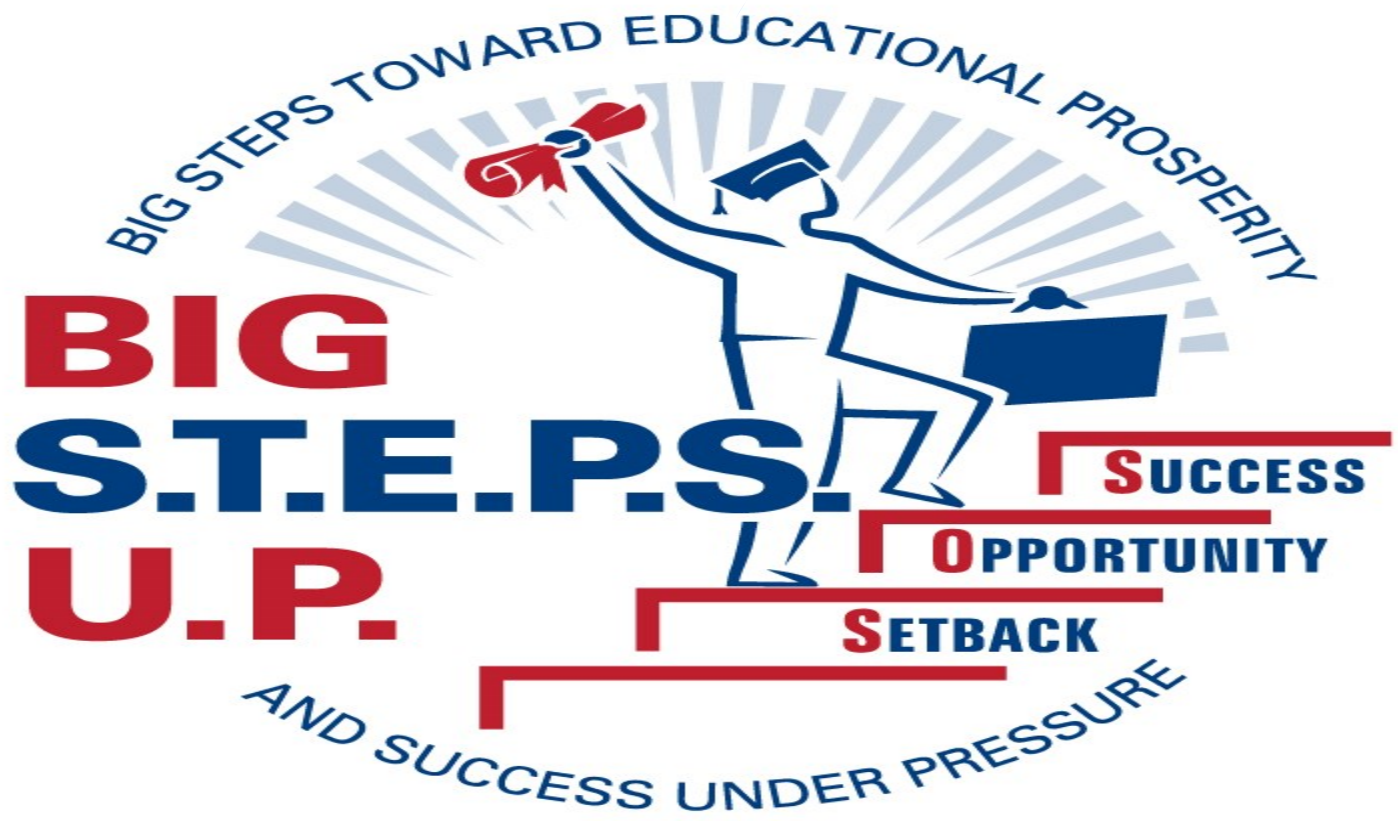


Your Road To Success Starts...



College Guidance
Empowerment Speaking

High School Dropout Intervention
Alternative Career Assistance

College, Career, and Life Strategists



"Better Educated and Better Prepared Black Males Equals Better Future!"

Why are there more Black Males waiting in Central Booking, than waiting for Books at North Carolina Central?

THE DILEMMA...

Not enough Black Males are ready for College, Careers, or even Life!!!

The Great Discrepancy between preparation and expectation is threatening the very existence of the Black Males' ability to provide a livable community and participate in an ever changing economy. With the increased technically and informational demands growing daily, it's imperative Black Males expand the depth and scope of their talents and competences to actively participate in this New "Flat" World.

We recognize the success and the future of Black Males must be the responsibility of all involved—from students and families to teachers and administrators; from the board of education to philanthropy and employers; from state level agencies and policy makers to the public at large; but lastly and most importantly community based organization, like us. However, Black Males can no longer point the finger, unless they're willing to bend it 180 degrees first, and with their willingness, we can help them make a U-Turn.

Who We Are and What We Do.

We Are College, Career, and Life Strategists...

...offering a comprehensive educational and mentoring strategy designed to uncover Black Males greatest aspirations and then help to achieve them through an alternative transition strategy.

We focus heavily on empowering Black Males during middle and high school so that by the time they graduate from high school they are so outstandingly accomplished, they're ready for any career or college and better prepared for life.

With extensive experience in higher education, encompassing coaching, academic advising & counseling, and student affairs knowledge, we specialize in pre-College, College, and post-College awareness, preparedness, and readiness. Through a promising strategy for promoting successful college transition and increasing college completion rates, we help Black Males avoid developmental/remedial education coursework by preparing them for college placement exams and employment way before they enroll in post secondary education or pursue an alternative career.

Through this strategy, Black Males will better prepare themselves academically and intellectually, as well as professionally and emotionally, for current life changes, educational attainment, and graduation. Thereby becoming more actively involved in shaping their OWN destiny.

OUR GOAL:

...is to make certain Black Males are College, Career, and Life ready enabling them to pursue any opportunity presented or desired.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES:

- COLLEGE/CAREER READINESS
- ACADEMIC PROGRESS
- GRADUATION
- CAREER CHOICES
- SUPPORT
- OUTREACH
- COLLABORATION
- RETENTION
- INTELLECTUAL THINKING
- HEALTHY BEHAVIOR
- INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS
- DROPOUT PREVENTION
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- DIVERSITY APPRECIATION
- COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT

EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS
CONSULTING

PROVIDING A TOTAL SOLUTION

Your Road To Success Starts...

Alternative Pathways

Help Black Males realize their aspirations and fulfill their life plans, regardless of the college, credential or career pathway they choose.

College

Is College Worth It? Only if you have been properly prepared and understand that the transition from High School is not to be taken lightly.

Credential

Many Black Males just aren't ready to attend 4 years of college. Some are simply looking to study a specialized trade or become a licensed Barber, Executive Chef or Mechanic.

Career

And other Black Males will decide to serve proudly and make a career in our United States Armed Forces.



Strategy

Streets to SuitesSM and What's The Height Of Your Ambition?SM

Comprehensive Programming

...comprised of three main approaches: Monthly dialogue, direct interaction, hands-on workshops and real world experiences; Progress reporting; and Required volunteer and community involvement.

Starting in Middle School, through a series of monthly workshops and speaking engagements, we will challenge them in becoming dedicated to educating, preparing and exposing themselves to numerous motivational, educational and career opportunities.

Sample Strategies and Workshops:

We Will Help...

Middle School Black Males: Deal with Anger, Conflict, and Drugs Issues; Learning Strategies; Self Esteem & Healthy Life Choices.

9th Grade: Plan a Challenging Program of Course To Pursue; Take some College Preparatory courses A Year; Get Involved in Academic Enrichment Program; Stay Active in Clubs, Sports, & Volunteerism; Organize a File of Documents, Report Cards, Awards, Honors.

10th Grade: Learn about Resources Available. Begin College Research; Prepare for SAT and ACT; Speak with Counselor; and Continue Participation in all Activities.

11th Grade: Start Investigating Financial Aid; Develop a Resume; Sign Up to Take ACT and SAT; Prepare a List of Recommendations ; Gather a List of Colleges of Interest; Review Application Process; Begin College Visits; Apply for a Summer Job.

12th Grade: Apply for Colleges of Interest (5-10 Colleges); Apply for Scholarships; Draft Personal Essays and Make a Decision .

Alternative Pathways: In partnership with local employers and Armed Services, we will assist in strengthening their knowledge of the job market and skills required to effectively navigate the work place; Stimulating awareness by promoting ideas leading to an appreciation for entrepreneurship; Emphasizing communication skills and networking opportunities with professionals who may be able to assist them with employment opportunities. Establishing a dialogue and addressing concerns regarding the job market; And reinforcing the importance of seeking academic excellence, taking advantage of internships and becoming involved in community activities.



Your Road To Success Starts...

Linwood Webster, Founder



"To Close the School to Prison Pipeline" has been Mr. Webster's Mission. Mr. Webster was born in Manhattan, New York, and lived in New York City until 6 years old. Moving to rural Ingold N.C. in Sampson County, He was raised by a single Mother, who was a high school graduate and a Military Veteran, on his grandparent's farm.

Mr. Webster attended North Carolina Central University, obtaining a degree in English—Media/Journalism and became a first generation graduate. In 2004, he obtained a Master of Science in Information Science at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science, and subsequently a Harvard University Administrative Fellowship, complimented with coursework at the Harvard University School of Education.

Currently, Mr. Webster is completing his Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree in the School of Education at North Carolina State University, and completing ongoing counseling work in the psychology department at the Federal Correctional Institute in Butner, North Carolina. In 2011, he founded BIG S.T.E.P.S. U.P. to address Black Males overall mental health and wellness through Academic Advising, Behavioral Counseling, and College/ Career Coaching.

Alfonza X Marshall, Founder



"To leave the world in a better place than I found it" has been Alfonza "Al" Marshall's promise. Mr. Marshall was born and raised in Newburgh, New York, but went to high school in Ingold, North Carolina. Mr. Marshall is a Disabled American Veteran, who at the age of 17 served honorably in the United States Army from 1987-1990, and during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

In 1993, Mr. Marshall received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Operations from DeVry University in Atlanta, Georgia. Since graduating, Mr. Marshall has devoted over 20 years of his career to the small business, educational, philanthropic and nonprofit sectors. Prior to starting BIGSTEPS UP, he Co-founded VIRTUE, a not-for-profit organization, headquartered in Charlotte, NC, which provides assistance to At Risk Youth, Foster Care Children, and Persons with Developmental Disabilities.

Mr. Marshall currently makes his home in Atlanta Georgia and Charlotte, North Carolina, where he currently serves as Chair Elect of the Butler Street Community Development Corporation (The Butler Street YMCA), Program Chair for VIRTUE, Master Life Skills Instructor for Arise Life Skills, Chairman of Watchdog Dads (Hayes Elementary), and a Substitute Teacher for Cobb County Schools

BIG S.T.E.P.S.U.P.

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