

## **Mychal Wynn Introduction**

Our speaker today, hails from Roswell, Georgia. He is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation for Ensuring Access and Equity whose mission is to work with students and families from underserved student groups to prepare students for early entry into the college prep pipeline and ensuring that students have comprehensive 7-year middle-through-high school plans that prepare them for college and careers.

Unlike those who have philosophies about what we should be doing in our schools without any hands-on experiences with our students and families, or those who establish policies without truly understanding the day-to-day challenges to U.S. public education, Mr. Wynn has a set of experiences that provide him with unique insight into the challenges facing us and has worked hands-on with thousands of students, parents, and staff to develop solutions to the many problems that challenge student achievement, high school graduation, and college matriculation.

Mr. Wynn has firsthand knowledge of the challenges that students face as an unplanned, unwanted, undernourished, and impoverished baby, born in a shotgun shack in segregated Pike County, Alabama, during the year of Montgomery Bus Boycott. Mr. Wynn entered school as an under privileged and under prepared child, lacking school readiness, and demonstrating what many would call, social skills deficits.

After being given up for adoption and raised by a loving, but poor, family living in Chicago's South Side Urban Ghetto, Mr. Wynn entered a string of high poverty, high crime, inner city public schools where his failure was predicted by teachers, where the destruction of his life was pursued by street gangs, and where his potential was decried by data that defined him as desperate, despicable, deplorable, disdained, and capable of being discarded. However, Mr. Wynn did not allow his beginning to determine his outcome, or society's perceptions to define his potential.

Mr. Wynn survived America's most dangerous street gangs, in a city, which at the time had the highest homicide rate in the United States. He graduated from one of the lowest performing public high schools

in the America and went on to graduate with honors from Boston's Northeastern University as his family's first college graduate.

Mr. Wynn has traveled the country and transverse the globe for over twenty-five years as an author, researcher, educator, orator, motivator, and visionary consultant. He has taught children in every school setting from elementary school through alternative school, has taught adults at the U.S. Department of Labor, has worked with parents from high poverty low-performing schools to the country's most affluent schools, and has provided staff development for over one hundred thousand teachers and staff. Mr. Wynn has risen from the ranks of little known adoptee to becoming an internationally renowned educational consultant and academic thinker.

An author of 26 published books, Board member of the National Council for Educating Black Children, co-chairperson of the Education Ministry at Turner Chapel AME Church, in Marietta, Georgia, and founder of the nonprofit foundation, "The Foundation for Ensuring Access and Equity," where he serves as the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Wynn is a highly successful innovator, philanthropist, visionary, and entrepreneur.

However, of all of the accolades bestowed upon him and awards that he has received, Mr. Wynn is proudest of the fact that he has been married to Nina Wynn for 22 years, and is the proud father of Mychal-David Wynn, currently attending Amherst College, and Jalani Wynn, entering the 11<sup>th</sup> grade at North Springs High School in Atlanta, Georgia where he is pursuing his passion in music.

Mr. Wynn's life experiences have shaped his work, his writing, his parenting, his pedagogy, and his faith. The quote at the end of the first chapter in his autobiography, *"Follow Your Dreams,"* a book that has been lovingly embraced by youth whom he is currently working with in the Los Angeles County Juvenile Court Schools, captures his personal philosophy, and reflects a belief that should be embraced by every teacher and counselor working with young people,

*"Where you come from does not determine where you are going, only where you began."*

(Optional)

It is with great pleasure that I present to some and reacquaint with others an exceptional, efficacious, and extraordinary educator; admirable, acclaimed, and accomplished author; honorable, humble, and highly respected husband; prodigious, persistent, and preeminent parent; and an unwavering advocate for under served and under represented students...the marvelous, magnificent and meritorious Mr. Mychal Wynn!