**African American Male Initiative Inaugural 2023 Summit: He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother!**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Time & Location** | **Activity** |
| 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  B-Atrium | Registration and Black Student Organization Showcase |
| 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.  B-Atrium | Welcome Lunch |
| 12:30 - 1:45 p.m.  B-Atrium | **Double Consciousness: Living Behind and Beyond the Veil in an Unapologetic Way**  Presented by GGC’s Dr. Brandon Lewis, director of AAMI-Elite Scholars; Allen Clarke, assistant director of Student Involvement; Dr. Rashad Simmons, associate professor of chemistry; Dr. Doug Johnson, professor of leadership and management; Aman Evans, ’26, business administration; Gustavious Maddox, ’24, business administration, and Vance Hall Williams, ’23, criminal justice/criminology  During this session, we will focus on W.E.B. Du Bois’ concept of double consciousness. Each presenter will explain what double consciousness means to them and its impact on the Black male psyche, drawing comparisons between living unapologetically and living behind and beyond the veil. This session will provide the audience with an opportunity to explore these concepts through rich discussions. |
| **Breakout Session 1: “He Ain’t Heavy…”** | |
| 2:00 - 2:45 p.m.  Bldg. W  Room 1210;  Stephens Executive Forum | Option 1: **Wellness, Well-being and You: The Importance of Self-care for Black Men**  Presented by Carl Woods, director of Wellness and Recreation  Black men deal with all forms of racism and systematic oppression every day. In this session, we will not only define wellness, but also expound upon the need for holistic wellness practice when it comes to overcoming feelings of anger and oppression associated with the prejudice, racism and systematic oppression we endure daily. “Wellness, Well-Being and You” is an overview and discussion about several ambits of wellness practice needed to assist how you deal with the traumas associated with racism and systematic oppression. We will also provide tips and answer questions about living and implementing wellness concepts in your daily life to help cope with the fore mentioned traumas and triggers. |
| 2:00 - 2:45 p.m.  Bldg. C  Cisco Auditorium | Option 2: **The Myth of the Black Superman and the Stigma of the Black Supervillain**  Presented by GGC’s Allen Clarke, assistant director of AAMI-Elite; Danette Edwards, program coordinator; Ebony Gibson, associate professor of English, and Flynn Heathcliffe, AAMI-Elite Scholars Alumni, ’21, cinema and media art and production  A creative exploration of the perceptions of black manhood relating to the misguided expectation that a black man must either “set an example” or his actions may lead to irreparable damage to his reputation and that of his peers. Each presenter will share a song, poem, prose excerpt or original work, and then explain how it connects to the theme. |
| 2:00 - 2:45 p.m.  Bldg. B  B-1600 | Option 3: **An Overview of ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and How They Affect Black Men**  Presented by Aric Johnson, president and chief executive officer, One Eighty Counseling & Coaching, LLC  Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) disproportionately impact Black Americans, because they are compounded with historical-systemic oppression and exposure to intergenerational trauma. This session will provide evidenced-based information on ACES, historical trauma and bias, and how hope and resilience play a role in mitigating these hardships for Black men. |
| **Breakout Session 2: He’s My Brother!** | |
| 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.  Bldg. W  Room 1210;  Stephens Executive Forum | Option 1: **The Brotherly Love and Solidarity Imperative**  Presented by Dr. Anthony Outler, assistant principal at Mary McLeod Bethune Middle School, Decatur, Georgia, and community advocate  In a society that upholds ideals like rugged individualism, self-reliance and relentless grind as markers of manhood, men must be intentional in cultivating relationships with one another that are characterized by love, compassion, vulnerability, mutual support and deep connectedness. This is particularly important for Black men as they contend with the various stressors associated with navigating racist systems and institutions. In this session, we will discuss the importance of community, love and solidarity for Black men. |
| 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.  Bldg. C  Cisco Auditorium | Option 2: **Examining Brotherhood and Its Significance for Black Men**  Presented by GGC’s Jason Wright, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, and members of the Phi Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.  Since its inception, brotherhood has been associated with a deep connection between males and a bond that is synonymous with a blood sibling. It is a term used heavily in the African American community and carries an expectation of loyalty and commitment. In this session, we will revisit the term and explore what it means today among African American males. |
| 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.  Bldg. B  B-1600 | Option 3: **Emotional Intelligence: The Black Males Guide During an Unstable Racial Climate**  Presented by GGC’s Marvin L. DeWitt, Jr. MA Ed., undergraduate education coordinator, Student Engagement and Success  This session will focus on helping male students of color develop and solve problems using logic and feelings while maintaining an optimistic and positive outlook during an unstable racial climate. We will unpack how to cultivate flexibility in stressful situations, assist peers in expressing their needs, respond to people and situations calmly and thoughtfully, and manage change with grace and optimism. |
| **Keynote and Wrap Up** | |
| 4:00 - 4:15 p.m.  Bldg. C  Cisco Auditorium | Student Perspective: **Creating Black Prosperity**  Presented by GGC’s Gustavious Maddox, ‘24, business administration |
| 4:15 - 4:45 p.m.  Bldg. C  Cisco Auditorium | Keynote Speech: **Working to Take Off Your Cool**  Presented by Robert Carswell, former NFL player for the San Diego Chargers  Who are you? What do you stand for?  Navigating through daily life’s challenges can be especially challenging if you do not know who you are and do not remain true to yourself. Remaining true to yourself while simultaneously viewing yourself through the lens that society projects on you does not always line up perfectly. In this session, we will explore double consciousness and identity and discuss strategies for maintaining one’s sense of self while still being successful in life. We will draw on personal stories and practical advice to offer insights into how to navigate  this complex terrain. By the end of this session, you will have a better understanding of double consciousness and how to balance the demands of adaptation with the need for authenticity. |
| 4:45 - 5:00 p.m.  Bldg. C  Cisco Auditorium | Wrap Up and Final Thoughts  Presented by Dr. Brandon Lewis, director of AAMI-Elite Scholars, and Allen Clarke, assistant director of Student Involvement |