boys.

Gerald A. Moore, Sr. is the founder/CEO of the nonprofit, Mission Fulfilled 2030, which is committed to impacting 100,000 Black boys in a variety of technologies by 2030. This fall, the Norfolk State University alumnus will roll out an improved online platform, through The Gerald Moore Technology School for Black Boys where course offerings include: Coding; Web Design; App Development; Basic Electricity; Automotive Technology; Google Docs; and Technology Entrepreneurship. Examples of winter offerings include launching an IT (Information Technology) Fundamentals course, in partnership with CompTIA, which is the world's leading technology association.

"[On] August 6, 2020, I resigned from my six-figure job (working as a cyber security engineer) to pursue my passion to work for the betterment of Black boys to rebuild the Black family. In order to bring into fruition the type of change I want to see for young Black males, I needed to truly embrace the vision of Mission Fulfilled 2030," Moore said. "Considering that Black male representation in the Cyber Security field is really low, I needed to make an even bolder decision to leave something I love, for something I love more, and create that next generation pipeline of Black, male Cyber Security Engineers and IT (Information Technology) professionals."



**Gerald Moore (left) founder/CEO of the non-profit Mission Fulfilled 2030 is committed to impacting 100,000 Black boys in a variety of technologies by 2030. Jordan Moore (right) working on creating his "Rep Your Sneaks" website application for smart phone users. He started the project in the Young Tech Entrepreneurs Program. Jordan is Moore's son. Photos: Michael Shaw**

The multi-talented Northern Virginia resident is also a father, newlywed and author of the Amazon best-selling book, "Motivate Black Boys - How to Prepare for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics."

The fee to enroll in The Gerald Moore Technology School for Black Boys is \$29.99 per month. An introduction to computer science class is available to anyone free of charge.

When COVID-19 arrived, Moore decided to merge the technology school with the nonprofit and offer a free, online Computer Science Program for Black Boys. After three years of STEM mentoring, over 200 Black boys have participated in Moore's school. The socialpreneur says there is nothing more rewarding than watching a boy's eyes light up, when the student has a breakthrough in figuring something out, or a boy realizes that he can be successful.

Jordan Hennighan, 12, is one example of a student who has benefited from

Moore's innovative approach to Black male mentoring.

"My favorite courses were 'How Computers Work' and 'Basic Game Programming,' because they allowed me to expand my knowledge, and gave me a different mindset on what I want to do when I get older. I also liked these two because they were very interesting and fun to learn about when we got to code and fix code," Jordan said. "When I grow up I want to be able to code computers, build them and fix them. Also, I want to start my own coding business when I'm able to do that, to be able to make money and give computers to others that may not have a lot."

Moore says that the Young Tech Entrepreneurs Course is a fan favorite. Boys ages eight to 17 are taught how to use free open source tools to conceptualize, design and build a working prototype. An Instagram style web/mobile app is one project example. Participants are also taught how to market, gain users and monetize it.

Additionally, Moore wants to connect Black boys who are interested in STEM with 10,000 Black technology mentors. Professor Willie Sanders, Jr. is the founder and executive director of Baltimore-based Pass IT On who recently joined Moore to positively impact additional Black boys. Pass IT On's similar mission is to help close the technology skills gap experience by youth and adults from disadvantaged backgrounds. Sanders and Moore realize that there is an urgent need to reach out to young, Black boys with a life-changing opportunity that gaining 21st century technical skill can provide.

"In D.C. and Baltimore, we lose too many of our young men of color to drugs and violence," Sanders said. "We want these young boys to know there is a better way that can lead to a brighter future."

To enroll Black boys in the online school or to learn more about it or to make a donation to Mission Fulfilled 2030, visit: <http://www.gmtsbb.com/>.



**Gerald Moore, founder/CEO of the non-profit Mission Fulfilled 2030.**

# SheRises Non-Profit Helps Teen Moms during Pandemic

By Dareise A. Jones

Sherise Holden, founder of SheRises, Inc. knows how difficult it can be for teen moms to take care of their children, especially during a pandemic. A teen mom herself, Sherise started her non-profit organization in 2019 to provide support and guidance for young mothers.

The Prince Georges County native was 17, and three months away from graduating high school when she gave birth to her daughter Autumn. She didn't feel ready to be a mom and planned to give her baby up for adoption until her mother convinced her to keep the baby.

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, Sherise and her baby were homeless while she tried to make ends meet working a minimum wage job. She knew they couldn't go on living that way, so she met with a pastor to discuss adoption options. Later that afternoon, she got a message from her boss telling her not to come into work. She was not yet aware of the terrorist attacks that occurred that morning, so she turned the news on and was flooded with emotions: sympathy, anger and the deep desire to keep her daughter.

And, she did just that! She was committed to being the best mother she could be while attending college courses at night until she earned her Asso-



**Sherise handing out diapers during a She Rises Diaper Distribution event.** Photo Credit: Dutchess Selah



**Sherise with boxes of Pampers at her home before the second Diaper Distribution event in May in Severn, Maryland.**



**Sherise Houlden at her daughter Autumn Joi Williams' high school graduation.**

ciates degree in accounting. She would go on to earn her Bachelors in Business Administration, Masters in Project Management and MBA.

Sherise, now a mother of two girls, is a project manager for the IRS. She grew up poor and said "I had very little support from my family, and I was too 'proud' to accept government assistance."

Although her family couldn't provide substantial monetary support, her mother gave her an excellent work ethic, which took her from a homeless single mother, to a successful mom, professional and entrepreneur.

Although disappointed that she had to cancel her Teen Career Development Workshop

scheduled in April due to the shutdown of Maryland in March, she saw the opportunity to provide for moms in another way.

She immediately galvanized her team and sought donations for a diaper distribution using word of mouth and social media. Donations poured in through the non-profit's Amazon Charity account and drop-offs. Within a week, her team was able to bless families in need.

During the first event on April 23, 2020, the SheRises team organized no contact porch deliveries in the rain in Bowie, Crofton and Glenn Dale for families who applied on their website.

By May, SheRises had partnered with Elevation Outreach and Helping Hands of America to host diaper distributions in five different locations across the country. Diapers, wipes, formula and other items were donated through socially distanced drive-up pick-ups.

To date, SheRises has held seven diaper and baby items distributions with no plans to stop.

Sherise is dedicated to "inspiring teen mothers to rise and discover that there is a beautiful and wonderful life on the other side of teen pregnancy."

Join SheRises in reaching, inspiring, strengthening and empowering teen mothers by volunteering or donating at: [www.she-rises.org](http://www.she-rises.org)

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# A'lelia Bundles Offers Praise and Critique of Netflix' "Self Made" at Virtual Screening of Walker Documentary

By Nadine Matthews  
@deeniemedial

WORLD Channel recently hosted a virtual discussion, screening, and Q&A with filmmaker Stanley Nelson and Madame C.J. Walker biographer, A'lelia Bundles. The host of WORLD Channel's Local USA, Tina Martin, led the Q&A and discussion of Nelson's timeless 1981 documentary on Madame C.J. Walker's life, "Two Dollars And A Dream," now streaming on WORLD's YouTube channel.

Walker has become more popular as a historical figure over the past decade; known to many as the woman who pioneered the Black hair care industry.

The film showcases the promotional slides Walker used to market her products, clips of marketing films made by the Walker company, interviews with former employees, and rare archival photos including those of her palatial estate in New York, and of Walker with luminaries such as Booker T Washington and WEB DuBois, further broadening understanding of all Walker was and did.

Nelson made "Two Dollars And A Dream" when very few were aware of Walker's contributions to American business. His friendship with Bundles goes all the way back to the making of the film. Bundles revealed during the discussion that she helped do the audio for some of the interviews.

Much of the discussion focused on the 2020 Netflix limited series, "Self Made," about Walker's life, starring Octavia Spencer; with Bundles and Nelson parsing what the series got right and what it didn't. Bundles lauded Octavia Spencer's depiction enthusing, "I thought Octavia Spencer was perfectly cast as Madame Walker. Every time she came on screen, I could see the pages of my book coming alive."



**Screenshot Host Tina Martin and Madame C.J. Walker biographer A'lelia Bundles, filmmaker Stanley Nelson at WORLD Channel screening and panel "Two Dollars and a Dream." Photo Credit: Screenshot World Channel Youtube**

Bundles also expressed her pleasure at the show's depiction of successful early twentieth century Blacks. "I think there are a lot of people, both Black and white, who don't know anything about that. They don't know that there were prosperous, educated Black people back then."

Because the public is still just learning about Walker, however, there are things, Bundles feels could have been done differently. "It's one thing if you're George Washington or Marilyn Monroe and there are 52 films out there about you, you can take more creative license. But with a first pass, it's helpful if we don't distort people too much."

Bundles would also have preferred that Walker's romantic relationships reflected reality more. In "Self Made," Walker's daughter A'lelia (played by Tiffany Haddish) had a relationship with a woman named Esther. "Esther was not a real person," explained Bundles. "A'lelia Walker's real life conflict was over two men, both of them doctors and both of whom she married."

FB Ransom, played by Kevin Carroll, was also overly distorted. Ransom worked at The Walker Company from 1910 until it dissolved in the 1940s. He oversaw many developments including the Walker Building in Indianapolis, a precursor to the modern day shopping mall. Ransom, who is also Nelson's grandfather, Bundles shared, "was a much stronger character and was really a straight arrow. As a young man he made an oath to never drink, smoke, or gamble."

She explained she has voiced her concerns during the series' development.

"I objected very strongly to the way that they depicted Ransom. He was central to the day to day operations of the business. It was made to seem as if he, or a Black business, would do something illegal. That didn't happen."

To this Nelson added, "That generation coming out of enslavement, were strivers. They believed that if you walked the straight and narrow, and you strove and pushed, good things would happen. There were Blacks who might have gone to juke joints but the ones associated with the company, were very strict."

Bundles also found the handling of the Madame C.J. Walker and Addie Munro relationship problematic. She admitted that the two businesswomen became adversaries. However, she clarified that the colorist dynamic applied to the Addie Munro character was totally fabricated. "I would not have done the Addie Munro character," Bundles stated. "She was a stand-in for Annie Maloney, who was a successful entrepreneur and philanthropist who didn't have a colorism issue."

Perhaps the most exciting reveal was that Bundles is working on a new book. "There's a lot I've learned in the past ten years. There's certainly more than Stanley knew when he was making "Two Dollars and A Dream," so we have more dimensions for the A'lelia Walker story and I'm really eager to tell that story."

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## BCCC announces tuition free fall classes

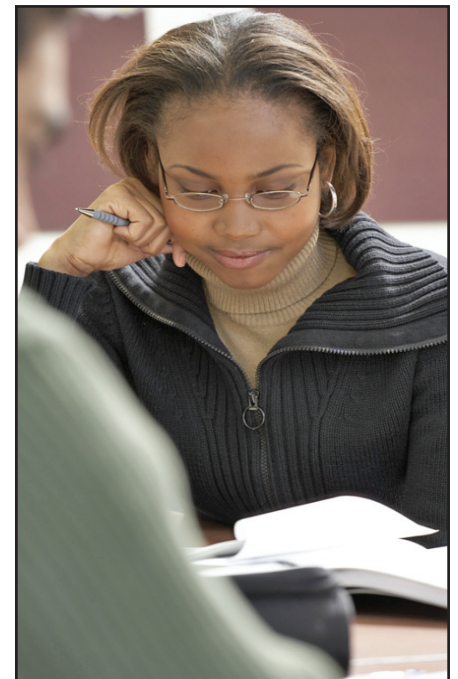
Baltimore— Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) is offering free tuition for students enrolling in the upcoming fall semester. Combining Federal financial aid, the State of Maryland's Promise Scholarship, support from the City of Baltimore, the BCCC Foundation Scholarship opportunities and CARES Act funding, eligible students entering or returning for fall courses can enroll tuition free.

For those students who are ineligible for full aid or scholarships, BCCC offers the lowest tuition in the Baltimore area at \$110 per credit hour; non-Baltimore City residents who live in the State of Maryland do not pay any additional out of county tuition. The affordable cost is also particularly attractive to students attending four-year institutions who want to take advantage of the low tuition and enroll in virtual or online classes.

BCCC will also tap into the recently awarded One Step Away (OSA) grant, the State's college completion focused grant program, which provides funds to support higher education institutions efforts to re-engage, re-enroll, and graduate near-completer students who dropped out before completing their degree. The College implemented a re-engagement process for near completers with strategies involving direct mail, email communications and robo-calls.

BCCC is also targeting unemployed workers looking to enroll in college or make career transitions. This is their time to make a professional shift or enhance their skills.

"For over 70 years, BCCC has provided our community access to a quality, affordable college education," said Dr. Debra L. McCurdy, BCCC President. "We know the COVID-19 pandemic has placed unusual financial strain on many Maryland college stu-



dents and their families. With online classes becoming the new norm, BCCC's tuition options can reach even more students seeking to save money."

Boasting the lowest in-state tuition in Maryland, BCCC is removing a major barrier for students and is poised to meet diverse financial needs. Not only will the cost of college be managed in a way to lessen financial burdens, BCCC is offering both virtual and online web classes to accommodate a safe learning environment.

BCCC faculty will be attending professional development in preparation for the start of the semester. Additionally, the college is shoring up learning management infrastructure to ensure academic success in the current remote environment.

"Our student support services team of financial aid experts, advisors, counselors and tutors are prepared to support our students virtually," said Dr. Stanley Singleton, Vice President for Student Affairs.

To learn more about free or low cost tuition options, email: [bcccadmissions@bccc.edu](mailto:bcccadmissions@bccc.edu) or [financialaid@bccc.edu](mailto:financialaid@bccc.edu)

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# Ravens CB Marlon Humphrey trained with family during offseason

By Tyler Hamilton

An unexpectedly loss in the divisional round of the playoffs last season abruptly ended what could have been a great year the Baltimore Ravens. They finished with a 14-2 record—the best in the NFL.

The sudden end left a bitter taste in cornerback Marlon Humphrey's mouth. Humphrey hit the offseason with a vengeance in hopes of making it to the ultimate goal, winning the Super Bowl.

The Covid-19 pandemic kept the Ravens from having Organized Team Activities and minicamp. So the task of getting ready for the season fell on the players. Humphrey has athletic bloodlines. His father Bobby was a running back for the Denver Broncos and Miami Dolphins while his sister Brittany is a sprinter for LSU. Marlon took advantage of his family situation during personal offseason workouts.

"It was really fun. I was back with all five of my brothers and sisters. We did a lot of family workouts, jungle gym, a lot of pushups, pull-ups. I tried to get as much different work as I could. My sister runs track at LSU so I got on the track and did some track workouts. I did a little bit of everything and tried to do



*Baltimore Ravens cornerback Marlon Humphrey is from a family of athletes. He took advantage of his family situation during the off-season to workout with his siblings.*

Photo Credit: Gail Burton/AP Photo

anything that could get me at my highest heart rate going," Marlon said.

One thing that pushed Marlon to the limit was a rock pile found at Wade Sand and Gravel in Birmingham,

Alabama. He said he ran on rock piles with his brothers, one of whom he joked wasn't able to workout the next day.

"The offseason was a lot different. You

had to get pretty creative," Marlon added.

Marlon's fire was fueled even more by an experience he had when he went to the Super Bowl to take part in a pregame activity.

"This past year, I got to go to the Super Bowl and do something on the field before the game," Marlon said. "Walking around, watching the other teams warm up. The energy I felt down there in Miami kind of triggered my whole offseason into thinking the only thing I really want is a Super Bowl. That's the mindset we are taking everyday in practice."

Last season, Marlon said his goal was to be in "Bowls" referring to the Pro Bowl and Super Bowl. He was named to the Pro Bowl after turning in a career high three interceptions while taking on the best wide receivers the NFL had to offer. Marlon excelled as a nickel cornerback in addition to his duties on the outside.

It was a big-time season for the third year corner. However, he fell short of one of his Bowl goals. This year, the only goal is to make it to the Super Bowl. That's exactly what Marlon trained for with his five siblings during the offseason.

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