



FRIDAY
APRIL 22, 2022

**AN ACHIEVABLE DREAM
MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL**

5720 Marshall Avenue
Newport News, VA 23605

STEERING OUR YOUTH TOWARDS THEIR FUTURE

i too Can **DREAM** **PROGRAM**

MODERATOR PASTOR WILLARD G. MAXWELL JR.

Welcome *Ms. Ebony N. Thomas, Esq.*
Meet the Panelist/Q&A *Dr. Willard G. Maxwell Jr.*
Surprise Give Away *Ms. Ebony N. Thomas, Esq.*

INTERMISSION

Break Out Sessions/Q&A with Panelists *Panelist*
Scholarship Award Presentation .. *Mrs. Racine Randolph, LTC, USA*
Closing Remarks *Ms. Ebony N. Thomas,*

This program would not have been possible without the support of the following individuals and organizations:

Dr. Lee Vreeland Ed.D., *President & CEO of Achievable Dream Academies*

Dr. Pervis O. Blake, *Vice President of Academics of Achievable Dream Academies*

Ms. Judi Overbey, *Senior Director of Operations,
Newport News Achievable Dream Middle & High School*

Dr. Willard G. Maxwell Jr., *Senior Pastor of New Beech Grove Baptist Church and Intouch*

Urban Dream Initiative Academic Team led by Mrs. Racine Randolph, LTC, USA

(Mrs. Nicole Raymond Moore, Ms. Samara Corbin, Mr. Gaylord Green,

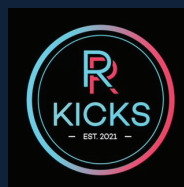
Mr. Shola Adepegba, Mr. David Retland, and Ms. Kendall Kemelek)

Mr. Tolu Onasanya

Mr. Barry Scribner and his daughter Mrs. Zara Scribner

The Honorable S. Bernard Goodwyn & Mrs. Sharon Goodwyn

Mr. James (Jim) Cox & Mrs. Chrysta Cox



Special thanks to this year's I too Can Dream panelists:

Lieutenant Governor Winsone Earle-Sears

Mr. Maurice Jones

Mr. Will Gunn

Dr. Juanita M. Christensen

Mr. Todd Hunter

Dr. Natosha Onasanya, MD, MPH

EBONY NICOLE THOMAS

FOUNDER OF THE URBAN DREAM INITIATIVE



Ebony Nicole Thomas is a Major in the United States Army. She is currently assigned to the Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia, where she is obtaining her L.L.M. in military law with a focus in government contracts, with a follow-on assignment to the Pentagon. Prior to her current position, she served as a Military Justice Advisor and Special Assistant to the United States Attorney for Aberdeen Proving Ground Military Reservation in Maryland. Ms. Thomas also formerly served as a Army Prosecutor, a Legal Assistance and Operational Law Attorney and an Administrative Law Attorney in the 82nd Airborne Division, Office of Staff Judge Advocate, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Ms. Thomas is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her grandmother and mother, both of whom were teachers, taught her at an early age the importance of education. Ms. Thomas received her primary and secondary education through both public and private schools. After high school, she went on to attend the United States Military Academy Preparatory School, which at that time was located in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. After successfully completing the preparatory school, she was accepted into the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. In 2010, she graduated from the United States Military Academy with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering Management with a focus in Civil Engineering. Ms. Thomas commissioned as a Second Lieutenant to the Adjutant General's Corps. In 2011, Ms. Thomas deployed to Iraq for 11 months in support of Operation New Dawn. In 2013, she applied and was accepted into the Army's Funded Legal Education program. In 2017, Ms. Thomas earned her Juris Doctor from the Marshall-Wythe Law School at the College of William and Mary located in Williamsburg, Virginia. That same year, she received her license to practice law in Pennsylvania. In 2022, Ms. Thomas was admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court.

Ms. Thomas' mission in life is to serve not only her country, but also her community – and the Urban Dream Initiative was born.



WINSOME EARLE-SEARS

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA



Winsome Earle-Sears, a native of Kingston, Jamaica, immigrated to the United States at the age of six. She is proud to have served in the United States Marine Corps. In addition to her various appointments, she has served as the Vice President of the Virginia State Board of Education; and as a presidential appointee to the US Census Bureau, as co-chair of the African American Committee; and the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Winsome was first elected in 2002 to a majority Black House of Delegates district, a first for a Republican in Virginia since 1865. She is the first female Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the first Black female elected to statewide office.

A former program manager for the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce and VISTA volunteer, Winsome is a trained electrician and successful businesswoman. However, Winsome is most proud of her community work leading a men's prison ministry and as director of a women's homeless shelter. She holds a B.A. in English with a minor in Economics, and an M.A. in Organizational Leadership, with a concentration in Government. Winsome and her husband, Terence, have two daughters Katia and Janel, in addition to DeJon, and granddaughters Victoria and Faith, who are now looking into the face of God.

PANELIST

MAURICE A. JONES

PRESIDENT & CEO, ONETEN



Maurice A. Jones was appointed CEO of OneTen in March of 2021. OneTen is a coalition of leading chief executives and their companies who are coming together to upskill, hire and promote one million Black Americans over the next 10 years who do not yet have a four-year degree into family-sustaining jobs with opportunities for advancement. Prior to joining OneTen, Maurice was the President of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), one of the country's largest organizations supporting projects to revitalize communities and catalyze economic opportunity for residents.

During his time at LISC, Maurice led the company's effort to expand its footprint into the southern part of the country. He grew the company's annual investment from a billion dollars to over two billion dollars. He also increased the economic development investments of LISC throughout the country, including launching a subsidiary company dedicated to small business lending. During his tenure, LISC diversified its partnerships with multiple industries, including healthcare, technology, sports, retail and advanced manufacturing.

He previously served as Secretary of Commerce and Trade for the Commonwealth of Virginia where his primary job was to utilize Virginia's assets to solidify its position as the preeminent place to live, work and conduct business.

Maurice also served as Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from April 2012 through January 2014. As the second most senior official at HUD, Maurice managed the Department's day-to-day operations, the annual operating budget of \$40 billion and the agency's 8,900 employees.

Before his appointment at HUD, Maurice was President of Pilot Media, the largest print and digital organization in Hampton Roads, Virginia. He joined Landmark Media Enterprises, owner of Pilot Media, in 2005, serving as Vice President of the Landmark Publishing Group. In 2006, he became the Vice President and General Manager of Pilot Media, and in 2008 he became President and Publisher of The Virginian-Pilot.

Maurice was also the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Social Services and Deputy Chief of Staff to then-Virginia Governor Mark R. Warner. Other positions include: Special Assistant to the General Counsel at the U.S. Treasury Department, Legal Counsel to the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund and Director of the Fund during the Clinton Administration, Associate Attorney at Hunton & Williams in Richmond, Virginia, and Partner at Venture Philanthropy Partners.

Maurice received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Hampden-Sydney College and attended Oxford University in England on a Rhodes Scholarship, where he received a Master of Philosophy in International Relations. He later received a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia.

PANELIST

DR. WILLARD G. MAXWELL, JR.

NEW BEECH GROVE CHURCH



When it comes to servant leadership, Dr. Willard Maxwell, Jr. has a simple philosophy: "when you stop struggling, you stop relating."

Pastor and Spiritual Advisor

As the Senior Pastor of New Beech Grove Baptist Church, Dr. Maxwell educates and equips those he is called to serve through Biblical yet practical preaching/teaching. His interactive approach to pastoral leadership includes creating and cultivating a culture of innovation, leadership and a commitment to spiritual and personal growth.

Community Liaison

Dr. Maxwell is a results-focused leader who trains and empowers those he leads while remaining committed to "getting in the trenches." Dr. Maxwell diligently partners with and works alongside those whose mission is to serve, protect and strengthen the local community. In addition to pastoring, Dr. Maxwell serves as the President of the Newport News Branch of the NAACP; is a volunteer Police Chaplain for the City of Newport News; serves on the board of the Newport News Planning Commission; serves on the board of the Newport News Police Foundation; serves on the board of review for the Newport News Real Estate Assessor's Office; is an adjunct professor at the William Harvey Leadership Academy at Hampton University; and is a Silver Lifetime member of the NAACP. Dr. Maxwell supports and collaborates with a host of other local and regional community and civic organizations to serve and enhance the community.

Dr. Maxwell's Education and Credentials

Dr. Maxwell is a native of Atlanta, Georgia where he served as an educator, administrator and principal in the Atlanta Public School system. Dr. Maxwell holds a Master of Divinity degree from Morehouse School of Religion, a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Argosy University, a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Education from Georgia Southern University and a Pastor Counseling Certification from Emory University.

Dr. Maxwell On Entertainment and Economic Empowerment

Dr. Maxwell is an entrepreneur with an extensive background in real estate. He holds an active broker's license and leverages his business skills to conduct workshops for churches and communities on topics such as real estate investing, financial management and community and economic development.

As a respected saxophonist and standup Christian comedian, Dr. Maxwell makes time to enjoy the arts. When time permits, Dr. Maxwell shares these gifts publicly.

PANELIST

TODD B HUNTER

*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BUSINESS OPERATIONS CENTER
ACTING ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC ACQUISITION CENTER
OFFICE OF ACQUISITION, LOGISTICS, AND CONSTRUCTION*



In January 2020, Todd Hunter was appointed Acting Associate Executive Director for the Strategic Acquisition Center (SAC). In this capacity, he leads a geographically dispersed organization of acquisition professionals providing dedicated acquisition and program management expertise and life-cycle management support via delivery of strategically sound contracts on an enterprise wide scale.

Prior to joining the SAC, Mr. Hunter was responsible for standing up the Business Operations Center (BOC) within VA's Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction (OALC). As Executive Director, he established a comprehensive, single source of accountability for OALC business processes inclusive of workforce management and planning, emergency preparation, continuity of operations, Supply Fund appropriated and reimbursable funds, and strategic financial oversight.

In July 2017, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 13793, VA's Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection (OAWP) was established and Mr. Hunter was appointed Deputy Executive Director (DED). He provided oversight for the Secretary's accountability priorities and final review. He also provided advisory support to VA leadership in the guidance, coordination, direction, and evaluation of whistleblower protections and senior leader accountability.

Before joining VA, he served in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment for the Capital Ventures Directorate. He assisted in oversight of the Residential Communities Initiative, privatized lodging, base realignment, and closures. Mr. Hunter served with the United States Army for 22 years, retiring in 2005 with the rank of Sergeant Major. His past assignments include serving two tours in the 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) at Fort Myer, Virginia and a tour with the United States Army Personnel Command.

Mr. Hunter's awards include the Legion of Merit Medal, The Women's Veteran Interactive Trailblazer's Award, and the prestigious Association of the United States Army's Bainbridge Award, in recognition of his continue contributions to the Army and volunteer community service. He is a distinguish member of the Old Guard and he belongs to several non-profit organizations including Association of the United States Army, and the Army Historical Association.

PANELIST

DR. JUANITA M. CHRISTENSEN

*DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, G-4
U.S. ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND
REDSTONE ARSENAL, ALABAMA*



Dr. Christensen was selected for Senior Executive Service in February 2015. She currently serves as the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC), Deputy Chief of Staff (DCS), G-4. As the DCS, G-4 she directs and manages Army-wide Facilities, Housing, Energy, Environmental, Critical Infrastructure, and Surety Management functional programs and activities to effectively execute AMC's strategic support area mission.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY:

- January 2021– Present: Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC), Redstone Arsenal, AL
- November 2017 – January 2021: Executive Director, Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center (formerly U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center), Redstone Arsenal, AL
- February 2015 – November 2017: Director, Weapons Development and Integration Directorate (WDI), U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center's Engineering Directorate, Redstone Arsenal, AL
- August 2012 – February 2015: Deputy director for the Aviation Development Directorate (ADD), U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center's Engineering Directorate, Redstone Arsenal, AL
- September 2008 – August 2012: Technical management division chief, Project Management Office for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (PM UAS), Project Executive Office Aviation, Huntsville, AL
- February 2007 – September 2008: Director and Engineering Analysis Directorate, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC), Huntsville, AL
- January 2005 – February 2007: Principal systems/integration engineer, UAS Program Management Office supporting the Extended Range/Multi-Purpose (ERMP) UAV, SDI Inc., Huntsville, AL
- April 2004 – January 2005: Principal systems/integration engineer, Cruise Missile Defense System (CMDS) Program Management Office, CAS, Inc., Huntsville, AL
- June 1991 – April 2004: Senior lead engineer – Comanche Systems/Software Engineering & Integration, General Dynamics Advanced Information Services (GD-AIS) (formerly Veridian), Huntsville, AL
- May 1988 – June 1991: Senior electronics engineer, Boeing (formerly McDonnell Aircraft Company), St. Louis, MO
- Nov. 1986 – May 1988: Software engineer, Mystech Associates and Structured Technology, New London, CT
- May 1985 – May 1986: Electronics engineer, Boeing, Saint Louis, MO

COLLEGE:

- Doctorate of Management in Organizational Leadership, University of Phoenix, 2011
- MS, Computer Resources and Information Systems Management, Webster University, 1994
- BS, Computer Engineering, University of Illinois, 1985

DR. NATOSHA S. ONASANYA, MD, MPH



Dr. Onasanya is the program director for Dayton Children's Hospital's Partial Hospitalization and Intensive Outpatient Programs, which address adolescent mental health concerns through group therapy, family sessions and psychopharmacological interventions. She has been an assistant professor at the Boonshoff School of Medicine, Wright State University since 2017 where she teaches and mentors residents and fellows.

Dr. Onasanya's passion for child and adolescent psychiatry began in 2000 when she worked for Second Genesis Inc., a residential substance abuse treatment facility for women and children. She continued to study substance use disorders at the Howard University College of Medicine where she worked on the Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism, monitoring electrophysiological data from human subjects.

Dr. Onasanya went on to receive her medical degree and master's degree in public health from Saint George's University in Grenada, with a focus in health behaviors and policy. She completed her General Psychiatry residency at the Louisiana State University (LSU) in New Orleans, LA. She joined the United States Air Force (USAF) as a commissioned officer through the Air Force Financial Assistance Program during her intern year at LSU. Dr. Onasanya went on to train in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the National Capital Consortium Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. She is American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology board certified in both general and child/adolescent psychiatry. Dr. Onasanya served the USAF for 10 years and has been the honoree of several awards, including the Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. She is a member of such notable medical associations such as American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) and has a special interest in the military and other underserved populations.

PANELIST

WILL A. GUNN

VICE PRESIDENT FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS FOR THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION



Will A. Gunn is the General Counsel and Vice President for Legal Affairs for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). In 2009, he was appointed by President Barack Obama as the General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and served in that role for five years. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy with military honors and graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School where he served as President of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau.

He also holds an LL.M in environmental law from George Washington University, a Masters in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University, and a Masters in Ministry (with a focus on Leadership) from Lancaster Bible College. In 2003, Will was selected as the first-ever Chief Defense Counsel for the DoD Office of Military Commissions. In that role, he established an office that defends detainees brought before military commissions at the Guantanamo Prison Camp. He served as a White House Fellow during the George H. W. Bush Administration and after retiring from the Air Force as a colonel in 2005, Will served as CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington. Will chaired the ABA's 2021 National Law Day commemoration; the ABA Youth at Risk Commission; and the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity. He has served on several boards, is a deacon in his local church, and has received numerous awards including an honorary doctorate from Nova Southeastern University and the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau's Outstanding Alumni Award.



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