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JAMAICA DIASPORA EDUCATION TASKFORCES (JDETF) 7TH

ADVANCEMENT IN EDUCATION



*Meeting the
Challenges of*
**EDUCATION
TODAY**

March 21 - 25, 2022

MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE
NEW YORK CITY

Hosted by

Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (USA) Inc. and Marymount Manhattan College





The Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (JDTAN) is a network of sectoral focused Diaspora Taskforces with almost **2,000 members across 45 countries**. Jamaica Diaspora Taskforces have been operating since 2013 as a collaborative approach to engage and mobilize the Diaspora to join forces and support Jamaica's national development.

JDTAN members and friends are passionate about supporting Jamaica, and therefore, are energized to partner, analyze, create plans, empower, and satisfy needs where resources are available.

Join us at, joinataskforce.jdtan.org and for more information visit:

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Co-Chairs Welcome



The 2018 Jamaica Diaspora Education Summit was held in Miramar, Florida. It was the first in the United States. It was at that Summit, that the idea germinated – to bring the Summit to the “Big Apple” – the city that never sleeps and is believed to be one of the most diverse in the world. We aimed for 2020. But an opportunity to go to California was too good to pass. And then the COVID-19 pandemic arrived. Our dream was deferred once again.

The pandemic impacted all of our lives in more ways than we could imagine, those of us in education were among the most impacted. Online learning via a telephone became an important option for many. And as teachers, you no doubt had your fair share of challenges. Though you continued to work hard to minimize the predictable learning losses that your students would experience, you didn’t always have the tools to make a difference. Sadly, beyond the challenges of adjusting to the new virtual norm, many of us have had to cope with the loss of friends and family, some cut down in the prime of their lives.

Yet, behind every dark cloud, there always lies a silver lining. As we gather together to celebrate the 7th Annual JDETf Education Summit, in person, we are beginning to see a glimmer of light behind the dark clouds that have covered our lives for more than two years. For many of you, this is your first time traveling outside of Jamaica in a long while. For some of you, this is the first time that you are getting together in such large numbers for a professional development opportunity. And what an opportunity this is – here at Marymount Manhattan College, in the very heart of New York City. An opportunity to have a week of conversation with your fellow teachers and educational leaders from Jamaica and elsewhere in the Caribbean, and across the US, and of course, from right here in the New York. This is an opportunity to explore together how we can make a difference in the lives of the children and young adults in our classrooms.

My fellow participants, an event of this magnitude doesn’t happen by chance. It requires many hours of careful preparation, hard work and commitment to make it a reality. As such, we would be remiss if I didn’t take the opportunity to thank all those who contributed to bringing this event to fruition. To the President of Marymount Manhattan College, Dr. Kerry Walk, and her faculty and staff, all of whom gave generously of their time and afforded us the use of this facility, we must say, THANK YOU! To Mr. Leo Gilling and his team of dedicated educators within the JDTAN family, much thanks for vision and for continuing to serve your country in this profound manner. To the Jamaica Teachers Association (JTA) President, Mr. Winston Smith and Secretary General, Dr. Mark Nicely, we extend thank you for facilitating this professional development opportunity for your teachers and administrators. To our distinguished guests, both from Jamaica and here in the US, including Jamaica’s Ambassador to the US, Her Excellency, the Honorable Audrey P. Marks, and the New York Consul General, Mrs. Alision Wilson, we say thank for gracing this event with your presence and support. To the members of the JDETf Planning Committee, we thank so dearly for the many hours of work that you have given so freely, and without which this event would not have happened. To members of our UJAA family, and especially members of the Board of Directors, who gave up so much of their time, energy and intellect to make this happen – THANK YOU!

To our distinguished colleagues, our teachers and administrators from Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean, as well as those who are right here in the US, we hope that this will be a Summit to remember. We hope that what you have learned here will for years to come impact your work inside and outside of your classrooms, and most importantly transform the minds of those who are entrusted in your care. Education is a caring profession, and we know that the fact that you have taken the time to be here with the rest of your peers, shows that you truly care. **THANK YOU!**

Lesleyann Samuel

President
Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (USA) Inc.

Michael Salmon

Associate Vice President
Dean of Academic Excellence and
Senior Advisor to the President, MMC



Marymount Manhattan College is honored to host the Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force for its 2022 Advancement in Education Summit. The College welcomes to our New York City campus the Summit's partners—the Jamaican Diaspora Task Force Action Network, the Jamaica Teachers Association, and the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations—as well as distinguished guests from Jamaican government and education institutions and all attendees and participants. Marymount Manhattan College is humbled that so many important and influential members of Jamaica's education system have joined here to meet the challenges of education today.

While the islands of Jamaica and Manhattan may be geographically distant from each other, the two are connected by strong educational communities committed to student success, classroom leadership, and innovation in teaching and learning. Marymount Manhattan College is an institution driven by creative students, and we are very fortunate to be located in a global city that generates and thrives on creativity. At Marymount Manhattan, we deliberately nurture our students' creativity so that they will have the ability to find purpose, and adapt and grow throughout their lives. Through creative problem-solving, MMC students work toward a just and equitable society in which each of us strives to make an impact because we must.

We hope that you will harness some of Marymount Manhattan's and New York City's creativity this week as you participate in the Summit's discussions, presentations, plenaries, break-out sessions, workshops, and school tours. And we hope that you will keep our College in mind when you encounter students who are eager to build a better world. We welcome students of all personal identities and all backgrounds. We believe that it is only through our authentic diversity and varied experiences that we can come together to solve society's most pressing challenges.

Best wishes for a productive and meaningful Summit. Thank you for choosing our small but mighty College as the locus to generate your ideas and plans for future generations of students. We are so glad to have your creativity, enthusiasm, and energy at Marymount Manhattan College.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kerry'.

Kerry Walk, Ph.D.
President



Chairman's Message

It is indeed a pleasure to welcome everyone back to face-to-face Advancements in Education Summit. This year's theme: **Meeting the Challenges of Education Today - Teaching, Learning, Leading, Healing**, depicts the challenges we faced in the last two years, but more so the actions that we plan to implement as we emerge from this COVID pandemic. This period has influenced the growth of relationships, expansion of the education task force and increased membership. This is a testament to the resilience of everyone to say "nutten cyaah stap wi".

The pandemic only made us stronger and ready to face the challenges. It's like "watch di pipe when di bung a leak". The pandemic hindered us from having face to face meetings; however, we utilized zoom, google meet and continue building stronger relationships; readying for better days ahead.

It is important always to acknowledge all the great collaborations we have gained over the years; Loma Linda and La Sierra Universities, Broward College, Broward Schools, Victoria Mutual, Grace Kennedy, University of Minnesota, The Embassy of Jamaica, Ministry of Education and Foreign Affairs. With such dynamic collaboration, we continue to build on our successes.

This year, under the auspices of UJAA, this New York event has been three years in the making and we're finally here. Kudos the Miss Lesleyann Samuel, Karlene Largie and their team; they made it happen. Thanks also to the combined JDETF leaders: Dr. Sherika Dacres, Dr. Noel Gordon, Miss Melanie Gooden, Dr. Sherian Demetrius, Dr. Claudette Peterkin and their wonderful team. They worked assiduously in fine tuning and tightening the bolts that bring this extensive program together for all who are beneficiaries. Finally, to the JTA President Winton Smith and Secretary General, Dr. Mark Nicely who both insisted that this summit happen this year.

It is my greatest pleasure to be here to welcome all of you, to learn with you, to tour with you, and to have fun with you in New York. After all, this is the most fantastic city in America. What better place than the Big Apple in 2022 for us to come together to accomplish all the above?

We welcome once again one and all. Wishing you the best at this the 7th installment of the JDETF's Advancements in Education Summit, New York.

The JD TAN: "A vision of growth for a better Jamaica"

Please contact us at: info@jdtan.org

Our website: jdtan.org

To register: Joinataskforce.jdtan.org

Check out our workshops at: jaminars.org

Leo Gillling



Jamaica Diaspora Education Taskforces 'Chairs' Message



Valued educators, presenters, and dignitary attendees. It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the Jamaica Diaspora Education Taskforce 7th Annual Advancement in Education Summit.

The theme of this year's conference, "*Meeting the Challenges of Education Today: Teaching, Learning, Leading & Healing*", encapsulates the focus on 'Cradle to College and Career Readiness', that supports the goal of vision 2030 Jamaica to foster world-class education and professional development.



The unfortunate outcomes of the global pandemic have driven us to rethink our approach to teaching and learning. It has forced us to adjust where we must, and change what we can, as it relates to the challenges that we continue to face in education.

EdSummit 2022 signifies the linchpin of our yearlong collective vision to reimagine and transform Education in Jamaica. The summit is designed to inspire our educators to be elevated to a new dimension of purpose.



This conference will address 4 tenets of education: transforming teaching, reimagining learning, Inspirational leading, and purposeful healing. In addition, this conference is intended to build collaboration among attending educators, and other stakeholders, to build capacity for education and educators in Jamaica.

We are confident that all those in attendance at this conference will leave with a more focused lens in addressing the challenges in education and be empowered with added resources and support to put into action what was shared at this summit.



The poem that we recited in primary school, and which still resounds in our hearts, rhythmically encourages, 'Silver and gold will decay but a good education will never pass away.'

Yours,

Jamaica Diaspora Education Taskforces Chairs,

Dr. Sherika Dacres (Tertiary)

Dr. Noel Gordon (Primary & Secondary)

Mrs. Melanie Baker Gooden (Early Childhood Education)

Dr. Sherian Demetrius (Early Childhood Education)

Dr. Claudette Peterkin (Special Education)

Ms. Andrea Thomas (Educational Leadership)





JTA *President's Message*

On behalf of the Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA), it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate the Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Forces (JDETf) and the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (USA) Inc. (UJAA) on your commitment to assist the various institutions in Jamaica in providing first class educational opportunities to the citizens of this blessed island. This undoubtedly resonates with the great transformational leader, Nelson Mandela, who said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

As we the members of the Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA) continue to partner this robust group of committed Jamaicans abroad, I urge you not to be weary in well doing as your labor and benevolence has been helping in the transformation of the educational opportunities of the students in your homeland. Furthermore, we the educational practitioners have grasped the opportunities afforded us, born of your philanthropic mindset. This mindset will undoubtedly redound to the benefit of us all as we seek to advance our pedagogical competences as well as improving our professional capital. The JTA encourages you to continue to blaze the trail of exemplary leadership in the field of education.

As we embark on this Summit, the team of teachers who will be joining in the physical form coupled with those in the virtual space will undoubtedly have an eye-opening experience, as we prepare to meet the 21st Century workforce. This upskilling of our colleagues, will enable us to participate fully in the new economy as well as being eligible to undertake higher levels of education.

In closing, it would be remiss of us not to say thank you again for the extraordinary awesome meeting experience we enjoyed when we came to New York in our preparation meeting in early March. This kind of support embodies our **Motto: "Unite and Serve"**

Winston R. Smith, J.P.

President, 2021-2022



Secretary General's Message

Diaspora Connection: the Seed that Propagates into an Excellent System of Growth

Nostalgic reflection brings to the forefront the possibilities that existed and still do, for the internationalization of education as we seek to enhance Jamaican, pedagogical output. The external migratory flow pattern of Jamaicans across borders has left an indelible mark on the Education System worldwide. The wealth of knowledge that characterizes the Diaspora has been held together through the cultural dynamics facilitated by common interest in creating opportunities for Jamaicans to access ***“first class education.”*** The Jamaica Teachers' Association and Diaspora partnership was born out of this reality. The purpose of which as articulated in the 2014 overview is for, the *“Diaspora and stakeholders to interact, learn about current state of the education in Jamaica, form bonds and start the process of sharing tangible initiatives that will make a difference in the education system of Jamaica”*

The Diaspora and the JTA held hands and hearts and took a leap of faith with no knowledge and no guarantee of the end at the beginning. We knew that with God's Guidance and Mercy we were on a fantastic journey as we united for the common good of advancing the welfare of our nation's children and the future of **Jamaica, Land we love.**

Ours is the true story of a relatively small group of individuals who were prepared to put their shoulders to the wheel with an open mind that *“whosoever will may come,”* but if no one came, the river of ingenuity, creativity and sacrifice would flow into the hearts, minds and soul of the Jamaican people in particular our Jamaican children. Consequently, what started as a small seed has snowballed into an outstanding movement lead jointly by a band of proud Jamaican Ambassadors. We note with admiration the fact that the Diaspora's collective commitment has seen its members distinguishing themselves in trade, entrepreneurial activities, and investments in human capital that offset sustainable development. The philanthropic nature of the Diaspora is greatly admired.

The Jamaica Teachers' Association continues to offer commendation in our appreciation of the quality assistance given by you. We are firmly committed to the continuity of this Diaspora connection and is cognizant of the fact that there are resources yet untapped. Our efforts has facilitated the eulogizing of collaborating actions, where we share a cadre of knowledge and skills when we connected locally *“on the rock”* to share ideas in February 2014, October 2015, March 2016. We visited several *“Diasporic”* geographical locations other times, except when the COVID 19 pandemic popularized such uncertainty that resulted in postponement of the face-to-face activities.

The Loma Linda EXSEED Programme bares a stamp of excellence that we continue to benefit from as it *“links Jamaicans Globally for Growth and Prosperity”* (Loma Linda University EXSEED 2015). Jamaica's forage into launching the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. (STEM) and the Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Math (STREAM) programme locally, benefited immensely from the collaborative efforts of the diaspora. The fabric of the education system, continued to intricately expand and includes an agreement with Oakwood University. It has fostered a tapestry woven into a web of far reaching network globally. We encourage the entire diaspora to come on board as stakeholders'; partners in education.

We applaud the sustained support of the Ministry of Education and Youth and fully embrace the mantra ***“Every child can learn, every child must learn.”*** It was Nelson Mandela, who said *“History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children,”* while John F. Kennedy posited that *“Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.”* Children and young adults are the focus of the Education System and are powerful agents of change; often the result of examples set by their elders. Thus validating a quote by James Baldwin, ***“Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.”*** The encouragement for us all is to be beacons of light towards fostering the perpetuation of outstanding, global citizens.

In an expression of gratitude, the Jamaica Teachers' Association is acknowledging the visionary work of the Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force, (JDETF), the Union of Jamaican Alumni Association (USA) Inc. (UJAA) and the Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (JDTAN). We are confident that together we will continue on this path breaking trajectory as we advance global nation building.

The increasingly complex world with its buzz terms such as globalization, digitalization, high quality Science and Technological Education that encourage innovative thinking provide much footing for the preparation of a global citizen which collectively we continue to achieve. We look forward for your partnership in the ensuing years, let us keep the wheels of progress turning as we ***“Unite and Serve.”***

Dr. Mark Nicely, Secretary General, JTA

Ambassador's Message

Message from Her Excellency Audrey P. Marks, Ambassador of Jamaica to the United States American for the Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Forces (JDETF) 7th Advancement in Education Summit 2022, New York, 21st March 2022



Mr. Leo Gilling, Chairman of the JDTAN and members of the Education Planning Team,
 Ms. Lesleyann Samuel, President of the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations,
 Mr. Winston Smith, President of the Jamaica Teachers' Association,
 Mr. Michael Salmon, Assistant Vice President, Dean of Academic Excellence, and Senior Advisor to the President of Marymount Manhattan College, Members of the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations, and Members of the Jamaica Teachers Association

Let me first congratulate the 2022 Education Summit Co-Chairs, Ms. Lesleyann Samuel, and Mr. Michael Salmon, on the work they have done to embark on the 7th Advancement in Education Summit.

Education is the most powerful tool that can be used to change the world. With a return to normalcy on the horizon, it is imperative that we address the lingering effects of the pandemic on education to allow our young people to unleash their talent more fully and widely.

This year, Jamaica will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee of Independence, under the theme "*Reigniting a Nation.*" In this regard, as a nation, we are engaged in many important endeavours: growing the economy, enhancing citizen's security, improving healthcare, addressing climate change, and achieving the myriad goals under Jamaica's Vision 2030 development plan. But our ability to flourish in these efforts, and as a people, hinge on what happens when our young people enter the classroom.

It is vital that we meet the challenges of education today and prepare our young people for tomorrow. By teaching, learning, leading, and healing, we can bring this goal to fruition. The dedication of the Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Forces, its partners, and friends in advocating for quality education is admirable and I laud their unbroken commitment.

No effort should be spared to afford students with all opportunities to learn and develop. We must therefore continue to galvanize support on the issue of quality and equal education. With Jamaica's ongoing Adopt-A-School programme, we can all play our part and contribute to the excellence of our students and teachers.

I am confident that the 7th Advancement in Education Summit will be a resounding success and I look forward to the positive results that will make quality education and prosperity attainable for all.



Consul General's Message



CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAMAICA NEW YORK

MESSAGE FROM CONSUL GENERAL ALSTON ROACH WILSON, OD

I am delighted to be a part of this 7th Advancement in Education Summit, which is being organized by the Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force (JDETf). The firm resolve of the JDETf and its partners to improve our country's education sector is certainly worthy of commendation.

I am pleased to note that this collaborative Summit, which is being hosted by the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (USA) Inc. (UJAA) and Marymount Manhattan College (MMC), will provide an excellent space for dialogue among our experts on innovative approaches for advancing Jamaica's education sector. I also believe that the participation of the Jamaica Teachers' Association – as the primary stakeholder, should further enrich the discussions.

This year's theme, *"Meeting the Challenges of Education Today - Teaching, Learning, Leading, Healing"*, is timely, as it captures the holistic approach towards educational transformation. Indeed, this theme, which aligns with Jamaica's Development Plan – Vision 2030, will remain relevant for many years to come. The Consulate General of Jamaica, New York, therefore, commends the Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force and its partners, for choosing this year's theme.

I wish to acknowledge the strategic pedagogical approach of the Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force and its partners in their inclusion of the digital learning environment, as paramount to our common goal of ensuring that no student is left behind.

Throughout the years, the Advancement in Education Summit has facilitated the introduction of Jamaica's teachers to new and emerging teaching methodologies. These include STEM Education as well as capacity building in areas such as special education and robotics. I, therefore, strongly applaud all the relevant stakeholders for diversifying the necessary teaching tools, content and methods, which I am certain will lead to improved outcomes.

As Jamaica celebrates its 60th Anniversary of Independence – *Diamond Jubilee*, it is pertinent that our future leaders of tomorrow – our children, gain the requisite knowledge needed to empower them to achieve their fullest potential. This, I am certain will *reignite our country for greatness*, which is in keeping with Jamaica's Independence Theme for this year.

To the Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force, its partners and all stakeholders, may you continue to utilize your knowledge and talents to benefit our country.

I convey my best wishes for a successful Summit.

One Love!



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Our Program

Sunday 20 March 2022 Summit Registration; Mix and Mingle	
12:00N- 3:30PM	Summit Registration [Sheraton Hotel Times Square (SHTS), Rear Lobby]
4:00PM – 6:00PM	Informal Mix and Mingle [Sheraton Hotel Times Square, Lobby Bar]
Monday 21 March 2022 Summit Opening; “Day of Teaching”	
7:00AM and 7:15AM	Travel from SHTS to Marymount Manhattan College (MMC) [Pick-Up at Sheraton Hotel Times Square]
7:00AM – 8:45AM	Summit Registration [Marymount Manhattan College (MMC) Lobby]
7:30AM – 8:45AM	Breakfast at MMC [MMC – “Main Room”, 3 rd Floor]
8:50AM – 10:00AM	<p>Opening Plenary [MMC – Peruggi “Purpose Room”, 2nd Floor]</p> <p>Welcome – Dr. Sherika Dacres Invocation – Dr. Noel Gordon Greetings – Lesleyann Samuel, Co-Chair – Summit 2022 Greetings – Dr. Kerry Walk, President - Marymount Manhattan College Greetings – Dr. Hansel Fletcher, Dean of Medicine – Loma Linda University Greetings – Mr. Leo Gilling, Chairman – JDTAN Greetings – Mrs. Alston Wilson, Consul General - Consulate of Jamaica – New York Greetings – Her Excellency Honorable Audrey P. Marks, Ambassador – Jamaica to USA Greetings – Mr. Winston Smith, President – Jamaica Teachers Association Greetings – Honorable Fayval Williams, Minister of Education and Youth – Ministry of Education and Youth, Jamaica Introduction of Keynote Speaker – Mrs. Melanie Gooden Baker Keynote Address – Dr. Margaret Chin, JTA Assistant Secretary General - Jamaica Teachers Association</p>
10:00AM – 10:15AM	Break
10:15AM – 10:50AM	<p>“Meeting the Challenge of Education Today” Panel Discussion Moderator: Dr. Sherian Demetrius [MMC “Main Room” 3rd Floor] Panelists: Ms. Melanie Baker, Dr. Margaret Chin, Dr. Noel Gordon, Dr. Sherika Dacres</p>
10:50AM – 11:00AM	<p>Overview of Program and Week’s Activities – Dr. Sherika Dacres [MMC “Main Room” 3rd Floor]</p>
11:00AM – 11:45AM	Lunch [MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor]
11:45AM – 4:00PM	<p>Day 1: Teaching and Learning [MMC “Main Room” 3rd Floor] Theme: Identifying and Addressing Learning Modalities in Response to the Achievement Gap Moderator: Dr. Sherika Dacres</p>

12:00N – 1:05PM	<i>Teaching and Learning Session</i> “Learning Modalities” – Dr. Colin Wolfe “Diverse Learners” – Ms. Andrea Thomas	[MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor]
1:10PM – 1:40PM	Breakout Sessions	[MMC “Transformational Teaching Room”, “Reimagine Room”, “Inspiration Room” 5 th Floor, “Purpose Room” 2 nd Floor and “Main Room” 3 rd Floor]
1:45PM – 2:15PM	<i>Culturally Responsive Session</i> “Cultural Responsiveness” – Dr. Sherian Demetrius	[MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor]
2:20PM – 3:25PM	<i>Differentiation Session</i> “Differentiated Instruction: Perspectives in Special Education” – Ms. JanetVianna Clarke “Purpose-Led Play – An Application” – Ms. Roymane Robinson	[MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor]
3:30PM – 4:00PM	Breakout Sessions	[MMC “Transformational Teaching Room”, “Reimagine Room”, “Inspiration Room” 5 th Floor, “Purpose Room” 2 nd Floor and “Main Room” 3 rd Floor]
4:00PM – 4:10PM	Day 1 Reflection; Day 2 Overview	[MMC Main Room” 3 rd Floor]
<i>Tuesday 22 March 2022 “Learning and Leading”</i>		
7:00AM and 7:15AM	Travel from SHTS to Marymount Manhattan College (MMC)	[Pick-Up at Sheraton Hotel Times Square]
7:30AM – 8:45AM	Breakfast at MMC	[MMC – “Main” Room, 3 rd Floor]
8:50AM – 11:55AM	<i>Virtual Tours Case Studies</i> “Perspectives on Educational Excellence Lessons from our Marymount Manhattan College Experience” – Dean Michael Salmon “Academic Excellence: School Improvement – Miami Dade Public Schools “ -Dr. Sherian Demetrius - Ms. Mayflor Remond “Academic Excellence: Cambria School for the Gifted Child and School of Excellence” – Ms. Sheree Palmer Sparkes	[MMC – “Main” Room, 3 rd Floor]
12:00AM – 12:45PM	Lunch	[MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor]
12:50PM – 3:50PM	<i>Day 2: Learning and Leading</i> Theme: Engaging Diverse Learners During the Pandemic to Close the Achievement Gap Moderator: Dr. Noel Gordon	[MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor]
1:00PM – 1:30PM	<i>Engaging Learner Session</i> “Engaging Diverse Learners: Perspectives in Special Education” – Dr. Claudette Peterkin	[MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor]
1:35PM – 2:00PM	<i>Supporting Learners Session</i> “Supporting Learners & Diverse Challenges: 2 nd Chances” – Mr. Andrick Perry	[MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor]

2:05PM – 2:35PM	Breakout Sessions [MMC “Transformational Teaching Room”, “Reimagine Room”, “Inspiration Room” 5 th Floor, “Purpose Room” 2 nd Floor and “Main Room” 3 rd Floor]
2:40PM – 3:10PM	<i>Enhancing Learners Session</i> [MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor] “Enhancing All Learners” – Mrs. Hyacinth Gordon Clarke
3:15PM – 3:25PM	Reflective Activity [MMC Main Room” 3 rd Floor]
3:30PM – 4:00PM	<i>Inspiration Station – Authors’ Circle</i> [MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor] Dr. Sherika Dacres, Dr. Noel Gordon, Mrs. Hyacinth Gordon Clarke
4:05PM – 4:10PM	Day 2 Reflection; Day 3 Overview [MMC Main Room” 3 rd Floor]
<i>Wednesday 23 March 2022</i> <i>“Leading and Healing”</i>	
7:00AM and 7:15AM	Travel from SHTS to Marymount Manhattan College (MMC) [Pick-Up at Sheraton Hotel Times Square]
7:30AM – 8:45AM	Breakfast at MMC [MMC – “Main” Room, 3 rd Floor]
8:50AM – 11:55AM	<i>Virtual Tours Case Studies</i> [MMC – “Main” Room, 3 rd Floor] “Alternative education: 2 nd Chances” – Mr. Dwayne Stewart “Community Education – Ms. Rachel Dolcine “EdTrust – Education Advocacy & Policy” – Dr. Dia Bryant & Ms. Kalima Johnson
12:00AM – 12:45PM	Lunch [MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor]
12:50PM – 4:05PM	<i>Day 3: Leading and Healing</i> [MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor] Theme: Transformational Leadership (Teacher Mindset) Moderator: Ms. Melanie Gooden Baker
1:00PM – 2:05PM	<i>Special & Early Childhood Session</i> [MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor] “Early Childhood/Special Education: Learning Through Love to Meet the Needs of All Students” – Ms. Victoria Spence “A Parent’s Perspective: Joshua’s Miracle” – Ms. Melanie Gooden Baker
2:10PM – 2:40PM	<i>Child Protection and Safety Session</i> [MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor] “Understanding Child Protection and Safety” – Ms. Dawn Lazarus Dawkins
2:45PM – 2:50PM	Reflective Activity [MMC Main Room” 3 rd Floor]
2:550PM – 3:20PM	<i>Financial Fitness Session</i> [MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor] “Financial Fitness” – Ms. Risha Patel & Ms. Karen Reno
3:20PM – 3:45PM	<i>Transformation Leadership Session</i> [MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor] “Transformational Leadership 101” – Dr. Noel Gordon
3:50PM – 4:00PM	<i>A Vision for Education Session</i> [MMC “Main Room” 3 rd Floor] “Having a Vision for education – A Vision for Education Starts with You”
4:05PM – 4:10PM	Day 3 Reflection; Day 4 Overview [MMC Main Room” 3 rd Floor]

<i>Thursday 24 March 2022</i> <i>"Day of Healing"</i>	
7:00AM and 7:15AM	Travel from SHTS to Marymount Manhattan College (MMC) [Pick-Up at Sheraton Hotel Times Square]
7:30AM – 8:45AM	Breakfast at MMC [MMC – "Main" Room, 3 rd Floor]
8:50AM—9:20AM	Breakout Sessions [MMC "Transformational Teaching Room", "Reimagine Room", "Inspiration Room" 5 th Floor, "Purpose Room" 2 nd Floor and "Main Room" 3 rd Floor]
9:25AM – 11:55AM	<i>Virtual Tours Case Studies</i> [MMC – "Main" Room, 3 rd Floor] "Teacher as Doctor: Mental Health & Wellness Perspective" - Ms. Marcia Armasingh - Ms. Celeste Hope Hutchinson "Meeting the Challenges of Education Today" - Mr. Richard Loeschner, Superintendent – Brentwood Public Schools
12:00AM – 12:45PM	Lunch [MMC "Main Room" 3 rd Floor]
12:50PM – 2:50PM	<i>Day 4: Healing</i> [MMC "Main Room" 3 rd Floor] Theme: Purpose Moderator: Dr. Noel Gordon
12:50PM – 2:10PM	<i>Self-Care and Well-Being Session</i> [MMC "Main Room" 3 rd Floor] "Creative Pedagogy" – Dr. Nava Siltan "Purpose and Promise Manifestation" – Dr. David Jackson
2:10PM – 2:50PM	Interactive & Reflective Activity [MMC "Main Room" 3 rd Floor] Evaluation Completion
2:55P – 3:50PM	<i>Certificate Ceremony</i> [MMC "Main Room" 3 rd Floor] Recognition – Mr. Leo Gilling, Chairman – JD TAN
3:55PM – 4:00PM	Day 4 Reflection; Day 5 Overview [MMC Main Room" 3 rd Floor]
<i>Friday 25 March 2022</i> <i>"Day of Healing"</i>	
7:00AM and 7:15AM	Travel from SHTS to Marymount Manhattan College (MMC) [Pick-Up at Sheraton Hotel Times Square]
7:30AM – 8:45AM	Breakfast at MMC [MMC – "Main" Room, 3 rd Floor]
9:00AM – 12N	<i>Closing Plenary</i> [MMC – "Main" Room, 3 rd Floor] Reflection of the Week's Activities Interactive Activity, Gallery Walk and Panel Discussion Closing Reflection and Prayer – Dr. Joan Simms, LRMI - Executive Pastor
12N – 12:45P	Lunch

Our Presenters

Keynote Speaker:



Dr. Margaret Chin is a 25 year veteran educator. A local and regional workshop Presenter and Conference Speaker, a Certified Trainer, and the Assistant Secretary General at the Jamaica Teachers' Association where she oversees Professional Services.

Born and raised in Trench Town, Jamaica, her educational background includes a Doctorate in Education from the University of Sheffield in England, a MSc. in Special Education from Nova Southeastern University, a BSc. in School Counseling from Western Carolina University, and teaching certification from the Mico Teachers' College (now Mico University College). Dr. Chin holds certification in Early Childhood Education from the University of the West Indies. A former lecturer at the Mico University College in the Department of Special Education, Dr. Chin has worked at the early childhood, primary and secondary levels in Guidance and Counseling, special education, and gifted and talented programs.

Dr. Chin has significant experience working with students who require special education support, assessing their needs and providing them with differentiated instruction. She also has extensive experience working with teachers through workshops and seminars locally and in the region, by providing them with skills in developing appropriate instructional and management strategies for their classrooms.

She has contributed to community development in the capacity of Education Consultant, working on several inner-city community-based projects with agencies such as USAID, the European Union, the Citizens Security and Justice Program (CSJP), and the Joy Town Community Development Foundation, and Hear the Children's Cry organizations. She was also an Associate Trainer with the Nathan Ebanks Foundation. She volunteers her time as a member of the Board of her alma mater, Camperdown High School and the United Nations accredited, Kevoy Community Development Institute (KCDI).

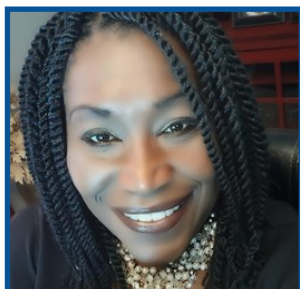
A recipient of the Mico University College's 185th Commemorative Award, in recognition of her work in education and community development, Dr. Chin continues to advocate for children and adolescents with special learning needs and spends her spare time researching current methodologies for helping teachers to teach children with exceptionalities. Married to her life-long friend Patrick, she is an avid art and antique collector and a lover of orchids.



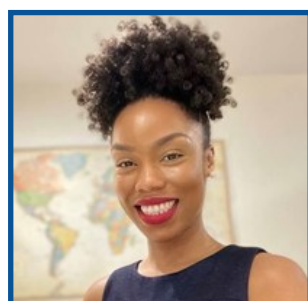
Marcia Beaumont Amarsingh, a Chemical Dependency Professional and a Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor is the Executive Director of Renewal Integrative Psychotherapies, a mental health and substance abuse outpatient clinic, and the President of Renewal Sober Living, Inc., a male MASH-certified sober house. Marcia is passionate about helping the underserved and those individuals who struggle with substance abuse. She has a Master's Degree in Counseling and is an independently licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselor. She recently pioneered a partnership and opened a MASH-certified 15-bed male sober house in Worcester to help care for underprivileged, homeless males with further plans to open a female home within the next eight months. She considers herself a strong, resilient, and dignified black woman with so much to offer to our black community.



Dr. Dia Bryant is an executive director at The Education Trust–New York, she leads an ambitious policy and advocacy agenda focused on improving educational outcomes for children from early childhood through college. Prior to joining Ed Trust–NY, Dia worked with the New York City Department of Education for over sixteen years. She was a teacher, school founder, and most recently served as the special assistant to the first deputy chancellor. She has worked and supported system-level school leaders domestically and internationally advising on instructional approaches, school design, equitable school improvement, and change management. She holds a bachelor's in Economics from Kalamazoo College and a Masters in Math Education from Brooklyn College and a Doctorate in Education Leadership from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



Janet Viana Clarke, was born in Trelawny but grew up in Manchester. She attended Holmwood Technical High School, Bethlehem Teachers' College and the University of the West Indies and earned a bachelor's degree in Literacy Education. Her teaching career started in Clarendon and then onto St. James before migrating to the Bahamas. After 10 years in the Bahamas, she migrated to the United States and an academic scholarship to pursue a master's degree in Literacy and Learning. She currently serves as a Talented and Gifted Coordinator at a middle school and is also enrolled in a PhD. Program. She combines her passion for English, History, Social Studies Science, and Writing expertise to motivate and inspire children while creating a challenging and fun learning environment.



Kalima Johnson holds a master's degree in special education from Hunter College and a bachelor's degree in mass communications from the University of Albany. As a student growing up in Brownsville, she realized that the education system asked people who looked like her to invest in a narrative that ignored their identities. Because of this, she was drawn to the education system so that her childhood friends' stories would no longer be the status quo – the system needs to be changed. Kalima supports Ed Trust–NY's efforts to advance policies that close equity gaps in early childhood education, K-12, and higher education. She supports the development of and leads advocacy strategy for Ed Trust–NY's policy agenda, including organizing and leading meetings with policymakers. Prior to joining Ed Trust–NY, Kalima worked at the New York City Council.



Dean Michael Salmon is an Associate Vice President, Dean of Academic Excellence, and Senior Advisor to the President at Marymount Manhattan College. He advises the president along with several senior leaders on a range of strategic initiatives and student-centered projects. After graduating from Knox College, he earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Economics from The University of the West Indies. There he taught Economics receiving the prestigious (Latin American Scholarship Program of American Universities) Fulbright fellowship to pursue the doctorate degree in economics at New York University. Dean Michael has been the recipient of several awards for his work implementing mentoring programs. Michael is currently the president of the Knox Association of Past Students (New York Chapter), and a Director on the Board of the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (UJAA) since 2019.



Rachel J. Barrett-Dolcine is an award-winning entrepreneur, speaker, author, philanthropist, and mental health advocate. She is an Adjunct Faculty staff member at Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC); a Certified Health & Safety Institute (HSI) CPR and First Aid Instructor, a Certified Health & Safety Institute Instructor for CPR and First Aid Trainer Certification Course, and an Office of Childcare (OCC) Core of Knowledge Trainer. Rachel launched Compass Consulting and Training Solutions in 2010 and has continued to implement innovative strategies to grow the company's training classes, consulting services, and other offerings. Mrs. Barrett-Dolcine has been recognized for her philanthropic work and business accomplishments. Her awards include Maryland's Top 100 Women, Maryland Very Important Professionals Under 40, Maryland's Leading Women, Women in Business International Nonprofit Leader and F.A.M.E Program Leader & Mentor.



Hyacinth Gordon-Clarke hails from the parish of St. Ann, Jamaica. She is a graduate of Moneague Teachers College, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Temple University, and Mt. Saint Vincent University. As an educator she served as a Classroom Teacher, Senior Teacher, Grade Coordinator, Culture Agent, and spent the latter part of her career as principal of her alma mater, Watt Town All Age School, now Primary and Infant. Hyacinth taught music, drama among other subjects at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. She has used the Performing Arts to transform the lives of her students to build character, self-esteem and give hope. She is the author and publisher of "Inspirational Spiritual Food for a Healthy Successful Life."



Celeste Hope Hutchinson is known for her creative communication and presentation skills. She has a tactful way to reframe unhealthy patterns into profound skill building practices. Among the professional roles Ms. Hutchinson has held are Clinical Parenting Specialist, Honoree Mothers Support Group, Assistant Director and Family Services Coordinator, an Adjunct Instructor, Professional Consultant, International Speaker /Trainer, Private Clinician, Community Educator/Advocate, and Family and Trauma Therapist. She has worked with families on rebuilding healthy living habits. Celeste is the recipient of the Pennsylvania Certification Board's Professional of The Year Award and has spoken on various topics pertaining to the growth and development of lay individuals and professionals. Celeste hopes to heighten awareness, education, and access to services for children and their families who have endured abuse or are at risk for abuse to include sex trafficking, partner violence, and child abuse.



Risha Patel was born and raised in Kenya and came to the United States in the mid-90s with a husband and a 3-year-old daughter. Risha currently lives in Savannah, Georgia with her family. She worked as a Finance Manager/Credit Controller in the Auto Lending Industry, so she is very familiar with the fact that if you want to build your assets and make your money grow you must earn a high interest and NOT PAY interest or take any loans that diminishes your capital. Her 25 years' experience in the Credit Card Industry, the Banking World, and the Mortgage Industry since 1996, ignited her passion to help people learn the rules of money so that they are empowered with information to make better financial decisions.



Dwayne Stewart, Principal of Main Street High School since Fall 2021, is a lifelong learner, and is passionate about social activism, mentoring, and helping young people achieve in every field. His service to this student population is guided by an achievement framework giving every scholar an opportunity to learn daily. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary English Education from Florida Memorial College; his Master of Science degree in Leadership from Nova Southeastern University; and is a 2022 Doctoral Candidate at Nova Southeastern University.



Dawn Lazarus began her stellar career in public service with her undergraduate studies in finance and marketing in the banking industry. She climbed the corporate ladder and rose to the position of Select Banking Manager managing the portfolio of wealthy clients. Ms. Lazarus, desirous of a new challenge, with a longing to use her skills and expertise in finance and administration to impact the lives of vulnerable children and families, transitioned to public service and began her second career in local government with Suffolk County's Department of Social Services, in the Family and Children's Services Administration division. Ms. Lazarus launched her own non-profit, DLDGroup627, Inc., with the mission, "to help those without power, to save arms that have no strength, to counsel those without wisdom and to declare sound advice to many." Ms. Lazarus currently serves as advisor and lead for the Stakeholder Engagement sub-committee of the Jamaica Diaspora Early Childhood Education Taskforce.



Dr. David E. Jackson is an executive leader, minister, consultant, and criminal justice reform advocate from Atlanta, GA. He brings over 15 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, international affairs, ministry, law enforcement, government, and learning and development. He is the Executive Director of New Life of New York City, Inc, dedicated to helping teenagers prepare for a successful future through holistic youth development programming. He consults with and speaks nationally. Dr. Jackson is a graduate of Cornell University, Union Theological Seminary of New York, and New York Theological Seminary. He is completing his 2nd doctorate (Ph.D.) in Organizational Leadership at Southeastern University. Dr. Jackson is the author of three inspirational self-help books, an op-ed contributor, and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He lives on Long Island with his family.



Andrick Perry is a lecturer at the Moneague Multidisciplinary College in the faculty of Social Sciences, where he delivers courses within the school of Hospitality and Tourism Management. He is passionate about training, coaching and development. He engages daily with students on cultural aspects across different geographical, economic and social pairs of Jamaica. Andrick is guided by the belief that "Excellence is a journey, not simply a destination" and this perspective inspired him to teach, develop, motivate, and mentor. He earned his undergraduate degrees at the Moneague Multidisciplinary College, and is currently a graduate student at The University of South Wales. He has completed international trainings with the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute. Andrick is certified by The Vocational Training and Development Institute as a competency based education trainer and an assessor.



Superintendent Richard Loeschner first joined the district as a Department Head of Math in Brentwood HS in 2000. He later held the title of Assistant Principal at North Middle and Sonderling Center in BHS before becoming Principal of South Middle school in 2008. In 2010, Mr. Loeschner returned to Brentwood High School as Principal. During his time as principal, Mr. Loeschner received numerous awards of recognition including the statewide "Principal of the Year" honors for the high school level from the School Administrators Association of New York State. He remained part of the BHS administrative team until becoming Superintendent of the district in 2017. Superintendent. Loeschner oversees the daily operations and the long-range planning for the largest district in Long Island. He has had the privilege of serving the Brentwood community for over 20 years. He considers Brentwood School district is "a special place because the kids are flat-out great."



Dr. Joan Simms, executive Pastor of Lifeline Restoration ministries, International, and Pharmaceutical ERP Operations Manager at Akorn Amityville Facility, she stands as a Servant Leader, prolific in success strategies and imparting wisdom precepts from Holy Scriptures. She possesses a unique ability to convey transformative truths, to see lives changed, ministries flourish, and dreams take on definition and substance. Her upbringing in Jamaica spurs a desire for global outreach. She ministers internationally, bringing the gospel to the Caribbean, Africa, including the conflict-ridden Congo. More recently, Pastor Simms expanded her ministry to include Rebecca's Closet Thrift Store and Food Pantry, sending ten barrels of aid to Haiti, as well as overseeing other aid efforts to provide local and international relief. Whether it's in her role as Operations Manager in the pharmaceutical industry, or in her call to shepherd God's flock, she lives her life, in her words, *'on purpose, for purpose, by purpose.'*



Sheree Palmer Sparkes was born in New York, of Jamaican parentage. She spent much of her childhood in the Caribbean before returning to the U.S. Sheree attended Hunter College and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Education, and a Master of Science Degree in Gifted Education. Sheree is Founder-Director of Cambria Center for the Gifted Child, a private institution serving 300 students. CCGC serves students in preschool through 5th grade with a challenging accelerated curriculum and an intensive music program. Mrs. Palmer is an educational consultant, who handles areas such as establishing early childhood centers, program evaluation, curriculum development, health & safety, and training. She speaks at high schools, churches, other civic organizations and serves on several non-profit boards. She has numerous awards for her dedication.



Mayflor Remond is the Executive Director of Curriculum for Miami-Dade Public Schools' Education Transformation Office. She was an Assistant Principal at a K-8 Center in the Little Haiti neighborhood of Miami. She has been an integral part of increasing student achievement by ensuring job-embedded professional development in the areas of standards-aligned instruction and data-informed decision-making. Ms. Remond has a degree in International Studies from Miriam College in the Philippines. After graduating college, she immigrated to the US where she accepted the paraprofessional position at Frederick Douglass Elementary, a school with predominantly black and Hispanic students from a high poverty neighborhood. With her background in development studies, this inspired Ms. Remond to devote her career in leveraging for equity and opportunity through high-quality education for all students.



Karen Reno, a mother of 12, founded Reno & Associates, in her doggedly passionate pursuit to serve others. As a veteran nurse for over 20 years, she has been very committed to her career until last year when her husband, Jamaican born entrepreneur and mechanic, had his 5th heart attack, and her entire household came down with different strains of Covid. Before this troubling time, Karen had just been introduced to an opportunity that would change the trajectory of her family's life, all about financial fitness, and understanding of how money works. Karen encourages everyone to have a money mindset, not so much about loving it but rather, to know it! She encourages all, study how money works, and how to make money work for you; as, if you do, you will change the most challenging, constraining financial circumstances. As the Bible warns, " my people perish for a lack of knowledge."



Roymane Robinson, Jamaican liaison to JDECET, Early Childhood Educator, hails from the parish of St. Thomas. She attended NCTVET, Shortwood Teachers College, The Mico University and UWI. She obtained a Certificate in Secondary Education, Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood and Supervisory Management. She is anticipating the start of her Online Master's Program in Educational Supervision at Western Carolina University. She has a deep awareness of early childhood education and her passion for this sector has propelled her to decipher this knowledge in a meaningful way to students and teachers. She is an active member of the Jamaica Teachers' Association and has served at the National and Parish level as Early Childhood Chairman and District Association's President; as well as on the Membership Committee and Women's Caucus at the National and Parish Levels. She is currently the St. Thomas President Elect and the Professional Advancement Committee Chairman.



Ms. Victoria Spence, Vice Chair of the Jamaica Diaspora Early Childhood Education Task-force, has been an educator for the past 15 years. She received her bachelor's degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, and her master's degree in Early Childhood and Early Childhood Special Education from Catholic University in Washington DC. Passionate about the development of young children, she believes that children are easily molded by those who surround them with positive influences, love, kindness, and care all children can and will be successful. The opportunity to mold our future leaders is the focus of her dedication. Victoria has committed herself to help students grow academically, socially, and emotionally. She is the recipient of commendations from parents and educators as a highly effective educator in the Washington, DC school district.



Andrea M. Thomas, Chair of the Jamaica Diaspora Educational Leadership Taskforce, was born in St. Ann Jamaica. She attended Iona College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Communications. After spending a decade as a project manager on Wall Street, Ms. Thomas felt called to a new career in Education. In 2009, she earned a master's degree in elementary education, and a second master's degree in administration and supervision, with a minor in special education in 2012. She is currently enrolled in Concordia University, Wisconsin; where she will earn a doctoral degree in Leadership, Innovation, and Continuous Improvement. In the Mount Vernon public school system, Ms. Thomas served in several capacities including Teacher, Supervisor of Guidance & Pupil Personnel, and Interim Humanities Chairperson. She believes that all children can thrive if they are welcomed and heard. She is currently the Assistant Principal at the Denzel Washington School of the Arts.



Dr. Claudette Peterkin, Chair of the Jamaica Diaspora Special Education Taskforce has been a passionate educator for over 25 years, 13 of which were spent in the Englewood Public School system where she advocated for students on the autistic spectrum. Claudette is also an experienced presenter. In 2013 and 2014 the New Jersey Education Association invited her to present a workshop on special education issues. She also presented training workshops on special education for the Bergen County Education Association. As the director of Adventures, a faith-based scout club for elementary aged children, she has educated and trained other youth leaders of the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh Day Adventist, on how to interact with all students including those who have learning and or physical disabilities. She is a self-motivated and compassionate leader dedicated to continuous professional development and collaboration with staff to maximize student success.



Dr. Collin M. Wolfe, Vice Chair of the Jamaica Diaspora Primary & Secondary Education Taskforce, is an elementary school principal in the Bronx, New York. Prior to assuming this position, he served as an Assistant Principal, staff developer, school-based management / shared decision-making facilitator and mentor of international teachers within the New York City Department of Education. Additionally, Dr. Wolfe is the founder and chief executive officer of *Pro-knowledge Consultancy*. His firm provides training and support to individuals and organizations in areas of human resource development, organizational leadership, curriculum development and implementation, as well as resource management and productivity. Dr. Wolfe is involved in community affairs and volunteers his expertise within the public domain through his continuous engagement in community-based organizations and philanthropic groups. He is a public speaker, and an indomitable leader and mobilizer. His commitment to the principles of his faith, his ethical and moral convictions, and his service to humanity, define him as a highly respected and valued citizen - and a proud son of the island of Jamaica, West Indies.



Nava R. Siltan, Ph.D., a Developmental Psychologist, received her B.S. from Cornell University in 2002 and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Fordham University in 2009. Dr. Siltan has worked at Nickelodeon, Sesame Workshop, and Mediakidz, and has consulted for Netflix, Blue's Clues & You, and The Autism Seaver Center. She appears regularly on Fox 5 News as a Psychological Correspondent, and has appeared on Good Day New York, Good Day Street Talk and NBC.

Dr. Nava is currently a Professor of Psychology at Marymount Manhattan College. She has written over three dozen peer-reviewed journal articles, over twenty chapters, book reviews and encyclopedia entries and has edited six full textbooks. Nava just penned *Pure*, which was a finalist in the Wiki Screenplay Contest, a Semi-finalist in the Creative Screenwriting Unique Voices Awards, The NYC Screenplay Awards, The Miami Screenplay Awards, The Portland Screenplay Awards, and a Quarterfinalist in the Los Angeles International Screenplay Awards. Dr. Siltan is married to Dr. Ariel Brandwein and is the mother of five.



Dr. Sherika Dacres, a graduate of Albert Town High School in Trelawny, Jamaica, is an author, activist, and researcher, whose work examines the phenomenon of teacher burnout. As an agent of change, Dr. Dacres believes she has been positioned to support and empower others by negating the barriers educators face and to provide necessary resources. Her ongoing research on diverse learners and teacher preparation programs has allowed her to make additional connections between the impact of teacher preparation programs on future teacher burnout and student achievement. Dacres' book "Death by Burnout: Education's Dirty Little Secret" was listed as Amazon's #1 new release book and Best Seller. Dr. Dacres is a Data Scientist and an Adjunct Professor of Psychology. She is also a co-host of the radio program "Central Florida Education Pioneers." Dr. Dacres serves as the Chair of the Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force - Tertiary Sector.



Dr. Noel Gordon attended the University of the West Indies, where he earned a bachelor's degree in science. In 1990, Dr. Gordon migrated to the US and attended Montclair State University where he earned a master's degree in human resources/organizational development, and a second master's degree in administration and supervision. He subsequently earned a doctoral degree in educational leadership. In the New Jersey public school system, he served as teacher, guidance counselor, high school vice principal, Director of Guidance, Director of Testing and Evaluation, and Director of Curriculum and Instruction. He is also the founder and CEO of Dr. Noel Gordon LLC, which focuses on educational consulting, human resource and quality management, and transformational coaching. Dr. Gordon, a published author wrote, *You Come First*, which focuses on how to live the life you know you deserve. Dr. Gordon serves as the chair of the Jamaica Diaspora Education Taskforce—Primary & Secondary.



Sherian Demetrius, Ph.D., Co-Chair of the Jamaica Diaspora Early Childhood Education Taskforce, an educator extraordinaire, was born in the town of Falmouth, Trelawny. During her illustrious career as an educator, Dr. Demetrius has been the recipient of various awards to include the Channel 4 Golden Apple Award, North Glade Elementary School Teacher of the Year, the Education Fund Grant Writer awards in and the Teacher Network Leadership Institute Met-Life Fellow 2005 to 2008. Dr. Demetrius strongly believes in shaping young lives into becoming strong, fully rounded contributing members of the society. She is deeply involved in various community projects that address academic, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of young people. She has a clear vision and a deep understanding of what it takes to be an educational leader, in the areas of curriculum and instruction and community building. She demonstrates "putting theory into practice," in a way that directly empowers fellow educators, students, and administrators.



Melanie Gooden Baker, Co Chair s JDECET, and walks discretely in her role as special education teacher for almost 25 years, curriculum specialist, grant writer, entrepreneur, policy advocate, wife of 18 ½ years and mother of 3 amazing teen sons, including her differently abled oldest son, Joshua. An alumna of Holy Childhood high School, and graduate of NYU with her B.A. degree in Urban Policy and a Masters in Special Education with an extension in School Building and School District Administration, from Touro College, Mrs. Gooden Baker operates from a platform of cultural equivalence and promotes positive identity development, student motivation, and leadership in a multicultural framework that creates safe spaces for students to thrive. She serves as the Mental Health Chair for the Suffolk Region PTA Board of Managers, is an advocate with the NYS Education Trust Policy Lab, and is the Parent representative on the Brentwood Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee: Excellence for All, the Co-Chair of the Brentwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council, an Intercessor with her church, and the Diaspora liaison to the Jamaican Tertiary Education Commission Human Resources Development and its Sub-Committee on Disadvantaged Youth.



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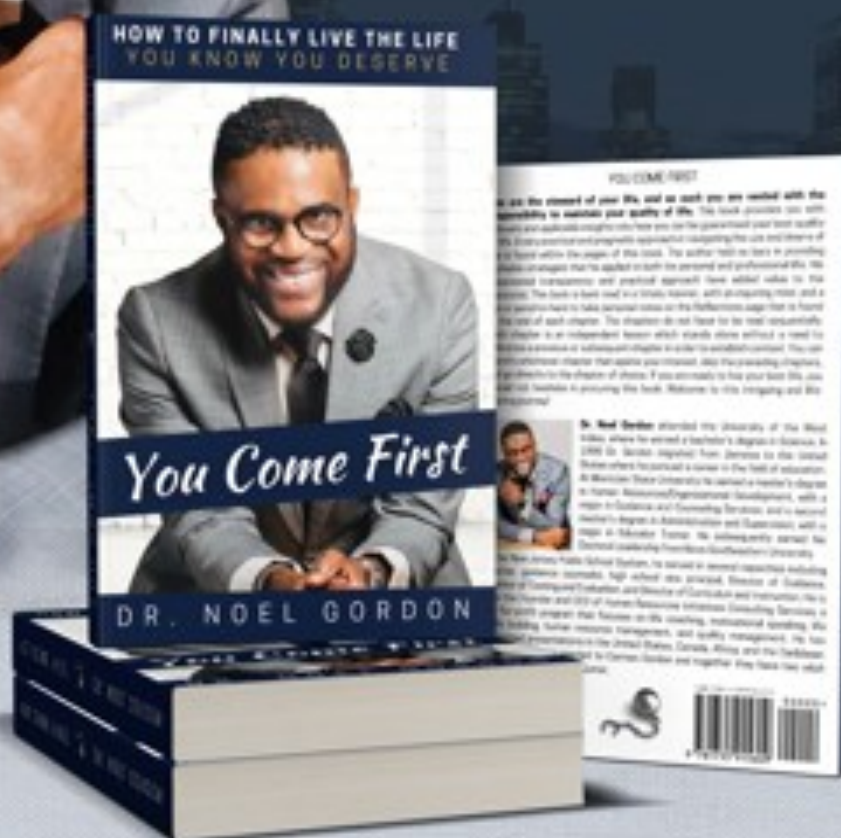
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and students in Jamaica.*

*Best wishes to our visiting educators and
representatives of the Jamaica Teachers Association
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Ms. Yvette Samuels - Liaison in Jamaica,
Dr. Shalander Samuels, Dr. Kevin Wright,
Dr. Claudette Morris, Ms. Candice Peters,
and Ms. Genevieve Thevenin - core team
members.
Mr. Andrick Perry - Moneague Teachers
College

Primary & Secondary

Dr. Noel Gordon, Chair
Ms. Andrea Thomas, Educational Leader-
ship
Dr. Collin Wolfe
Dr. Dale Britton
Mr. Dwayne Stewart, Principal, Main St.

JDETF 2022 Education Summit Planning Team

Mr. Leo Gilling, Chairman, Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce
Action Network
Ms. Lesleyann Samuel, Union of Jamaican Alumni Associa-
tions (USA) Inc.
Donovan Wilson, Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations
(USA) Inc.
Ms. Karlene Largie, Union of Jamaican Alumni Associa-
tions (USA) Inc
Mr. Michael Salmon, Marymount Manhattan College
Dr. Mark Nicely, Jamaica Teachers' Association
Mr. Winston Smith, Jamaica Teachers' Association
Dr. Dwayne Dyce, President, Education Solutions Interna-
tional
Dr. Margaret Chin, Jamaica Teachers' Association
Mrs. Hyacinth Gordon Clarke, Watt Town All-Age,
(Principal Emeritus)
Ms. Tashaka Wynter, JDTAN Operations
Ms. Kimone Gooden, JDTAN Advisor
Mrs. Rachel Dolcine, JDWOT, Compass
Ms. Marcia Armasingh, JDB&M, Reintegrative Services
Ms. Celeste Hope Hutchinson, JDB&M
Dr. Nava Silva, MMC – Center for Teacher Innovation

Special Education

Dr. JanetViana Clarke

Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Education Leadership, Core Team, Part-
ners & Friends
Mrs Melanie Gooden Baker, Co-Chair
Dr. Sherian Demetrius, Co-Chair
Ms. Victoria Spence, Vice Chair
Ms. Roymane Robinson, Jamaica Liaison
Mrs. Shanique Kenton Brown, Jamaica Liaison

Partnerships

Dr. Joan Simms, Executive Pastor, Lifeline Restoration Ministries, Int'l.
Mrs. Dawn Lazarus Dawkins, DLD Group Financial Services
Mrs. Risha Patel, Ekart Associates
Ms. Karen Reno, Reno & Associates
Ms. Mayflor Remond, Miami Dade Schools, FL
Dr. David E. Jackson, DEJ Enterprises
Dr. Dia Bryant, EdTrust
Ms. Kalima Johnson, EdTrust
Superintendent. Richard Loeshner, Brentwood Union Free School District



HOW THE JDETF EVOLVED INTO THE JDTAN

Leo Gilling, Chairman, Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (JDTAN)

It is hard to believe that it is almost nine years since I stood on the podium at the 5th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference in Montego Bay and announced my commitment to the education sector. I recall that Professor Neville Ying asked me to wrap up the final sessions that afternoon and I made the promise to find a platform that would encourage educators in the Diaspora to help build capacity in our homeland.

By August that same year, I convinced six individuals to buy into my dream of building energy around education in the Diaspora that would take "brain drain and convert into brain gain" for Jamaica. The inaugural Diaspora team included: Dr. Hansel Fletcher, Ms. Karlene Largie, Mrs. Akelia Maitland. They were very soon joined by Miss Lesleyann Samuel and Miss Kimone Gooden. August 2013 was the birth of the Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force (JDETF).

The Diaspora responded resoundingly, and for six months the JDETF hosted more than two hundred individuals on weekly conference calls by phone with the one goal to improve prosperity in their homeland. We were excited because this new concept of a Diaspora task force had never been tried before. The early success of the Education Task Force also caught the attention of the Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA), the Ministry of Education (MOEY), the USAID, the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (UJAA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade (MFAFT).

Six months into the life of the Education Task Force, the team mentioned above collaborated for their first ever Advancement in Education Summit in Montego Bay and Kingston over 4 days. There were close to one thousand JTA-led teachers participating in this historic event. The fifty-person Diaspora delegation concluded a fruitful experience, having participated in the fun-filled educational activities over the four-day period.

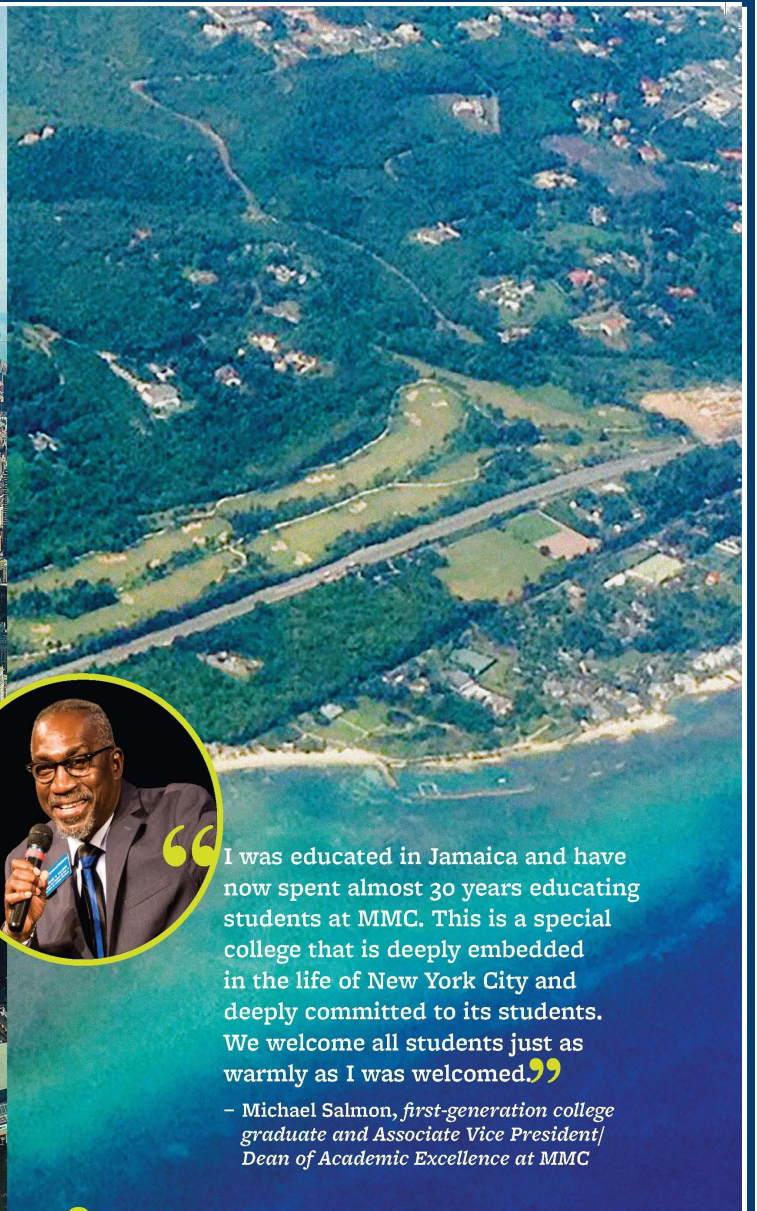
After two Education Summits in Jamaica in 2014 and 2016, the JDETF changed the venue for the Summits to North America. Educators from Jamaica now make their way annually to the USA to attend Summits that feature workshops, training, school and university tours, and other exciting learning opportunities. This year the summit moves to New York, hosted by the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (UJAA). Past Summits in the USA were hosted in Florida.

The success of the Education Task Force has led to the development of many other major task forces that focus on Technology, Agriculture, Entrepreneurship, Immigration and Crime. The formation of the successful Jamaica Education Taskforce -UK (JET-UK) in London with Seymour Mattis and the Jamaica Middle East Diaspora (JMED) in the Middle East with John Warren are excellent examples of the task force model.

In 2019 the umbrella platform Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (JDTAN) nourished fifteen task forces that now call it their home. In 2021, the JDTAN further divided education into four task forces: Special Education, Early Childhood Education, Primary & Secondary Education, and Tertiary Education to further deepen the engagement with the education sector in Jamaica. In February this year, JDTAN announced an addition to the education task force-the Jamaica Diaspora Educational Leadership Task Force. Taskforces are led by experts in their fields, leaders who have chosen to put their abilities and strengths into "action" for Jamaica.

The taskforce model is a proven way to engage the Diaspora in support of Jamaica, provide a way for individuals to give back seamlessly and allow leaders to explore their talents and strengths and collaborate for growth. Task forces have partnered with various organizations and businesses for successful interventions in the past. They include Loma Linda University, the Clinton Global Initiative, La Sierra University, Broward College, Broward Schools, Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations, Jamaica Awareness Association of California, the Embassy of Jamaica and over 100 more.

Once again this year we welcome the educators from Jamaica and long-time Legacy Partners, the Jamaica Teachers' Association and the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations. We are proud of these relationships and happy to continue working together for this Advancement in Education Summit, New York.



“I was educated in Jamaica and have now spent almost 30 years educating students at MMC. This is a special college that is deeply embedded in the life of New York City and deeply committed to its students. We welcome all students just as warmly as I was welcomed.”

– Michael Salmon, *first-generation college graduate and Associate Vice President/Dean of Academic Excellence at MMC*

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Lesleyann Samuel, President

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