

PORTRAYAL & PERCEPTION

AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN & BOYS

Episode 4

Teaching Success



Role models are extremely influential as successful exemplars for young adults who are on their own leadership and educational journeys.



While many role models originate in the home, according to the National Fatherhood Initiative, over half of African American children do not grow up with a father figure. So how do you teach African American boys to become leaders? In this episode, three Pittsburgh-based organizations, The Black Male Leadership Development Institute, Entrepreneuring Youth, and the National Urban League, work alongside in-school educators at Pittsburgh Manchester preK-8 to provide positive male role models for African American boys in school, in entrepreneurship, and in life.

FOR TEACHERS

These guides are intended for use in sociology, information technology, media literacy, and social studies classes. Questions are geared for high school students, grades 9-12.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Portrayal & Perception: African American Men & Boys is a series of community-based television programs produced by WQED Multimedia showcasing positive media profiles of successful African American men. Sponsored by The Heinz Endowments, this series strives to inspire discussion, elevate portrayal, and clarify perceptions of African American men and boys in the community. This guide provides further information, discussion questions, and resources for students or groups to explore the topics highlighted in each episode.

These guys are hungry. They are hungry for knowledge, hungry for help, and they are excited about taking their rightful places in American society. – Dr. Rex Crawley

Biography



Ryan Scott

Neighborhood: Monroeville

Occupation: Project Manager

**Current Organization: Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh-
Black Male Leadership Development Institute**

Has the show impacted your work since airing?

Yes, the show has made many people aware of the BMLDI, as well as generated leads for both Faculty and student recruitment.

Who was your greatest mentor and how did he affect your life?

One of my greatest mentors was my grandfather. He worked extremely hard to take care of his family and provide a foundation. His tenacity has been passed down to me as I use him as an example when things get rough.

What do you think are the greatest challenges and opportunities African American men face in the world today?

One of the greatest challenges African American men face is the notion that many fathers are not present. While this is not the case with all African American men, with many of the students I work with it appears to be an epidemic. The lack of a father in a home can cause many issues behaviorally, academically, with the loss of identity, and more.

What responsibility do you think African American male leaders have to the next generation?

African American male leaders have the responsibility to lead the young men behind them in a positive way. I feel it is our job to mentor and be present in their lives. Men teaching young men who look like them is something I believe our society is lacking.

*Every person has within them the capacity to achieve goals that are important and to solve their own problems. I see this as a new set of tools for young people to overcome adversity, not take no for an answer, and to make a life full of purpose and vision that is important to them.
– Jerry Cozewith*

Since this episode aired, Dr. Rex Crawley, Director of the Black Male Leadership Development Institute, unexpectedly passed away. WQED would like to thank Ryan Scott, the current project manager of BMLDI, for completing this interview on Dr. Crawley's behalf.



Discussion Questions

We all are role models, and I try to share that with each and every one of my students. – Erekl Clacks

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Teachers, help your students create their own media. Download the [Media Guide](#) and [Common Resources](#).



1. Many of the young men featured in this episode do not have male role models in the home. Discuss what qualities the male role models in your life have, and as a group come up with 5 universal qualities these men all share.
2. At The Black Male Leadership Development Institute, the boys not only learn in the classroom, but on the ball field. What life skills do you think are taught through team sports?
3. Why do you think more African American males are not teachers, as cited statistically in the episode?
4. Further investigation: what do researchers consider the cause of higher post-secondary graduation rates in African American women as opposed to men?
5. If you could ask any of the boys featured in this episode about their experiences with the organization he was involved with, whom would you speak with, what would you ask, and why?
6. What mentorship qualities can you offer to the next generation?

FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS

The Black Male Leadership Development Institute: www.bmldi.com

Entrepreneurial Youth:
www.eyouthamerica.org

National Urban League:
nul.iamempowered.com

Resources

African American Leadership Forum: Movement of more than 1,200 African American leaders to create a shared agenda for solving critical community issues focusing on economic development, education, health, family, and cultural wellness — www.aalf.us

Center for African American Males: Independent non-profit corporation whose mission is to address the challenges faced by African American men by focusing on four main areas: research, modeling, training, and programming — www.centerforafricanamericanmales.org

Dare to Be King: Website and curriculum with the goal to engage boys and men of color in lessons for emotional development, familial reconciliation, and academic success — www.daretobeking.net

National Alliance of Black School Educators: Nation's premiere non-profit organization devoted to furthering the academic success of the nation's African American children — www.nabse.org

National Black Home Educators: Member-supported organization that has a vision to transform education and families through homeschooling — www.nbhe.net

African American Board Leadership Institute: Organization that strives to strengthen nonprofit, public, and private organizations through recruiting, preparing, and placing African Americans on a broad range of governing boards — www.aabli.org/aabli

Challenge the Status Quo (PDF): Report on academic success among school-age African American males compiled by the Black Male Achievement Research Collaborative
www.cbcfinc.org/oUploadedFiles/CTSQ.pdf

White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans: Website for a cross-agency effort by the federal government aimed at identifying evidence-based practices that improve student achievement, and developing a national network that shares these best practices
www.ed.gov/edblogs/whieea

A Call for Change - Providing Solutions for Black Male Achievement (PDF): Study created by the Council of the Great City Schools containing a series of articles on the current challenges and suggested solutions for engaging Black male students — www.tinyurl.com/lhdhkv

MEDIA

Street Knowledge 2 College: Original 15-part web series exploring the lives of students and families at a unique, community-organized school in South Los Angeles — www.lpbp.org/SK2C.php

American Promise: Documentary which follows two middle class African American boys over a period of twelve years as they navigate the education system through a prestigious Manhattan private school
www.itvs.org/films/american-promise



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