

# PORTRAYAL & PERCEPTION

## AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN & BOYS

### Episode 9

## Getting Schooled

In the African American community, **mentoring** is often described as “getting schooled.”

Older members of the community lay down cold, hard facts as the law, teaching the next generation the ways of the world. But with a growing lack of African American males in the community, who is teaching the next generation? This episode focuses on a consortium effort by Western Pennsylvanian colleges and universities to **improve recruiting efforts for African American male teachers**. Also profiled are two community organizations, the Center for Family Excellence and Iron Cross Ministries, which work to improve social behavior among African American males.



### 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.

*Don't limit yourselves by the way that you think. Allow the way that you think to free you to do things that other people are not doing. Create the legacy for yourself.*  
– Roger Briscoe, Ph.D.

# Biography



## Cornell Jones

**Neighborhood: Overbrook**

**Occupation: Pastor and Chaplain**

**Current Organization: Iron Cross Community Ministries and SCI Pittsburgh Prison**

### **What new projects are you working on?**

I am currently working on our Stop the Violence Concert, The Ride for Peace, and the city-wide anti-violence movement.

### **How has the show impacted your life since airing?**

This show helped me develop more of an awareness of what we are doing in the community. *Even the men in prison became excited because of what we were doing in the streets and it made them want to do more.*

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

My greatest mentor in my life was my father, Bernard H. Jones. He was the founder of Urban Youth Action and the Poise Foundation. He showed me how to serve and lead in the community.

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

The greatest challenge that African American men face is employment and especially employment after they get a criminal record. We must see what is wrong and develop programs to help create jobs for men in our communities. We must also show them another way of living. This means developing programs that are like Rites of Passage [a national organization that provides programs and opportunities for troubled and at-risk youth] for men who didn't really grow up. That way, these men will learn what it means to be a real man and not a male with a child-like mentality.

*It's not easy, it's expensive, and it's going to take something on your part to get you here, to keep you here, and to also graduate.*  
– Dr. Roger Briscoe, Ph.D.



[www.wqed.org/tv/portrayal](http://www.wqed.org/tv/portrayal)

# Discussion Questions

*A life lost isn't a life  
you can save.*  
– Ronald Slade

## CREATE YOUR OWN MEDIA!

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

1. Less than 1% of teachers in the U.S. are African American males. Why do you think there are not more Black male teachers?
2. Have you ever considered becoming a teacher? What subject interests you most to teach?
3. Students in the IUP mentorship program completed an activity called the “marshmallow challenge.” Try the challenge yourself by working in a group and following the instructions on [www.marshmallowchallenge.com](http://www.marshmallowchallenge.com).
4. What do you think is the most important life value shown in the poster at the Center for Family Excellence? The values listed are: self-esteem, love & respect, self-discipline, learning orientation, self-persistence, interpersonal skills, and self-reliance. Discuss your reasoning with the group.
5. Do you have dinner together with your family? Share your most memorable family dinner moments and the etiquette standards your family observes.
6. The Center for Family Excellence’s lesson featured in this episode focused on the use of derogatory terminology toward another person. Do you use that type of language in your everyday life? What do those words represent?

## FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS

**Indiana University of Pennsylvania:**  
[www.iup.edu](http://www.iup.edu)

**The Pittsburgh Promise:**  
[www.pittsburghpromise.org](http://www.pittsburghpromise.org)

**Center for Family Excellence:** [www.cfei.org](http://www.cfei.org)

**Iron Cross Ministries:**  
[www.ironcrossministries.webs.com](http://www.ironcrossministries.webs.com)



# Resources

**United Negro College Fund:** Largest and most effective minority education organization that provides funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and for African American students, faculty, and administration — [www.uncf.org](http://www.uncf.org)

**The Jackie Robinson Foundation:** National, non-profit organization that perpetuates the memory of Jackie Robinson through the advancement of higher education among underserved populations by providing generous four-year college scholarships and other resources — [www.jackierobinson.org](http://www.jackierobinson.org)

**African American Career & Educational Resources:** Directory of resources for African American students including national student organizations, job research resources, website & print publications, funding & financial aid, and professional organizations from the University of Illinois [www.careercenter.illinois.edu/supporting-diversity/african-american](http://www.careercenter.illinois.edu/supporting-diversity/african-american)

**African American Scholarships:** Directory of scholarship and grant opportunities for African American students in higher education — [www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/minority-scholarships/african-american-scholarships](http://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/minority-scholarships/african-american-scholarships)

**National Black Graduate Student Association:** National website for regional, state, and local association chapters of the largest interdisciplinary graduate student organization — [www.nbgsa.org](http://www.nbgsa.org)

**Journal of African American Males in Education:** Peer-reviewed journal devoted to advancing scholarship and practice about African American males in education [www.journalofafricanamericanmales.com](http://www.journalofafricanamericanmales.com)

## MEDIA

**Education Under Arrest:** Documentary from the Tavis Smiley Reports focused on the “zero tolerance” initiative, which forces youth out of the school system and into the juvenile justice system even for minor offenses — [www.pbs.org/wnet/tavissmiley/tsr/education-under-arrest](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/tavissmiley/tsr/education-under-arrest)

**Too Important to Fail:** Documentary from the Tavis Smiley Reports that investigates the root causes of the increased dropout rate among teenagers, specifically among Black teenage males, as well as what is being done to reverse this trend — [www.pbs.org/wnet/tavissmiley/tsr/too-important-to-fail](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/tavissmiley/tsr/too-important-to-fail)



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4802 Fifth Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
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