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THE PRATT PROMISE

Why We Matter - Our Story

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Fall 2020

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THE PROMISE

THE SULLIVAN - DECKARD SCHOLARS OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM IS A BOLD NEW INITIATIVE. THE PROGRAM TARGETS YOUTH WHO ARE AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE AND HELPS THEM TO MAKE A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENT LIVING, FACILITATE THEIR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF UNDERGRADUATE REQUIREMENTS TO EARN A BACHELOR'S DEGREE, AND REALIZE BOTH PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH TO LEAD A SATISFYING LIFE...WE BELIEVE THAT THE SULLIVAN - DECKARD SCHOLARS OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM IS UNIQUE AND INNOVATIVE WITH POTENTIAL TO BECOME AN EXEMPLAR MODEL FOR OTHER INSTITUTIONS AS THEY CONSIDER STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGING NEEDS OF YOUTH WHO AGE OUT OF FOSTER CARE, GO ON TO COLLEGE TO PURSUE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE.

CHARLEYSE S. PRATT, PH.D.
TAKEN FROM 2015 SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS
OCTOBER 12, 2015



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

EXCERPTS FROM INTERVIEW WITH BOARD MEMBER DEBBIE JOSEPH

Q: What is the name of your organization and what is your role?

A: The organization is called National Council of Jewish Women/Cleveland, or NCJW/CLE. My role has evolved throughout the years. I have chaired many committees including foster care and all of our literacy committees and served on many more. I have been a board member for many years, and I served as Vice President of community service from 2015-2018.

Q: What is your connection with the Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship Opportunity Program?

A: NCJW/CLE fills in some of the gaps that a University or academic institution does not provide. During non-Covid times, we arranged potlucks for the scholars and provided programming – like trips to plays and Escape Rooms and the Botanical Gardens – during Winter and Spring breaks. We are there for move-ins and graduations and other celebrations and emergency phone calls.

Q: How is your organization different from others of its kind?

A: We really are a purely volunteer organization! We have almost 2,000 members (women AND men) who volunteer in the community.

Q: How do you unite the mission of your organization with the community?

A: We live out our mission of changing the lives of women, children and families every day. We're entrenched in the community. We work in libraries, schools, and senior centers throughout the city. We foster a love of reading through our Partners in Literacy programs. We share Jewish traditions. We offer resources to help the special needs community through LiveSpecial.com. We teach our members how to advocate. We rally behind some of the biggest issues – like foster care, women's reproductive justice and voting. The list goes on.

Q: With the global and national events of this Spring season, how do you create opportunities to assemble a dialogue surrounding the persistent issues of race, inclusion, respect for health and life?

A: The pandemic has made it easier to gather everyone for conversations through zoom calls and meetings. We have virtual events on mental health during Covid-19, and the increase in human trafficking during this time. We recently collaborated with first year Cleveland for a showing of Toxic: A Black Woman's Story. Followed by a discussion with Katrice Cain – Racial disparities and health equity program director of first year Cleveland. We also participated in a 21-day racial justice challenge with the YWCA and The Jewish Federation of Cleveland – and facilitated two discussion groups on the work.

Q: In your interactions with humanity at large, what one or two fundamental components have you learned about people?

A: We are more similar than we are different. People want to be seen and heard for who they are, and loved and appreciated for who they are.



Community Partner
Board Member
Debbie Joseph



SCAN THE CODE TO HEAR
THE ENTIRE INTERVIEW.
YOU WILL NEED TO
DOWNLOAD A FREE QR
CODE READER APP ON
ON YOUR SMARTPHONE,
IPAD, OR TABLET



EXCERPTS FROM INTERVIEW WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LAURA GEUTHER

Q: What is your connection with the Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship opportunity program?

A: Fill This House has provided “dorm kits” to the incoming freshmen in the Scholarship program since inception. The kits include items such as bedding, bath supplies, cleaning products, kitchen supplies and much more.

Q: How does your organization improve the community?

A: We help young adults who have aged out of foster care by providing essential items needed to maintain an independent life. These items are for their bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, cleaning products, bus passes and a starter \$50 food gift card. These items are all NEW as we want to make sure our clients feel worthy and that others truly care about them and their future.

Q: How is your organization different from others of its kind?

A: We are almost completely a volunteer organization and the only one of its kind that provide these essential items to young adults between 18-24 with their basic necessities.

Q: What are some things that people may not know about your organization?

A: We are a Christian organization and our main goal is to ensure that our clients know that perfect strangers care about their future success. We have been helping young adults in Cuyahoga County for over 13 years. We have provided for over 800 young people in our community.

Q: How do you unite the mission of your organization with the community?

A: Fill This House partners with Community of Hope. COH is a mentoring organization that also serves the young people that FTH serves. Together we provide items necessary for independence as well as supportive adults willing to help these young people feel supported and loved and move forward in a productive manner.

Q: With the global and national events of this Spring season, how do you create opportunities to assemble a dialogue surrounding the persistent issues of race, inclusion, respect for health, and life?

A: We meet our clients in their apartment when we drop off our items to them. We try to model love and respect through our conversations. We get to spend time with our client; we hope they feel love, support, and no judgement.

Q: In your interactions with humanity at large, what one or two fundamental components have you learned about people?

A: All people need to be seen, loved, and respected for who they are in our society. Each person is worthy of these basic needs.



Community Partner
Executive Director Laura
Geuther



SCAN THE CODE TO HEAR THE ENTIRE INTERVIEW. YOU WILL NEED TO DOWNLOAD A FREE QR CODE READER APP ON ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, IPAD, OR TABLET



Fall 2020 Fireside Chat Series Dr. Antoine D. Moss - Guest Speaker

FIRESIDE CHAT DEFINITION:

A solution driven community-based conversation about how to best support aged out youth and persons who have experienced foster care. Discourse on supporting and aiding them in returning to institutions of higher learning across the state of Ohio and the country, because of the COVID-19 global Pandemic in the 2020-2021 academic year.

"I am the CEO of my own dreams, and there is nothing you can do about it." With this powerful testament, motivational speaker Dr. Antoine D. Moss, our Fireside chat guest speaker shared how he allowed his life's work to become the response to the naysayers and disparagers who counted him out along the passageway to education, success, and prosperity. One by one – he showed them all.

From the city streets of East Cleveland, Ohio he learned lessons within his brotherhood of brothers who were hard workers and athletes, and who proved that at some moments, you have to just create your own playbook to get things accomplished.

Dr. Moss is a successful entrepreneur, and a best-selling author. Dr. Moss earned his doctoral degree from Cleveland State University (CSU) - being the youngest African-American male to graduate with a Ph.D. The Fireside chat was accented by the heartfelt expressions of present and past Sullivan-Deckard scholars.

Youngest African American Male to graduate w/Ph.D.

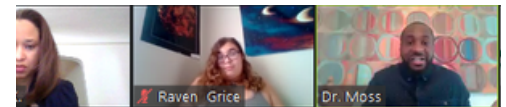


Scan the code to hear an excerpt from Dr. Moss's discourse.

You will need to download a free qr code reader app on your smartphone, ipad, or tablet.



We hope you will join us for our next Fireside chat on October 14th @ 4:30pm



y personal pandemic
grew up in an impoverished e
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was told that I was a poor wri
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Man of Inspiration

Division of Diversity, Inclusion and University Engagement

& Friends presents

FALL 2020

FIRESIDE CHAT

Virtual SERIES

"EXTRAORDINARY CONVERSATIONS FOR EXTRA-ORDINARY TIMES."

AGENDA

Welcome - Dynasty Moorer - Senior, Social Work | Intern, OIAME

Fireside Introduction - Jarrett G. Pratt, M. Ed | Director of Student Success, The Pratt Center

Ice Maker - Gerald Skillern, Soloist

Conversations 4 Success -

- Raven Grice - Sophomore, Studio Art | Sullivan-Deckard Scholar
- Gloria Horton Jones - Junior, Social Work | JCSU
- Brianna Baynes - Grad Student, Nursing | Alumni Sullivan-Deckard Scholar | Navigator, OIAME

Introduction of Guest Speaker - Jarrett G. Pratt, M. Ed

Guest Speaker - Dr. Antoine D. Moss

Q&A | Closing Remarks

Follow us on social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/Cleveland-State-University-Aged-out-foster-youth-destination-graduation-106952667605274>

Introducing Our New Sullivan-Deckard Scholars: Cohort Six

Jacob Burns

Q: Despite the global and national events of the Spring, (Riots, COVID-19) what are you most excited about?

A: I'm excited about exploring my opportunities. The most thrilling part of my adventure during this year has just started at Cleveland State University... I am excited to prove myself to others.

Q: What keeps you going?

A: My family and friends play a huge part in my life. They support me through any challenge. I find inspiration in anything because it is the best way to stay positive.

Q: What mental message did you receive from the Riots?

A: The protests that took place after the sad passing of George Floyd... pave[d] a direction to making a meaningful statement...Actions were taken to get those statements across for everyone to hear... Even with some protests being handled in different ways, to me I still believe that there is some good to all of this.

Q: Have you taken a moment to celebrate yourself?

A: ...Knowing that I can speak my mind more freely. And being able to know when I need to ask for help is all I need to feel happy.

Q: How did you do so?

A: Celebrating for me is laying down at the end of the night feeling excited to wake up for the next day.

Tiranay Campbell

Q: Despite the global and national events of the Spring, (Riots, COVID-19) what are you most excited about?

A: I am most excited about graduating college.

Q: What keeps you going?

A: Looking towards the future it's what keeps me going. I always think "it doesn't matter about what I go through now, it matters how It'll help me become better

Q: What mental message did you receive from the Riots?

A: I noticed I needed to do a self-evaluation.

Q: Have you taken a moment to celebrate yourself?

A: Yes, I have! Once I graduated, I named all my achievements, and I celebrated how far I've come.

Q: How did you do so?

A: I got a hotel for myself to celebrate my achievements. It felt so good to finally cater to myself because I earned it.



Jacob Burns



Tiranay Campbell
and her
Great-Grandmother

Alexus McWilliams

Q: Despite the global and national events of the Spring, (Riots, COVID-19) what are you most excited about?

A: I am excited about surviving the fall with good grades and new friends.

Q: What keeps you going?

A: My family keeps me going. I have proved to myself that I can be a role model to sisters and brothers and also knowing that when I'm done, I have a lifelong career.

Q: What mental message did you receive from the Riots?

A: The message that I received from them would be that we still need change in the black community.

Q: Have you taken a moment to celebrate yourself?

A: Yes

Q: How did you do so?

A: I went shopping.

Q: We are honored to have you! Why did you choose us? How did we manage to capture your attention?

A: The choice was undeniable. I wanted to better myself and the opportunity was given.



Alexus McWilliams

CONTINUING THE PROMISE

FROM THE DESK OF JARRETT PRATT

Friends:

Today, despite unprecedented challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, The Pratt Center – Fostering Success and Leadership Program’s primary goal remains steadfast. Our mission is to provide resources to any CSU student that has experienced the foster care system and would like to pursue a short-term work credential or undergraduate degree.

In my role as Director of Student Success for the Pratt Center, I recognize the tremendously special responsibility represented at this moment. My commitment to you and all of the students we serve is to provide a data-driven timely reporting as well as detailed and inclusive solutions that seek to prepare us for the challenges that lie ahead.

The Pratt Center is committed to the increased recruitment, inclusion, retention, and completion of youth transitioning out of foster care and non-traditional students who have experienced the foster care system.

Through continual strategic community engagement and professional development of the University community, the Center demonstrates its commitment to fostering a culture and climate for equitable outcomes.

Jarrett G. Pratt, M.Ed Director of Student Success,
Pratt Ctr. Cleveland State University
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(216) 687-9388, j.g.pratt@csuohio.edu



THE SCHOLARS CREED

Excerpt from The Marva Collins Way

SOCIETY WILL DRAW A CIRCLE THAT SHUTS ME OUT. BUT MY SUPERIOR THOUGHTS WILL DRAW ME IN.

I WAS BORN TO WIN, IF I DO NOT SPEND TOO MUCH TIME TRYING TO FAIL. I WILL IGNORE THE TAGS AND NAMES GIVEN TO ME BY SOCIETY, SINCE ONLY I KNOW WHAT I HAVE THE ABILITY TO BECOME. FAILURE IS JUST AS EASY TO COMBAT AS SUCCESS IS TO OBTAIN.

EDUCATION IS PAINFUL AND NOT GAINED BY PLAYING GAMES. YET IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO DESTROY MYSELF, IF THAT IS WHAT I CHOOSE TO DO.

I HAVE THE RIGHT TO FAIL, BUT I DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE OTHER PEOPLE WITH ME. GOD MADE ME THE CAPTAIN OF ONLY ONE LIFE - MY OWN. IT IS MY RIGHT TO CARE NOTHING ABOUT MYSELF, BUT I MUST BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THAT FAILURE.

AND, I MUST NEVER THINK THAT THOSE WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO WORK, WHILE I PLAYED, RESTED, AND SLEPT, WILL SHARE THEIR BOUNTIES WITH ME. MY SUCCESS AND MY EDUCATION CAN BE COMPANIONS THAT NO MISFORTUNE CAN DEPRESS, NO CRIME CAN DESTROY, AND NO ENEMY CAN ALIENATE.

WITHOUT EDUCATION, MAN IS A SLAVE. A SAVAGE WANDERING FROM HERE TO THERE, BELIEVING WHATEVER HE IS TOLD. TIME AND CHANCE COME TO US ALL. I CAN EITHER BE HESITANT OR COURAGEOUS. I CAN SWIFTLY STAND UP AND SHOUT: THIS IS MY TIME AND PLACE. I WILL ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE.