



*Mercy High School Human Relations Council (HRC) and Black Awareness Society for Education (BASE) are proud to present:*

## **THE BLACK HISTORY MONTH ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25 (KC)**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26 (SF)**

**10:15 – 11:25 AM**

This year's assembly will be virtual! Although it may look a little different, as always, the BHMA will deliver insightful, educational, and thought-provoking messages for all. Our theme for this year is:

### **BLACK ACTIVISM**

HRC and BASE have assembled a panel of distinguished members, and we thank them for bringing their experiences, knowledge, and awareness of black activism to our school. We also thank our student body for submitting stimulating questions for dialogue to be discussed by our panelists.

*And now . . . we are excited to share our panelists with you!  
Please read about them prior to the assembly! Impressive, aren't they?*

#### **Sr. Cora Marie Billings, RSM (Feb. 25 & 26)**



Sister Cora Marie has been a member of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas since 1956. From 1956 until 1981, she was a teacher at the elementary and high school level and a part-time professor at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Since her move to Virginia in 1981, she has served as a Campus Minister at Virginia State University, the Directress of the Office for Black Catholics for the Diocese of Richmond, the Pastoral Coordinator for St. Elizabeth and Holy Rosary Parishes in Richmond, and the Deputy Director for the Human Rights Council for the State of Virginia. At present, she considers herself a Community Volunteer. Some of Sister Cora Marie's passionate involvements include the National Black Catholic Sisters Conference (as a founding member), anti-racism work, and work as a board member of several organizations and schools in Virginia.

## Donna Givens Davidson (Feb. 26 only)



Donna Givens Davidson has over 35 years' nonprofit leadership experience in areas of youth and family development, community economic development, community partnerships, and community education. Over the years, she has developed and implemented demonstration programs and worked in partnership with a number of youth, serving organizations with the consistent goal of increasing opportunity, building capacity, and fostering growth.

Now serving as President and CEO of Eastside Community Network as well as Lecturer at Columbia University School of Professional Studies, Ms. Givens Davidson formerly served as President of the Youth Development Commission, CEO of Visions Education Development Consortium, LLC, Executive Director of Vanguard CDC, Vice President Programs, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit and in leadership positions at several other nonprofit organizations.

She also serves as Vice Chair for Pewabic Pottery; board member of New Detroit, Inc., Michigan College Access Network, and Urban Research Centers; member of the Bridge Detroit Magazine Advisory Council and the Charles H. Wright Community Advisory and Action Council; and Steering Committee Member for the Lower Eastside Action Plan, Building the Engine for Community Development in Detroit and the Detroit Resident's First Fund.

Ms. Givens Davidson co-hosts a weekly podcast, Authentically Detroit, with Orlando Bailey.

Ms. Givens Davidson has earned a Masters of Ed Leadership from Wayne State University, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Michigan and a Certificate of Completion from the Harvard University Summer Leadership Institute.

## Marshele Parker (Feb. 25 & 26)



Marshele Parker is a Mercy alumna representing the class of 2018 and now attends the #1 Public HBCU North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University studying Political Science and Public Relations. Outside of her studies, Marshele possesses a strong passion for freedom of expression which is demonstrated through her non-profit organization, The Black Activist Mobility Network (BAMN) working to mobilize Metro-Detroit towards progressive causes and serving Detroit's BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) population and her online fashion blog known as @29sheleresell on Instagram. Her favorite quote is "Use your Power to Empower."

## Jamon Jordan (February 25 only)



Jamon Jordan is an educator, writer & historian. Also known as Baba Jamon, he has been a teacher of African & African American history for 20 years and a researcher of Black history for decades.

Jordan taught social studies in Detroit and other districts for 20 years. He now runs Black Scroll Network History & Tours, where he leads tours and presentations dealing with African & African American history in the Detroit area, and throughout Michigan and the United States.

He has given over 100 tours and presentations for Detroit Public Schools, Walled Lake Public Schools, and numerous charter schools, as well as university class groups from Wayne State University, Michigan State University, Georgetown University, New York University & the University of Michigan.

He has presented lectures and workshops for the city of Detroit, as well as schools, churches, and organizations, including Second Baptist Church, Fellowship Chapel United Church of Christ, Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, Oak Grove AME Church, St. David's Episcopal Church, the Detroit Historical Society, the Historical Society of Michigan, the Jewish Historical Society, and the Underground Railroad National Conference.

His lectures and tours on Detroit's African American history has been featured in the National Geographic, Financial Times, Detroit News, the Detroit Free Press, CBS Radio, Deadline Detroit, NPR, C-SPAN, CNN, the History Channel, Detroit Public TV, WDET, Michigan Radio, 1200 WCHB, 910 AM, and WHPR.

Jamon Jordan has been featured in a number of documentaries and has served as the historical consultant for a number of films and plays about Detroit.

Along with being the founder & CEO of Black Scroll Network History & Tours, he is also the co-founder of the Black Scroll Study Group, an educational research organization that takes a study tour to a different site each year that is important to African & African American History.

Jordan serves as the President of the Detroit branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH Detroit), which is the Detroit chapter of the organization responsible for Black History Month. Baba Jamon also is a Board of Trustee for the Historical Society of Michigan.

Jamon Jordan has written for a number of publications including, Michigan History, Michigan History for Kids and Chronicle, all publications of the Historical Society of Michigan. He has also written about Detroit's Black History for Detour Detroit and Yes! Magazine.

Jamon Jordan is committed to African & African American History and teaching it to as many people who will listen.

## Victor Saadiq A. Muhammad (Feb. 25 & 26)



Victor Saadiq A. Muhammad is a Student Minister in The Nation of Islam and Community Activist. Mr. Muhammad served as Nation of Islam Director of Prison Reform Ministry in the State of Michigan and 7th Region for 20 years. He was also the Vice Chairman of Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) Chaplain's Advisory Council that works in conjunction with (MDOC) in setting inmate policy and mandates. Mr. Muhammad also served as Chaplain of Islamic Faith for the Wayne County Jail system.

Mr. Muhammad conducted the Life Connections Training for eight years in Milan Federal Correctional Facility for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He also currently sits on The Detroit Chief of Police Community Advisory Council, The Detroit Youth Violence Prevention Initiative Steering Committee, The Detroit Cease Fire Initiative Sub Committee, The Youth Violence Task Force, The Detroit Community Clergy Alliance, The Youth Deterrent Program, The Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Board, Michigan Prophetic Voices, The Clergy Leadership Advisory Council, The Faith and Justice Advisory Council, The Governor's Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnership, and the Healing Communities of Michigan Board.

Victor Muhammad oversaw the religious programming and ministry for The Nation of Islam in over 120 state, and 13 federal facilities in the states of Michigan and Florida. He also oversaw the religious programming and ministry for Muslim inmates in the Wayne County Jail system and conducted a Student Outreach Program at Osborn, Denby and Finney/East English Village, Mumford, and Cody High Schools in metropolitan Detroit. Victor Muhammad conducted manhood training at Goodwill Detroit's Flip the Script program for 12 years. He served as Student Conflict Resolution Specialist at Thomas Edison Elementary school and conducts a Young Men's Mentoring program at Spectrum Children and Human Services. Mr. Muhammad has been instrumental in conducting interventions with gang members after shootings, orchestrating truces that have reduced retaliatory shootings and homicides in the Denby and Osborn areas. He is the Conflict Resolution Trainer for The Detroit Peacemakers, 10,000 Fearless of Detroit Conflict Resolution Center as directed by The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan at Justice or Else 10/10/15.

Victor Muhammad was one of fifty delegates from across the United States to attend President Obama's National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention in Washington DC. He was chosen to be a facilitator of the breakout session: "Getting Out and Staying Out, A Reentry Conversation." The National Forum was established by President Barack Obama to build comprehensive solutions to prevent and reduce youth violence.

Victor Muhammad is a Reid & Associates Certified Trained Interrogator and Professional Interviewer.

Mr. Muhammad earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Marketing from Chicago State University and has received numerous awards and more than 150 certificates and commendations for his community service and activism including The Michigan Chronicle 2015 Men of Excellence Award, The Spirit of Detroit Award 2010, The Chance for Life Organization Humanitarian Award 2010, The Wayne County Commissioner Award for Service and The NAACP Humanitarian Award for Service 2008.