

P2-3 / Community Data Collectors / Chair's Message

P4-5 / SMU Viola Bursary / Youth Writers Workshop / AMI Girls Conference

P6-8 / JRJ Chair Appointment / NSDPAD Appoints Program Coordinator / GTO Program

P9-11 / King's Scholarships / Maxine Tynes Celebration / REP Provincial Spelling Bee

P12-14 / New Board Members / Cohort Member Wins Human Rights Award / Government House Presentation

P15-18 / 2019 History Challenge Awards

P19-20 / MSVU Panel Discussion / NSTU Draw Winner / Scholarship Resources Directory Coming Soon!

Community Update – Spring 2019



Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute

Excellence in Africentric Education & Research



The Power of Poetry

CELEBRATING MAXINE TYNES

An evening of readings and remembrances

Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019, 6 to 8 PM
Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute



5450 Cornwallis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia
902-407-3200 • www.dbdli.ca

Community Data Collectors (CDC)

It takes a community to make data count

Background

The research at the Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute (DBDLI) is informed by the core African idea of “Ubuntu” (I am because you are) and the African proverb “it takes a village to raise a child”. The Institute recognizes the importance of involving community members in all aspects of the research processes to ensure credible interpretation and representation of community voices. The Institute has therefore started developing research capabilities within African Nova Scotian communities through an initiative referred to as ‘Community Data Collectors’ (CDC).

Position Profile

A Community Data Collector (CDC) should have the following profile:

- Self-identified as African Nova Scotian
- At least 19 years old
- Knowledge of African Nova Scotian community strengths
- Knowledge of education issues confronting African Nova Scotian communities
- Comfort level working independently and in groups
- Basic computer skills in MS office and excel
- Basic experience in research and data collection either through workshops, course work or involvement in specific research activities or training
- Belief in the African proverb— *“it takes a village to raise a child”*

The Key Responsibilities of the CDC include working with a project manager to:

- develop interview protocol and data collection instruments
- inform the community about the research
- mobilize the community for data collection
- contribute to data analysis and report writing strategies
- mobilize the community for the dissemination of research findings

DBDLI provides training to CDCs.

Compensation is provided on a project-by-project basis.

If you meet the position profile and can carry out the key responsibilities, please send your name, contact information (email, mailing address and phone number) to contact@dbdli.ca and indicate why you are interested in this role. Please indicate in the email subject line – “Community Data Collector”.

Questions related to the research work should be directed to Dr. George Frempong at george.frempong@dbdli.ca

***Through a research collaboration with Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), DBDLI has been able to provide training to 10 African Nova Scotian Community members who were able to collect data from over 100 research participants from 12 African Nova Scotian communities. The Institute is grateful and recognizes the contribution of these CDCs in this research project. The research project is intended to help NSCC further develop an Africentric program that supports the educational success of African Nova Scotians.



Chair’s Message: Jocelyn Dorrington

Welcome to this edition of the DBDLI Community Update. I hope that your spring has gotten off to a refreshing start and that you were able to get out and experience some of the full slate of activities during African Heritage month.

Our end of year event was well attended by partners, community members, government representatives and of course learners and educators. We acknowledged the members of the Master of Education Counselling Cohort, who have completed the program. We also gave special recognition to Tony Colaiaacovo for his work on our newest publication “Black History Africa, The Caribbean and The Americas”. The book is now being used in African Canadian Studies 11 classes across the province.

The close of 2018 marked six months of being in our new location at 5450 Cornwallis Street. And in that time the board and staff have been busy promoting the community space and all it has to offer. We have been able to partner with groups and organizations like the Nova Scotia College of Early Childhood Education who held a half day session for the community about careers in childhood education. We were also the location for the New Viola Desmond \$10 Bill launch hosted by the Bank of Canada. I am so pleased that events like these and many others can take place here.

During African Heritage month we either led or partnered in several events that celebrated this year’s theme - “Our History is Your History”. Events included “On the Money” at the Halifax Central Library and “Celebrating Maxine Tynes, the Power of Poetry” held at the DBDLI Community space. These types of events contribute to growing

the understanding of all Nova Scotians about African Nova Scotian history, culture and heritage.

The African Nova Scotian History Challenges continue to be one of our premier annual events that showcases the work of teachers and students about African Nova Scotians and our history. This year was another huge success with more than 3000 submissions coming from every regional education centre across the province. The calibre of the submissions from all grade levels gets higher every year. Our challenge was selecting those that best exemplified each category. And in the end, 58 awards were given out in front of a jam-packed audience at Chebuto Heights Elementary School. Thank you to the students, teachers and schools that participated.

Our research work continues, and we have added partnerships with several academic institutions including the Nova Scotia Community College and Dalhousie University. By working with these institutions, we can access expertise and resources to help us

gather and evaluate data that are relevant to improving the outcomes for African Nova Scotian learners.

Our focus on youth continues to be a priority. Through the development of initiatives, programs and resources, we are advancing the frequency with which we have been able to connect with our youth. In the coming months, we will begin the recruiting process for Yuzi Baraza Collective (Youth Council).

Please join me in welcoming 3 new Board Members to the DBDLI Board of Directors. Ms. Missy Searle, Mr. Marcus Marsman and Ms. Angela Simmonds. We are excited to have these individuals join our leadership team as we continue to execute our mandate in innovative ways. You can find out more information about them in this issue.

Please join us for this year’s “Report to Community” on June 26th, which will be held at the Institute’s Community Space. I look forward to seeing you there.



OUR ROLE

As an Africentric Institute, the DBDLI creates educational change and genuine opportunities for learners and communities of African ancestry to reach their full potential.



Educational research is vital to achieving our vision. We conduct, research and disseminate findings that inform policy makers, educators, parents and the general public on how to best improve educational opportunities and outcomes for Nova Scotian learners of African ancestry.

The Institute works directly with African Nova Scotian / Canadian organizations, communities, government partners, and educational institutions to identify, develop and implement educational and community capacity enhancement policies, initiatives and services.

Saint Mary's University celebrates the new Viola Desmond Bursary

African Nova Scotian students attending Saint Mary's University will soon have more support available to them as a result of a newly established bursary.

The Viola Desmond Bursary was announced on November 8, the date of Viola's heroic anti-discrimination action in 1946. The bursary is fully-endowed and will be given out every year to qualifying full-time African Nova Scotian students at Saint Mary's.

"At Saint Mary's, community is at the heart of what we do. We are very proud to be part of commemorating Viola Desmond, and to have a financial award named in her honour," said Dr. Malcolm Butler, Vice-President, Academic and Research. "This award will assist generations of African-Nova Scotian entrepreneurs attending Saint Mary's on their path to success."

The initial award amount will mark the year of Viola Desmond's anti-segregation action, 1946, with students receiving \$1,946. While

this award is not renewable, it may be awarded to the same student more than once.

While preference for the bursary will be given to students in the Sobey School of Business, the bursary may also be awarded to students in programs featuring entrepreneurship. Preference will also be given to female students from Halifax County. Students must also have a financial need.

This award was established with the permission of the Desmond Family and through the generosity of The Honourable Wilfred P. Moore, Q.C., LL.D., and Ms. Jane Adams Ritcey.

"Viola Desmond has been very good to our city, our province and our country," said Senator Wilfred Moore. "My family is very pleased to assist Saint Mary's University in this most noble virtue—the transfer of knowledge. We do so in keeping with the bedrock tradition of Saint Mary's, offering a hand up."



Wanda Robson

Restorative Inquiry holds "Youth Writers Workshop" with George Elliott Clarke

On March 16, the Restorative Inquiry hosted 17 young writers at a workshop with renowned author George Elliott Clarke. The full day event was held at the Institute's

community space and gave African Nova Scotian youth participants the opportunity not just to hear but, engage with George Elliott Clarke through interactive

demonstrations on honing their voice and telling their stories.

Throughout its mandate, the Restorative Inquiry has recognized the importance of ensuring youth—especially African Nova Scotian youth—have a voice in addressing systemic and community issues that affect them. The inquiry has held space for youth in many of its workshops, forums and circles.



(L-R) Sylvia Parris Drummond, DBDLI, George Elliott Clarke & Deborah Emerson, BEA.



The Alexa McDonough Institute for Women, Gender and Social Justice’s 2019 Girls Conference was held on March 8th. This was the 8th annual conference held in celebration of International Women’s Day.

Over 350 young women aged 11 – 19 years from across the province attended, along with their teachers, parents, and community leaders. Thirty-nine workshops were at capacity throughout the day. The workshop topics included literary writing, sexual health, legal rights, body image, self-confidence, creating businesses, STEM careers, First Responder careers, social justice, environmental issues, financial literacy, self-defence, yoga and meditation, youth leadership, community involvement and much more.

Two welcome video messages from special guests, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General and Madame Sophie Gregoire Trudeau, who inspired all of the delegates with their



Mam- Yassin Sarr and her daughter Mam Mary

enthusiasm and encouraging words. The Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of International Development and Minister for Women and Gender Equality, wrote a welcome letter for the conference delegates.

The morning keynote speaker was Mam-Yassin Sarr, the co-founder and director of Starfish International, a non-profit organization that seeks to advance humanity through girls’ education and service-learning opportunities in The Gambia, West Africa.

The mission of Starfish International is to uplift Gambian girls by providing them with an advanced education that is focused on service to humanity, while at the same time providing international service-learning opportunities for volunteers. The keynote was joined by her 12-year-old daughter, Mam Mary, who shared a beautiful poem for which she received a standing ovation.

El Jones, DBDLI Fellowship recipient, poet, activist, community organizer, scholar, teacher, radio host, journalist, and the Mount’s Nancy’s Chair in Women’s Studies presented the afternoon keynote address and performed a stirring spoken word poem written that day specifically for the occasion.

Overwhelmingly positive reviews were received from the delegates about all aspects of the conference and the DBDLI was proud to be a partner in this, their biggest and best year yet!



Dalhousie appoints Dr. OmiSoore H. Dryden as the new James Robinson Johnston (JRJ) Chair in Black Canadian Studies

Dr. OmiSoore H. Dryden has been named Dalhousie's James Robinson Johnston (JRJ) Chair in Black Canadian Studies. The Chair will be located in the Faculty of Medicine's Department of Community Health & Epidemiology. This six-year appointment is effective May 1st, 2019.

Dr. Dryden is an interdisciplinary scholar working at the intersections of health science, social science and humanities. She earned her PhD in Social Justice Education from the Ontario Institute for the Study of Education and the University of Toronto, where her dissertation examined how blood donation rules discriminate against certain populations. Her research has been published in various peer-reviewed journals and books. She has been a Researcher-In-Residence with the Ontario HIV Treatment Network and has received research grants from Canadian Blood Services and the Public Health Agency of Canada.



The hiring followed the standard academic search committee process, with representation from the Dalhousie Black Faculty Caucus and black student representation. The DBDLI in its capacity as the Africentric education and research Institute, and in partnership with Dalhousie University, hosted an African Nova Scotian Community Meet & Greet with each of the three candidates last fall. In this open forum, each candidate delivered a presentation and the public had an opportunity to meet the candidates and talk about their research with a focus on community health needs.

Dr. Dryden will help the Faculty of Medicine strengthen Dalhousie's institutional priorities to enhance diversity, foster community outreach, and build a health research mandate that is collaborative, interdisciplinary and nationally recognized.

Vanessa Fells Appointed as African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition (DPAD) Program Coordinator

The African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition (DPAD) is pleased to welcome Vanessa Fells as their new Program Coordinator.

Vanessa was born and raised into a large family in the African Nova Scotia Community of Yarmouth. The importance of education was instilled in her at a young age and she took this to heart earning 2 Bachelor's degrees (Sociology and Criminology) and a Master's of Education in Afrocentric Policy.

Vanessa is also the 2015 United Nations Canadian Representative for the UN Human Rights Decade for People of African Descent Fellowship Program which took place in Geneva, Switzerland.



In her new role, Vanessa will oversee the operations of the Coalition including their strategic plan, working groups & committees (justice, health, education, youth, community services data etc.), build strong relationships with community & government stakeholders, build membership, develop a communications plan as well as outreach & programming, hire new staff and much more. The DPAD Coalition is excited to have Vanessa on board as we work collaboratively to positively impact the lives of all African Nova Scotians.

Recent Grad's career journey comes full circle

The Administrative Coordinator at HFX Learning Centre knows first-hand the challenges that many marginalized youth face on the road to academic success.

And that insight is helping Shakisha Downey, her employer and the communities they serve to develop a strong foundation for individual growth and literacy skills development across HRM.

As a teen with some family support but mainly under the care of The Department of Community Services in Halifax – Dartmouth, Shakisha focused on centering her energy into school and education. This became her starting point and anchor for personal and professional development.

Now a Dalhousie University graduate with a Sociology degree, Shakisha works full time at the Halifax Learning Centre (HLC) not only as an administrator but also to develop partnerships within communities to mirror the

learning support they provide to communities such as North Preston. HLC assesses youth literacy needs and delivers programs to support youth in reaching their full learning potential.

“I first started at HFX Learning, as an office administrator,” says Shakisha. “But we are now shifting my role to take on more outreach, to create more partnerships with communities who may not have access to such literacy programs and see what we can do together to encourage everyone, of all ages and backgrounds, to get serious about their journey to literacy. I can relate personally to these kids on a lot of levels. Now we have an opportunity to build positive programs to support these youth in academic success.”

Executive Director of HLC, Sarah Arnold, says Shakisha has been making an impact since the start.

“Her ability to project manage, and to understand and



Recent Grad's career journey comes full circle (continued)

upgrade technology has taken us to a whole new level – and this was just in the first year. Now she is actively developing outreach programs in HRM,” says Sarah. “As someone who is a shining example of a successful, young African Nova Scotian, who used education as a foundational building block, she brings intelligence and insight into her role connecting and engaging community in a strategy to educate youth,” says Sarah.

Hiring well-educated post-secondary graduates in Nova Scotia is made easier for employers with the help the Provincial funding program, “Graduate to Opportunity” (GTO). Eligible employers can receive 25% of a grad’s first year salary and 12.5% of the grad’s second year salary from the government. This incentive made it easier for HFX Learning to hire Shakisha right out of university.

If the grad is a member of a designated diversity group such as aboriginal, persons with a disability, a visible minority, international student, women in a non-traditional occupation or African Nova Scotian, the employer will receive an extra 10% of the grad’s first-year salary.

“I am continuously inspired by my coworkers, who challenge me to want more.” says Shakisha. “Now I am in a position where I have colleagues to support what I am doing. In many ways I learn from them, and they learn from me too.”

Recently Shakisha met with a group home director for a facility that she lived in at a younger age, to talk about implementing literacy assessments to determine where the girls in residence need academic support.

“We identify their strengths and the learning areas that need improvement,” says Shakisha. “I am thinking back to when I was living there, and I could have really benefited from that. It is amazing that now I am in a

position to help it come together for others.”

The Graduate to Opportunity program helps build a stronger workforce in Nova Scotia by retaining young people like Shakisha in their fields of study and attaching them to meaningful careers in the province.

Employers are eligible if they are small businesses with less than 100 full-time employees, start-ups, non-profits, registered charities or social enterprises. Since the implementation of the diversity bonus, over 130 diverse graduates like Shakisha have been employed full-time in their fields with the support of the program.


“Companies with diverse teams are better equipped to reach a broader audience and often deliver business more efficiently because they can understand their audience on a more personable level,” says Shakisha. “Having an African Nova Scotian who is familiar with the experiences of some of the people we want to reach is essential to understanding the needs of clients. I think other employers could see the same kind-of benefits that Sarah has seen. Most importantly, the community is thinking this person speaks my language. We are the same kind of human being.”

“Shakisha is one of three wonderful grads we were able to hire with the support of GTO,” says Sarah. “This hiring is essential to the growth, reach and longevity of HFX Learning. They are the next generation of warriors to fight to eradicate illiteracy in Nova Scotia.” HFX Learning looks forward to tapping into the GTO program again as they continue to grow in size.

For employers interested in learning more about hiring recent post-secondary graduates like Shakisha, check out the GTO program: <https://novascotia.ca/programs/graduate-to-opportunity/>.

King's announces re-establishment of Prince Scholarship for African-Nova Scotian students

King's has re-established the Prince Scholarship, and this time as an endowed award. In 1959, thanks to a benefactor who requested anonymity, King's established the first Prince Scholarship, then a renewable \$1,000 scholarship for an African Nova Scotian student - the first of its kind in the 1960s. It was available for 10 years but when its benefactor died, the funding ceased.



UNIVERSITY OF KING'S COLLEGE • HALIFAX

PRINCE SCHOLARSHIP

A renewable scholarship valued at \$24,000 (\$6,000 per year) for African-Nova Scotian students entering the King's Foundation Year Program who want to pursue a degree in Arts, Science, Journalism or Music.

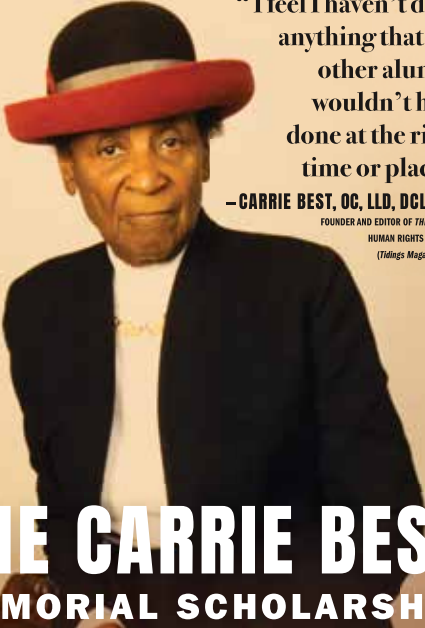
Details at ukings.ca/prince-scholarship

King's president Dr. Samuel Johnson was a pioneering educator, Anglican priest and holder of the second office in Nova Scotia and Canada, who played a leading role in founding the Maritime School of Social Work at Dalhousie University. This scholarship honours Prince's care and regard for others.

Now endowed in perpetuity, the scholarship is currently valued at \$6,000 and will be renewable for four years, bringing the total value of the scholarship to \$24,000 over four years. It will again be awarded to African Nova Scotian students entering the Foundation Year Program and pursuing a degree in arts, science, journalism (honours) or music.

Chair of King's Board of Governors, Doug Ruck, who graduated from King's in 1972, spoke at the announcement, citing his own experience as an African Nova Scotian coming to King's in the late 1960s. As an applicant, he recalled reading the King's calendar and learning there was a scholarship for black students. At the time, King's was the only university in Nova Scotia to offer such a scholarship.

The Carrie Best Scholarship is a renewable King's scholarship of \$5,000/year for African Canadian and Indigenous Students.




"I feel I haven't done anything that any other alumna wouldn't have done at the right time or place."
-CARRIE BEST, OC, LL.D, DCL ('92)
FOUNDER AND EDITOR OF THE CLARION,
HUMAN RIGHTS CHAMPION
(*Tidings Magazine*, 1992)

THE CARRIE BEST MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

A renewable King's scholarship of \$5000/year for African-Canadian and Indigenous students.

Details at ukings.ca/carrie-best



The Dr. Carrie Best Scholarship is offered by King's in honour of activist, author, journalist, publisher and broadcaster Dr. Carrie Best, in recognition of her activities on behalf of human rights.



Celebrating Maxine Tynes

The Power of Poetry

CELEBRATING MAXINE TYNES

An evening of readings and remembrances

Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019, 6 to 8 pm
Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute, 5450 Cornwallis St., Halifax



On February 28, 2019 "The Power of Poetry Celebrating Maxine Tynes" Reading and Remembrance event was held at the Delmore Buddy Daye Learning Institute. Presented in cooperation with the Writers Federation of NS (WFNS) and Halifax Public Libraries, the event gave the audience an intimate evening in recognition and celebration of Maxine, through her works of poetry and performances by contemporary spoken word artists. Stories of Ms. Tynes' impact on her students and colleagues were also shared and provided a small glimpse into her life.



Abena Beloved Green



Guyleigh Johnson

The evening readings were hosted by Augy Jones, Manager of Student Experience at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Augy holds a Bachelor of Arts in poetry and a Bachelor of Education in English Language Arts from St. Francis Xavier University. Augy was taught by Ms. Tynes and has provided poetry workshops to some of the evening's poets.



Dr Afua Cooper

The audience was blessed to have several pieces of Maxine's poetry performed by a great mix of poets and spoken word artists including Lindsay Ruck, Andre Fenton, Dr. Afua Cooper, Marjorie Stone and Evelyn White. There were also video performances from Guyleigh Johnson and Abena Beloved Green.



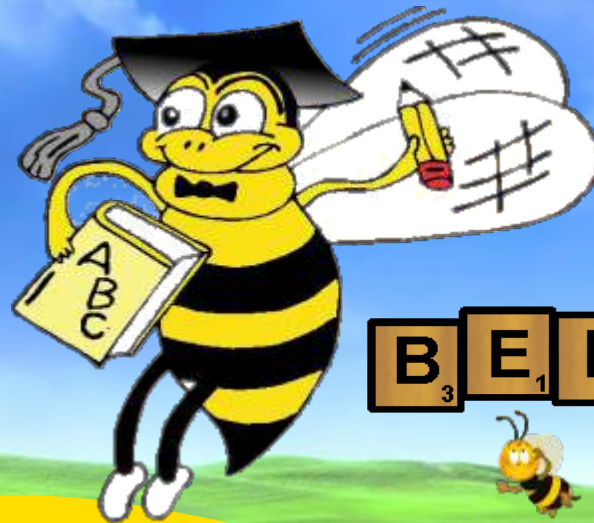
(L to R) - Sylvia Parris-Drummond, Andre Fenton, Evelyn White, Lindsay Ruck, Marjorie Stone and Augy Jones

Special thanks to Marilyn Smulders of the WFNS and Heather MacKenzie of the Halifax Public Libraries for their design and logistical support.

SAVE THE DATE !

**The 13th Annual
REP Provincial Spelling BEE**

S P E L L I N G



B E E

Saturday, MAY 11, 2019 at 1PM



For information & registration:
424-7036 | 1-800-565-3398
www.theblackeducators.ca



**BLACK
EDUCATORS
ASSOCIATION**



New Board Members



Marcus Marsman

Marcus was the first in his family to attend university. His great-Grandfather, Clem Marsman, owned two properties in Africville overlooking the Bedford Basin until the mid 1960s. Two generations later, Marcus was born into a single parent family and raised in public housing in the west end of Halifax. Marcus is passionate about education, distributive justice and reducing inequality in society. In 2018, he returned to Dalhousie to study at the Schulich School of Law through the Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq Initiative. The initiative was established in 1989 to address discrimination in the justice system and to make the

legal profession more accurately reflect the communities most impacted by our criminal justice system. Still wanting to be involved in the education of youth, Marsman now serves as a member of the DBDLI Board, to help assist with developing programs and providing services on behalf of African Canadian/Nova Scotian learners of all ages.



Lillian (Missy) Searl

Lillian (Missy) Searl is currently the Operations and Information Technology Lead at the Association of Workplace Educators of Nova Scotia. Missy has over 14 years experience in the field of Adult Education, with an Early Childhood Educators and Family Support Worker background. Missy has been active in her community serving on a health board, parent teacher organizations, Military Family Resource Centre board of directors, sports and a variety of community committees.

Missy is passionate about helping others and since 2009 she has coordinated a collection drive called "WINNOW"; over the past 10 years she has collected more than \$30,000 in personal care items for local shelters, from friends, family and strangers who hear about her collection. She is a recipient of the Woman of Spirit award from Dress For Success Halifax, because of this project. Missy resides in Eastern Passage.

New Board Members (Continued)



Angela Simmonds

Angela believes that education and the law can be used as a tool to address inequities in our society. She is a lawyer and is currently the Manager of Equity of Access at the Nova Scotia's Barristers Society. She provides education, strategies and counsel on issues of equity, diversity and inclusion. She previously worked for Nova Scotia Legal Aid, Federal Prosecution Service Canada, Department of Natural Resources, and the Halifax Regional School Board.

Angela has been able to use her legal knowledge and connection to community members to address anti-black racism and discrimination. For her dedication and work on this issue she was the recipient of the 2017 Burnley "Rocky" Jones Human Rights Award, 2018 Canadian Association of Black lawyers "Pathfinder" award and the co-recipient of the 2017 Judge Corrine Sparks Award.

She is a member of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers, The African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition, and the Legal Education Action Fund (LEAF).

She currently resides in North Preston with her husband Dean and has three children - AJ, Angelina, Adre and a beautiful grandson Amari Antonio.



(L to R) DeRico Symonds, Burnley Jones and Tracey Jones-Grant

DBDLI Cohort Participant Receives Human Rights Award

One of our Master of Education in Counselling Cohort participants was the recipient of a Nova Scotia Human Rights Award.

DeRico Symonds, nominated by DBDLI's Coordinator Youth Initiatives and Projects and endorsed by the Institute, was recognized for his advocacy efforts to find solutions to some of our community's most pressing issues.

DeRico was awarded the Dr. Burnley "Rocky" Jones Award on International Human Rights Day, December 10, 2018, at the Halifax Central Library.



Evening at Government House

On Tuesday, February 26th, 2019 a public evening at Government House took place at Government House in observation of the 2019 African Heritage Month theme: “Our History is Your History”.



at-Arms at the Nova Scotia House of Assembly.

Sylvia presented the vision of the DBDLI as an Africentric Institute, that creates educational change for learners and communities of African ancestry

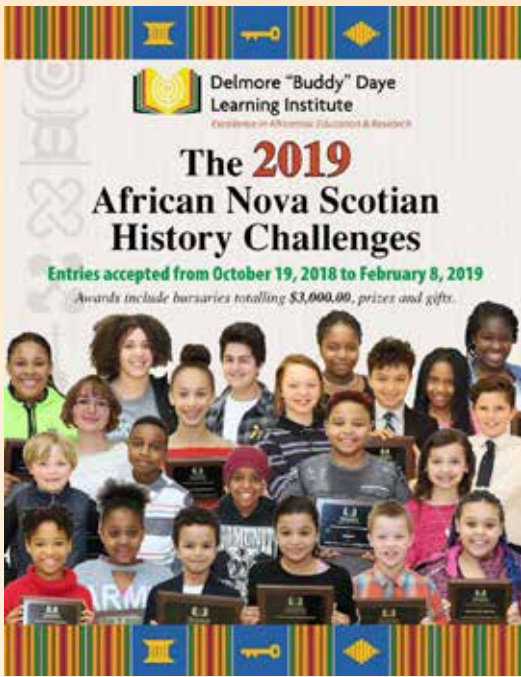
Sylvia Parris-Drummond, CEO of the DBDLI and Otis Daye, grandson of the late Delmore “Buddy” Daye co-presented a recount of the life of Delmore “Buddy” Daye and the work of the Institute named after him.

Otis’ presentation gave those in the audience in-depth insight into who Delmore “Buddy” Daye was and how he worked closely with young leaders to seek viable solutions to the very real problems of unemployment and sub-standard living conditions in the community. Daye went on to become the first African Nova Scotian to be appointed as Sergeant-

to have genuine opportunities to reach their full potential. Their presentation illustrated that the man - Delmore “Buddy” Daye - and the work of Institute are closely intertwined.

The evening concluded with a reception giving folks an opportunity to connect and explore Government House.

For additional photos of the event go to the Government House official website at: www.lt.gov.ns.ca



The 2019 African Nova Scotian History Challenge Awards

This year's celebration and awards ceremony was once again held at Chebucto Heights Elementary School. The venue was packed with students, teachers, family members and community who witnessed our largest group of award recipients yet.

To all the students and teachers who worked hard on all of the submissions we received, well done and a special congratulations to the Winners and the Honourable Mention recipients. Your submissions of various written and creative platforms best exemplified the contributions that African Nova Scotians have made to the history, heritage and culture of our province.

Congratulations and thank you for being part of this important initiative.

Challenge 1: Breaking News

Winners:

Hailey Phillips
Chebucto Heights, Grade 5, (Viola)

Kiki Boutlier
Eastern Shore District High School, Grade 10, (Kirk Johnson)

Honourable Mentions:

Evangeline Gribbin
St. Joseph's A. McKay, Grade 5, (Viola)

Randi Davidson, Scarlett Evans, & Skyler Harding
Madeline Symonds, Grade 8, (Eddie Carvery "rediscovered video")

Sakoda Colley
John MacNeil Elementary, Grade 5/6, (interview with Kirk Johnson)

Harmony Sharp, Mya Sisco, Jonan Abutu
Meadow Fields Community School, Grade 3/4 (Viola)

Grade 9 class, Ms. Janie Lumsden,
Dr. John Hugh Gillis, (video about Rocky)



Hailey Phillips



Kiki Boutlier



Randi Davidson, Scarlett Evans, & Skyler Harding



Evangeline Gribbin



Sakoda Colley



Grade 9 Class, Ms. Janie Lumsden

Challenge 2: African Nova Scotian Communities

Winners:

Natavia Gray

Cole Harbour High, Grade 10, (essay North Preston)

Grade 6 class, Ms. Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver

Fairview Heights, (Birchtown, Pit House, map, etc.)

Honourable Mentions:

Grade 4/5 class, Ms. Cherret

Nelson Whynder Elementary, ("segregation then and now")

Ms. Robinson & Mm. Quinn

Chebucto Heights, class ½ & 5/6 (map of NS with quiz/QR codes)

Tyairah Slawter

St Joseph A MacKay, Grade 5, (North Preston)

Grade 2 class

Basinview Drive, (history of Lucasville with QR codes)

Bryce Goodyear

Ross Road Elementary, Grade 7, (Edith Clayton)

Josh Desmond

Whitney Pier Middle School, Grade 7, (upper Big Tracadie)

Amanda Vuong

Sydney Academy, Grade 10, (Africville & King's Road Reserve)



Natavia Gray



Tyairah Slawter



Ms. Robinson & Mm. Quinn



grade 6 class, Ms. Cheyanne



Grade 4/5 class, Ms. Cherret

Challenge 3: Notable Nova Scotians

Winners:

Imogen Branden-McMullen

Eastern Shore District High, Grade 10, (Bucky Adams)

Jessica MacNeil

Sydney Academy, Grade 12, (Clotilda Yakimchuk, Royal Dalton Cup)

Alyvia Gaudet & Sage

Cromwell, Yarmouth Central School, Grade 6 (Bruce Johnson)

Honourable Mentions:

Sean Flinn

Caledonia Junior High, Grade 7, (Rocky Jones)

Braxtyn Jodrey-Dixon, Claire Cowen, Brooklyn Herasimko, Morgan Clarke & Cassie Malloy
Humber Park Elementary, Grade 5/6, (Maxine Tynes book)



Braxtyn Jodrey-Dixon, Claire Cowen, Brooklyn Herasimko, Morgan Clarke & Cassie Malloy



Grade 9 class, Ms. Jill Ernest



Grade 3 class, Ms. Jennifer Desmond

Michshiya Hill, Chevaiah Diggs, Abena Atwell, Natalia Colley, Audrina Borden

Bell Park Academic Centre, Grade 3/5, (Custio Clayton)

Mica Anderson

Madeline Symonds, Grade 8, Notable nomination (Lennett Anderson)

Grade 9 class, Ms. Jill Ernest

Madeline Symonds, (3 posters ANS women who made a difference)

Ivy Hodder

John MacNeil Elementary, Grade 5/6, (the ABC's of Shauntay Grant)

Jaya Anderson

St Joseph A MacKay, Grade 5, (Lindell Smith)

Jada Desmond

Dr. John Hugh Gillis, Grade 11, (no.2 Construction Battalion)

Grade 3 class, Ms. Jennifer Desmond

St. Andrews Consolidated School, (Notable Calendar)

Sara Letourneau & Nevaeh O'Connell

Ridgecliff Middle School, Grade 7 (Bishop Waterman)



Mica Anderson



Ivy Hodder



Jada Desmond



Ivy Sara Letourneau & Nevaeh O'Connell

Challenge 4: Top 10 Lists

Winners:

Jayda Atkins

North Queens, Grade 5, (top 10 athletes)

Honourable Mentions:

Grade 5, Ms. Kuranda Slaunwhite

*Harry R. Hamilton Elementary, (2 top 10 posters)
whole class (25 students)*

Cooper Small-Mailman & Aaron Carvery-Crawford
Westmount, Grade 6, (top 10 list)

Ryder Hennick, Davan MacDonald, Lemuela Ajuwon
Whitney Pier Middle School, Grade 7, (top 10, powerpoint)

Michael Cousins & Sam O'Driscoll

Porter's Lake Elementary, Grade 5/6, (top 10 sports)



Grade 5 class, Ms. Kuranda Slaunwhite



Jayda Atkins



Michael Cousins & Sam O'Driscoll

Challenge 5: A Day in the Life

Winners:

Josie Pottie and Charlotte Pottie

Madeline Symonds, Grade 6, (First Jobs poster)

Ying-Huang, Ho (Benson)

Millwood High School, Grade 11, (Underground Railroad)

Honourable Mentions:

Kyra Maritz

Madeline Symonds, grade 8, (the Land of Flowers)

Evelyn Nodwell

St Agnes Jr High, Grade 8, (painting family in ox cart)

Avril Barnes

St. Joseph's A. McKay, Grade 5, (A day in the life)

Riley Wells

Millwood High School, Grade 11, (The Journal of Emmitt Reynolds)



Josie Pottie & Charlotte Pottie



Kyra Maritz



Avril Barnes

Challenge 6: Express Yourself

Winners:

Talyssa Steiger & Michelle Mclsaac
Whitney Pier, Grade 7,
(mask, beads, dress & belt)

Kosten Giovannetti
Sydney Academy, Grade 12, (spoken word, Express Yourself, CD)

Honourable Mentions:

Aniqua Jalal
Park West, Grade 8, (woven basket)

Asiah Sparks
Caledonia Junior High, Grade 7, (poem B.L.A.C.K.)

Jenna Longmire
Digby Regional High School, Grade 9 (painting Black woman), (poem "Not Me")

Grades 8 & 9, Mr. O'Hearn & Ms. Munroe
Madeline Symonds (weaving art, 3 panels)

Arnezz Ellison
St. Joseph's A. McKay, Grade 5 (original song and recording, Cry,)

Tyasia Brooks-Connor
St. Joseph's A. McKay, Grade 6, (song and recording about Viola)

Kaelyn Ross-Richards
Brookhouse School, grade 4, woman with yellow turban

Cassie Kifle
Sir John A MacDonald, Grade 10, (Black woman with yellow crown, explanation)

Ngozi "Blessing" Kama
Sir John A MacDonald, Grade 12, (essay about culture)

Briley Hillyard
Dr. John Hugh Gillis High, Grade 9, (poem "Not Me")



Asiah Sparks



Tyasia Brooks-Connor



Jenna Longmire



Kaelyn Ross-Richards



Briley Hillyard



Ngozi "Blessing" Kama



Arnezz Ellison



Cassie Kifle

Top Schools List

Madeline Symonds
Ms. Karen Mahaney, Ms. Cathy Munroe, Ms. Keshna Williams, Ms. Allison Sydney, Mr. Peter O'Hern, Ms. Jill Ernest

St Joseph A MacKay
Ms. DeWare, Ms. O'Connor, Ms. Mott

Ridgecliff Middle School
Mr. Godfrey Sampson, Mme. Tanya MacDonald, Mr. Moore

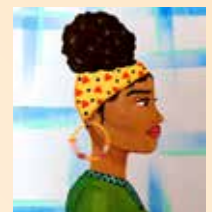
St Agnes Jr High
Bonita Fougere, Ms. Joanne Boutilier

Westmount Elementary
Ms. Kelly Boyle, Ms. Westhaver, Ms. Deanna Gibson

Chebucto Heights
Ms. White, Ms. MacKenzie, Ms. Ramourar, Ms. Brooks, Ms. Poitras, Ms. Heisler, Ms. Robinson, Ms. Quinn

Whitney Pier Memorial Middle School
Ms. Tara Vincent

Sydney Academy
Mr. Michael MacNamara





MSVU Panel Discussion on Being Black in the Education System

On February 11, DeRico Symonds, Black Student Support Coordinator at MSVU, moderated a panel discussion entitled Being Black in the Education System.



(L to R) DeRico Symonds, Lindell Smith, Chanae Parsons, Sophia Wedderburn and Rex Charlton

One of the event objectives was to help educate attendees about the challenges, successes and barriers of Black Nova Scotians who have gone through the education system or who are currently in the education system.

Panelists included Halifax Councillor Lindell Smith, DBDLI's Chanae Parsons, Citadel High School student (Grade 11) Sophia Wedderburn, and MSVU student Rex Charlton. All brought different and important perspectives to the conversation based on their own personal experiences within the education system.

The event was well attended by a broad mix of professionals, students, teachers and community members from HRM, many of whom engaged in and enhanced the conversations that took place throughout the evening.

Promotion of Black History Text Book to NSTU Membership

As part of African Heritage Month the Institute, in partnership with the Nova Scotia Teachers Union ran a contest to increase awareness about the new DBDLI education resource entitled *Black History Africa The Caribbean and The Americas* and information about of the Institute programs and initiatives.

NSTU members were asked to explore the DBDLI website to find the Proverb/Word of the month and send their answer in for a random draw to win one of our Notable Nova Scotian Posters.

Congratulations to the winner of the draw, Ms. Brandi Kozuch of J.L. Ilsley School.



African Word Meaning: Sankofa

Sankofa is an African word from the Akan tribe in Ghana. Sankofa teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. That is, we should reach back and gather the best of what our



past has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward.

Coming this Spring!



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The DBDLI Scholarships and Bursaries Listing for
African Canadian Students - 2019 Edition



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If you have an interest in knowing more about the DBDLI and what role you can play in helping to improve the academic achievement of African Nova Scotia learners and educators, contact us.
Call us at **902.407.3200**, or check out our website at www.dbdli.ca