



Of Greater Fort Lauderdale, Inc.

The 100 On The Move Mentoring Our Youth

The 100 Black Men of Greater Fort Lauderdale may be under new leadership, but it's still committed to the intellectual development of youth and the economic empowerment of the African American community.

Former president Jesse Graves passed the torch onto Dennis Wright who's very enthusiastic about continuing to run the race. "I consider it an honor and a privilege to lead such a dedicated group of men," said Wright.

In addition to increasing the organization's membership, close to Wright's heart is the Leadership Academy, which is designed to educate and mentor young men in business, economic development, and entrepreneurship. "That's what the 100 is about, Real Men Giving Real Time® in the hopes of motivating young minds to do great things," said Wright.

The 100 Black Men of Greater Fort Lauderdale has partnered with City Furniture to provide the business curriculum for their Leadership Academy. Curt Nichols, City Furniture Vice President of Human Resources, is excited about the Leadership Academy and the partnership with the 100 Black Men of Greater Fort Lauderdale.

At last Tuesday's welcome ceremony parents were able to meet several members of the 100 Black Men of Greater Fort Lauderdale as well as representatives from City Furniture, while the impressionable young male mentees were listening attentively to their new business mentors outline their expectations. "I am so happy that the 100 is having this program because it's something that I try to instill in my son everyday...understanding the right behavior in the right environment in order to be successful," said Rena Davison.

The fifteen mentees will meet once a week for the next twelve weeks learning key business concepts. "Being a single mom, this is wonderful for young men to share their time," said Donna Blair.

Wright was elected president at the chapter's annual meeting last month. Wright will serve as president for the next two years. In that time he hopes to bring the 100 Black Men "Four For The Future Programs™" to the community, which are Mentoring, Education, Economic Development, and Health and Wellness. Wright, a native of Broward County, spent most of his formative years growing up in Northwest Fort Lauderdale. He is the grandson of the late Ms. Helen Morris, a pioneer in her own time. Fondly known as Ms. Helen, she founded Helen's Kindergarten and Nursery. The pre-school opened its doors in 1954 and served the communities childcare needs until its doors closed in January 2001. Wright said the legacy left by his grandmother continues to be a motivating factor, driving him to help others and giving back to his community.

The 100 Black Men of America has 106 chapters that span the United States and Europe. For more information on the 100 Black Men of America go to www.100blackmen.org. Anyone interested in joining or contacting the 100 Black Men of Greater Fort Lauderdale should call (954) 519-0002 or send an email to dwright@simplyit-inc.com.