



Delmore "Buddy" Daye  
Learning Institute  
*Excellence in Africentric Education*



# Youth Mentorship Project

*Chanae Parsons*

Coordinator of Youth Projects & Initiatives

The Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute

Tel. (902) 407-3200 - Fax (902) 407-3263



## About the Delmore 'Buddy' Daye Learning Institute

The Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute (DBDLI) is a direct result of the work done by the Black Learners Advisory Committee (BLAC) established in 1991 by the Nova Scotian Department of Education (now Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development). The Establishment of an Institute with an Africentric approach to African Canadian Education was one of the key recommendations of the BLAC report in 1994. Much of the research conducted by the BLAC was accomplished using Participatory Action Research (PAR). This approach mobilized the African Nova Scotian community and engaged parents and students alike to identify issues within the education system, and allowed them to become part of the solution to these problems. It is within this context that the DBDLI seeks to sustain grassroots approach to resolving the problems that confront African Canadian/Nova Scotian learners and educators.

The DBDLI is the center of knowledge and research on Africentric theories and practices endorsed by the provincial government and the three sister organizations whose mandate is to support African Nova Scotian learners and communities. The priority is to strive to improve educational outcomes, and inform policy about African Canadian/Nova Scotian learners from preschool, through college and informal adult learning. It seeks to understand and improve the standard of education for African Nova Scotian learners from preschool to adult education (formal and informal) and for educators through Africentric Educational Research and practices. DBDLI was established in 2012 and continues to advance the debate on educational reform to ensure success for African Nova Scotian Learners.

## Project Overview

DBDLI's *Africentric Leadership Mentoring* event held on May 12, 2017 at the YMCA Auditorium, Gottingen Street Halifax, and the *Africentric Career Exploration* event held on May 26, 2017 facilitated the enhancement of African Nova Scotian youth leadership growth and connections were made throughout the province. Building from those events, this new project, '*YOUbuntu– Youth Mentorship*' recognizes the skills and strengths inherent to African Nova Scotian youth and will support the continued development of youth (grades 10, 11, and 12) leadership networks. In addition, it will enhance the skills of African Nova Scotian youth in senior high and develop junior high youth leadership skills. The project, through a mentorship and skills enhancement model, will develop a tribe (ancestral family) of youth who will be knowledge providers to youth junior to them.

The Africentric philosophy of Ubuntu that teaches the value of teamwork, collaboration, equality, helpfulness, appreciation, trust and respect is the framework upon which the project is based. The

*Chanae Parsons*

Coordinator of Youth Projects & Initiatives

The Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute

Tel. (902) 407-3200 - Fax (902) 407-3263



project is organized with Ubuntu in mind it as it embodies the ideas of connection, community, and mutual caring for all and Ubuntu begins with **YOU**.

DBDLI invites all 8 school boards to participate in the project. The expectation is that each board identifies 8 senior youth leaders (from grades 10, 11, and 12) to participate in the first phase and that each board engages a minimum of 15 junior youth (elementary and junior high levels) in the second phase. We are prepared to offer each board a travel stipend plus additional support for accommodations, as needed, to allow youth not residing in the host area to participate.

In the first phase, senior youth will participate in a "train the trainer" experience for a day of hands on learning of African drumming and spoken word poetry facilitated by Master Drummers **Dr. Henry Bishop, Adrian Bishop, Sobaz Benjamin**, and spoken word artist **Verena Rizg**. Participants will receive a 'YO**Ubuntu** Youth Mentorship Development Toolkit'. This Toolkit will include the necessary material and resources needed for the day. It will also be a reference guide to teach students the history and importance of both African drumming and spoken word poetry. Participating boards will also receive 2 Trainer/Education Kits. These kits will include djembe drum(s), markers, note paper, and additional necessities needed for the project.

In phase two, youth leaders will transfer leadership skills, through the application of Africentric values, to youth junior to them in an approach of their choice. The approach is to be approved and reviewed by DBDLI's Coordinator of Youth Initiatives and Projects.

### **YO**Ubuntu**'s Project Goals**

- ❖ To showcase the African centred ways of being through creative use of drumming & oral story telling.
- ❖ To promote community collaboration values through the model of learning from each other.
- ❖ To enhance the skills of African Nova Scotian youth in senior and develop junior high youth leadership skills.
- ❖ To support the development of leadership networks of African Nova Scotian youth leaders.
- ❖ To have African Nova Scotian youth interact with African Nova Scotian mentors in their local communities and beyond.

### **Logistics**

'YO**Ubuntu** – Youth Mentorship Project will commence on **December 2, 2017** at the Nova Scotia Community College Truro Campus, 36 Arthur Street, Truro, Nova Scotia, B2N 1X5, from **9:00am to 3:30pm**. Snacks, drinks as well as a light lunch will be provided.

*Chanae Parsons*

Coordinator of Youth Projects & Initiatives  
The Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute  
Tel. (902) 407-3200 - Fax (902) 407-3263



in **phase one**, Youth leaders will participate in two workshops on, (1) African drumming (2) spoken word poetry. Youth leaders will learn about the power and history of the African Drum, proper sounds, technique and the age-old tradition of drumming. In the spoken word workshop, youth leaders will learn of its history, how to write poetry, and tips on memorizing and performing poetry.

In **phase two**, youth leaders will return to their school to plan and develop a one-day practical learning experience where they will emulate their learnings of either African drumming or spoken word poetry to a minimum of 15 youth junior to them. The approach will be unique to each board; however, the DBDLI Coordinator of Youth Projects and Initiatives commits to attend a minimum of two of these gatherings. DBDLI will collaborate with all involved to assist in planning each workshop to oversee, and ensure its success.

Success will be measured by a compilation of reports (one report through either pictorial, video and/or written, per board upon conclusion of the project) and surveys given to and returned by all participants involved. A final report will be created by DBDLI's Coordinator of Youth Initiatives and Projects to be shared with all participating school boards and the projects funder, the province of Nova Scotia.

## Registration

For the initial event, each youth leader will complete a registration form to secure their participation. DBDLI asks that each school board identifies and recruits interested student/youth participants. Please return all completed registration forms to the DBDLI Office at 5539 Cornwallis Street, Halifax or by email to [chanae.parsons@DBDLI.ca](mailto:chanae.parsons@DBDLI.ca) no later than **November 20, 2017** so that we can efficiently prepare for the event.

## Conclusion

DBDLI would like to thank you for your continued support of initiatives and projects for African Canadian/Nova Scotian youth. It is our hope that this opportunity will enrich African Canadian/Nova Scotian leadership capabilities and allow them to see themselves as active agents of change in their communities. DBDLI would like to express gratitude and humbly acknowledge the financial support of the Province of Nova Scotia through the 150 Forward grants. We look forward to collaborating with all Nova Scotia school boards and their partners to create an initiative that we hope will benefit African Nova Scotian youth today, and impact positive change in our communities in the years to come.

*Chanae Parsons*

Coordinator of Youth Projects & Initiatives  
The Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute  
Tel. (902) 407-3200 - Fax (902) 407-3263