

OUR AGENDA:

11:00 – 11:10;
Welcome Panelists

11:11 – 11:17;
Legacy Walk
Damian Ramsay

11:18 – 12:20;
Panel Discussion

12:21 – 12:30;
Q&A Session

“If you want to be important—wonderful. If you want to be recognized—wonderful. If you want to be great—wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That's a new definition of greatness. By giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant.”

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

BRUCE WELLS SCHOLARS UPWARD
BOUND PROGRAM

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LEGACY PANEL 2021

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Jim was born and raised in the Burncoat neighborhood of Worcester. The values he learned from his friends and family are the same ones he fights for every day in Congress: fairness,

decency, respect for all people, and the idea that each of us has an obligation to give back to our community. Jim has fought tirelessly for the people of Massachusetts and has earned the respect and trust of his colleagues—including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who named him Chairman of the powerful House Rules Committee during the 116th Congress. He also serves as the Chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China and is the Democratic Co-Chair of the bipartisan Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission—both of which monitor, investigate, and advocate on behalf of international human rights, the rule of law, and good governance.

OUR PANELISTS:

Congressman
James P.
McGovern

Damian Ramsay



Damian Ramsay is a 2003 graduate of the Bruce Wells Scholars Upward Bound Program. He was in the founding cohort at University Park Campus School and finished at the top of his class. Damian earned his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Brown University and a master's in social work from the University of Pennsylvania. Damian is an educator, social change agent, TRiO/Upward Bound alumnus, and first-generation college graduate, with 16 years of combined experience at an Assistant Principal, Dean of Math and Science, Dean of Student Culture, public school teacher, and master level social worker. He has taught and mentored hundreds middle school and high school students throughout the East Coast and has worked with teachers and leaders to cultivate school climates that reinforce self-identity and strong character, embrace restorative practices, and promote teaching and learning at high levels. Damian is a championship winning middle school boys' basketball coach, an avid Celtics fan, and a certified personal trainer. He currently resides in Atlanta GA with his wife, Dr. Sandra Valenciano, whom he met at Brown, and their two-year old son Noah Miguei, who brings them joy and keeps them busy.



William “Bil” Gardiner is a Photographic Artist and Youth Educator. He has lived here in Worcester, MA the last 51 years. Bil attended May Street Elementary School before heading off to Worcester Academy and finally attending Howard and Syracuse Universities. He spent two years as a Campus Police Officer at Worcester Polytechnic Institute before joining the Worcester Police Department for ten years. After leaving the WPD, Bil turned towards education after spending eight years on the Board of Directors of Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc. It was at Y.O.U., Inc. that Bil fell in love with educating young people. Bil spent seven years as a STEM Instructor for All About Learning out of Sparta, MI. Through AAL, Bil traveled around New England teaching kids in K-8 how to build Simple Machines through highly specialized LEGO kits. From there, Bil has designed and been teaching his own STEM and Robotics Courses using LEGO robotics kits. He is currently working with the Angels-Net Foundation, an African Immigrant and Refugee afterschool program.

OUR PANELISTS:

Bil Gardiner

Ophelia Okoh



Ophelia Okoh is a first-year medical student at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is a first-generation college student and holds a BS in Biology from Clark University. She has spoken at regional conferences from topics such as education and theology and was her graduating class’s student speaker. During her first year of medical school, Ophelia has gotten involved in SNMA, a student organization that supports students of color, along with being a Student Ambassador and the workshop coordinator for PCOM HEARTS, a student run clinic. She hopes to specialize in Family Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine while working with marginalized communities. In her free time, Ms. Okoh hosts Hear Her Speak, a podcast that discusses current events from a Biblical lens.



Kefiana is a passionate advocate for equal rights. As a student activist at Clark University, she successfully co-devised a Black Lives Matter movement on campus that led to institutional-wide changes to benefit black students. She has spoken at national and regional conferences on education equity. In her free time, she runs a social media platform teaching Swahili. Kabati is an alum of South High Community School and holds a B.A. from Clark University in Cultural Studies and Communication, focusing on the sociology of education.

OUR PANELISTS:

Kefiana Kabati

Dianne Langford
James



Dianne Langford James is a caring, passionate and powerful leader. She is an entrepreneur, devout philanthropist, and teen and women's transformational specialist. Dianne is a global teen trainer empowering teens to see their greatness and break negative cycles. In addition, she is President & CEO of "BravHERy" a global women's personal and professional experiential and explosive training. "BravHERy" was created to empower, encourage and educate women. In addition, women gain clarity, acquire new tools and techniques so they can break cycles that do not serve them, build legacies, and create a sisterhood. She is the founder of Yes We Care Teen Academy. Dianne lives with her husband in Massachusetts. She is devoted to her family, friends, and community, and more importantly God.