

W I N T E R 2 0 1 7

Eastern Michigan University

PATHWAYS

FOR FUTURE EDUCATORS

Latest News

The College of Education has been awarded the Morris Hood Jr. Educator Development (MHED) grant for up to 6 years to assist with recruiting and supporting future teachers. The MHED program provides State of Michigan funding to Michigan public and independent institutions with state-approved Teacher Education Programs. The legislative intent of the MHED program is to increase the number of academically or economically disadvantaged students who enroll in and complete K-12 teacher education programs at the baccalaureate level.

Morris Hood Jr. was a Democratic member of the Michigan House of Representatives, representing part of Detroit from 1971 until his death in 1998. Born in Detroit in 1934, Hood served in the United States Army and attended Wayne State University.

At present, the Morris Hood Jr. grant financially supports urban youth in reaching their academic goals at 4 year institutions. Receiving a scholarship from the MHED grant helps to alleviate some of the financial responsibilities of paying tuition and/or securing materials required to be successful in the classroom with the end goal of graduating with a bachelor's degree and a State of Michigan teaching credential.

Pathways Partner Schools

Achieve Career Preparatory Academy
Advance Technology Academy
Academy of Business and Technology
Cesar Chavez Academy High School
Cornerstone Schools
Detroit Leadership Academy
Detroit Public Safety Academy
Detroit Public Community Schools
Lincoln Consolidated Schools
River Rouge School District
Wayne- Westland Community Schools
Ypsilanti Community Schools

New Partner School

Achieve Career Prep Academy



DJENEBA “DJ” CHERIF



Djeneba “DJ” Cherif is an Assistant Principal at Ypsilanti High School. Her K-12 education was all in the Ypsilanti school district. She went on to graduate from Hampton University and earned a Master’s in education at UM-Ann Arbor. After teaching and serving as an administrator in Detroit area schools, she returned to her home district with pride and much enthusiasm. DJ’s message to young people today is that, “We need you. We need teachers who are willing to do whatever it takes in the name of kids, who are willing to be innovative, and willing to build meaningful relationships. Think about changing the life of a child and making what they do possible for them, even when it seems impossible.” She sees educators as being significant in the lives of others. “Reflect on why you decided to go to college or pursue something more. I guarantee that will go back to an educator. We have an obligation to pay that forward.” As a former student of the district, she sees how she is connected to the families she knows in her own community. Although DJ describes this as making her work more challenging, she also sees it as being more powerful. DJ considers the students with whom she works to be her own. She is committed to finding “passionate and committed” educators. DJ invites anyone interested in teaching to come and visit her school to experience the joys and challenges of working with youth.

Donacal Clemons is a native of Detroit and student in the Pathways program at Eastern Michigan University. Donacal is the third of his siblings to attend college. “I knew I wanted to be a teacher when I was in high school. The experience I had with my history teachers in high school has helped shape my perspective on teaching and the importance of education within inner-city school districts. “Like many urban youth, Donacal understands the importance of an education to assist in transforming the narrative of his life. He states, “I value education because it has changed my life dramatically. Without education I’d probably be on the streets of Detroit, or someone broke and jobless. Education provides me with a platform to grow and gain stability.” While education is the gateway to a better quality of life for Donacal, he also understands the significance of history and how it factors into his current life situation and education. Because of this understanding, Clemons decided to major in history. “I selected it because I loved history and knew that if I could retain what I learned, I could teach a class on it.” Donacal is expected to graduate in the spring of 2019. Donacal is paving the way for success and setting a foundation for urban youth to follow. The Pathways program is proud to be a part of his academic journey.

DONACAL CLEMONS

