

The mission of the The Delores Taylor Arthur School for Young Men is to inspire in inner city males in grades K-12 a lifelong love of learning and pursuit of academic excellence, to promote understanding of and respect for the values that makes our society strong, and to encourage a life which embodies a commitment to service to others. The mission is carried out by a school community that is committed

- to developing intellectual abilities such as scholarship and disciplined, critical thinking;
- to fostering in each student integrity, ethical behavior, compassion, and a sense of humor;
- to promoting responsibility and leadership, an appreciation of individual and cultural differences, and a respect for the opinions of others;
- to nurturing aesthetic abilities such as creativity, imagination, musical, and visual talent; and
- to encouraging healthy living through physical fitness.

All members of the Delores Taylor Arthur School for Young Men community strive to create an educational environment that reflects the School's core values of academic excellence, leadership, tolerance and citizenship, one in which each student can thrive. We believe that a program based on these core values will prepare our students to be effective leaders and citizens as they embrace the challenges and opportunities of the future.

VISION:

The Delores Taylor Arthur School for Young Men will be a nationally recognized K-12 school for males that will celebrate academic achievement, extracurricular success, and amelioration of the human condition through community involvement.

So why this school? The issue is about the urban male who in spite of gains in some areas, still lags behind his counterparts as well as women. Speaking plainly, urban males really refers to Black and Brown males.

While demographers project that by 2050, the United States population will see a demographic shift , there will be immediate change in the population of youth

as early as 2018 when children of color will become the majority of youth age 18 years and younger, (Frey, 2014) This changing population pattern means that we must find ways to develop the talents of young men of color in order to increase US ability to compete effectively in a global market. (Wagner& Benavente-McEnry 2006) Sadly, Boys and Young Men of Color(BMOC) are an underutilized talent pool.

President Obama created the My Brother's Keeper Federal Task Force. Their study laid out the grim facts about the state of BMOC in society. It is argued that most grow up in impoverished households and in communities with disproportionately high rates of poverty. They attend high poverty low performing schools with inexperienced teachers and fewer opportunities to enroll in advanced course. It is also clear that BMOC have weak employment skills and thus have few options when they hit the job market.

The Task Force offered a number of solutions but our mission focuses upon three.

1. Achieving school readiness must be a priority. Parents and teachers who asked about BOC, tend to focus on their behavior rather than their cognitive development. This places the BOC at a distinct disadvantage when he enters school and is compared to his peers.

2. Achieving reading competence by Third Grade is critical. This emphasis upon the behavior of the boy, places him well behind his peers

3. Focus on high school completion is crucial. The primary reason cited for lack of completion is a negative high school experience.

The school is confident that we have the appropriate scale strategy to accomplish these three tasks, First, we will offer professional development programs and parental education that is geared to helping teachers and parents to understand the challenges faced by the BMOC. You will see that we have found a mission-critical partner in Dr. Tommy Curry of Texas A& M University who will work with us to deliver that education. Second our investment in literacy will be robust. Students will have at least 135 minutes of English Language Arts instruction during the early years and will be supported by a differentiated reading program that has produced string results in schools across the nation. Finally, we are committed to making the high school experience a good one. Our mission-critical partners at Emory University and The Global Debate Symposium will enable us to deliver a a program in debating to our students. You will read in the narrative that at-risk students who participate in debate are overwhelmingly more likely to compete school than their counterparts who did not. The investment that

we will make in a music program has significant neurological benefits that will improve cognition.

Successful schools are data driven and that will be our approach. Regular assessments, tracking growth, and having individual plans for each student is how we will approach education. Year round school and a later start to the day will also be of significant benefit.

We are confident that New Orleans will benefit from The Delores Taylor Arthur School for Young Men. With the lives of BMOC being lost in horrific and historic numbers, it is time to invest the time and resources in a holistic approach to educating our BMOC. We are ready for the challenge.