

Ranell & Mischa Toland Foundation

takes to the road for an important multi-city tour...

Reviving Educational Excellence

"Getting our students back on the road to success."

The best anti-poverty program is a world class education.
Education is about more than getting into college and getting a good job.
It's about giving each of us a chance to fulfill our promise.
—President Barack Obama

What is the Reviving Educational Excellence Tour?

The Reviving Educational Excellence Tour is a two-part effort to resuscitate a spirit of hope, engagement, responsibility and achievement in the lives of students of color as well as to instigate a paradigm shift in a culture of thinking that infers "we don't have what it takes or we aren't good enough". Part one consists of a series of focus groups designed to gain some perspective about what the root cause of the underachievement/disengagement is from the students' point of view. Part two consists of developing an inspirational message and interactive summit shaped by the data/information gathered from the focus groups that would challenge and charge students to make a personal commitment to educational excellence.

Why the need for a Reviving Educational Excellence Tour?

First and foremost, this tour is needed because youth of color are unacceptably and disproportionately lagging behind their counterparts of other ethnic groups in just about every academic area, and they are daily haunted by this truth. As a result, youth of color experience apathy, hopelessness, and marginalization on a much greater level.

Second, earlier this year, Roland Martin (national journalist) and Tom Joyner (syndicated radio show host) moderated the televised program "The State of Black America". As the title suggest, the program was designed to explore various layers of struggle, contention, and advancement as it relates to Blacks in America. During this program Roland Martin queried each panelist about the fulfillment of their stated commitment from 2010, and later asked each panelist to state what their ongoing commitment for 2011 would be. The commitment Roland Martin spoke of was a commitment to improve the plight of People of Color in America based upon each panelist's sphere of influence and/or area of expertise.

From where we stand as a socially conscious philanthropic foundation that is attached to a reputable human development company, there was no way to watch the broadcast and not feel compelled to do something to positively penetrate the alarming data that was being shared. To this end, the third reason for the tour is we believe in answering the call to serve. Our company has a fundamental conviction that every human being has the right to an amazing life. And for ten years we have gladly risen to the occasion of facilitating opportunities for individuals to actualize their greatness by improving their lives. An applicable example: In 2009, after receiving a call from the Office of Student Support, we contracted with Baltimore City Public Schools to coordinate and facilitate a series of similar assemblies that traveled to 10 high schools before 20 student audiences throughout the city. The assemblies were so successful we were contracted again in 2010 to visit additional schools. The evaluations and feedback from the students overwhelmingly attested to the fact that we struck of chord and touched a place inside of many of the students that caused them to want to be better students as well as better human beings.

Who is the target audience for the Reviving Educational Excellence Tour?

The target audience for the tour is middle and high school students who are struggling with grades, attendance, attitude, and personal challenges.

What is the desired outcome of the Reviving Educational Excellence Tour?

The desired outcome of the tour is for students to step up and become actively engaged in creating a life of productivity and promise, which we contend can be achieved by: a) earnestly examining the factors associated with their lack of performance or disengagement, b) accessing whether or not they have taken advantage of every resource available to ensure they are academically successful, c) understanding the short term and long term consequences associated with being mediocre, and d) inspiring students to begin to take steps toward obtaining a world class education so that they may actualize their dreams.

For additional information or to invite us to your community,
visit us online at www.greatnessnow.org or call us at (410) 236-2242.

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VISIT INSTRUCTIONS

If your school, agency or church is interested in having the Reviving Educational Excellence Tour come to you, please follow the steps below:

STEP ONE - go to the **Contact Us** page on our website

STEP TWO - under the caption **General Questions** there is an email link to info@greatnessnow.org

STEP THREE - place the words **Reviving Educational Excellence Tour** in the subject line

STEP FOUR - in the body of your email please provide us with the information outlined below

- name of your school, agency or church
- contact person's name
- complete address of school, agency or church
- phone and fax number
- email address
- number of students attending
- proposed date for our visit
- proposed time for our visit (focus groups are one hour)

STEP FIVE - the designated person from our team will contact you within 24 hours to discuss your request

OUR VISIT IS OF NO COST TO YOUR ORGANIZATION!

We thank you for your interest in this important tour and look forward to partnering with you to help position our young people to have the best chance at the best life.

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SPONSORSHIP FORM

Contact Person Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Level of Sponsorship for Tour

_____ \$100 – \$400

_____ \$500 - \$900

_____ \$1,000 - \$5,000

Sponsorship Contribution for Students

_____ Gift cards

_____ Give-a-ways

_____ Scholarship Support

PLEASE NOTE:

- For monetary donations make checks payable to: **Ranell & Mischa Toland Foundation**
- For contributions that are not monetary, please call our office to discuss the item(s) and the volume being contributed. Other than scholarship support, please make certain that your contribution is user friendly for middle and high school students.
- All donations are 100% tax deductible.

Please call our office should you have any questions and/or desire to support the tour in a way not listed.
Fax your completed Sponsorship Form to (410) 630-1336 or scan and email to rmtfoundation@greatnessnow.org.