MSAN Student Conference
October 18-21, 2017
Hosted by
Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District

F.O.C.U.S
FIGHTING OUR CAUSE
UNIFIED IN THE STRUGGLE

2017 MSAN Student Conference logo designed by Deja White, 2015 CHUH alum
The Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District welcomes you to the 2017 MSAN Student conference where we will F.O.C.U.S. Fight Our Cause Unified in the Struggle!

Our conference is designed to spark the fire that burns within to motivate you to work within your school framework to effect change in your school community and beyond! We are extremely excited to facilitate this year’s conference and to share the unique perspective from Northeast Ohio which includes Cleveland Heights High School alum, activist, and national news correspondent Jeff Johnson. Additionally, we will be visiting world-renowned Case Western University and the downtown campus of Cleveland State University, as well as the traditional and scholastically diverse campus of Kent State University.

Our MSAN planning team has planned an exciting conference that will provide you with tools to give power to your voice, strengthen your resolve, and break through the barriers that prevent you from soaring!

Welcome to THE LAND!

MSAN STUDENT CONFERENCE PLANNING TEAM

CleveLAND Heights-University Heights School District
A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CLEVELAND HEIGHTS-UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

On behalf of the Board of Education, the staff and students of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, it is my honor to welcome you to the 18th Annual MSAN Student Conference. The theme of this year’s conference, Fighting Our Cause Unified in the Struggle (F.O.C.U.S.), will focus on developing skills, strategies and confidence to facilitate positive change. This conference will provide you with an array of activities, speakers, events and an opportunity to interact with students from across the country. You will come together to explore how student voice and action can have a positive impact on opportunity gaps, as well as racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in your schools and your communities.

We have the privilege of hosting this year’s conference in partnership with Cleveland State University, Case Western University and Kent State University. We are confident that the college campus experiences will provide a unique opportunity to broaden your horizons as you network and collaborate with other student leaders from around the country. You are challenged to develop an action plan to take back to your district that will engage ALL voices at your school in order to bring about positive change and academic success for all students.

Enjoy the conference, meet new people, find your voice, and then go use your individual and collective gifts to create the change we need!

Sincerely,

Talisa L. Dixon, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT OF MSAN

Dear MSAN Students,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the annual MSAN Student Conference. We are delighted that you are here, and we are confident that you will find the conference to be both thought-provoking and enjoyable. The theme of this year’s conference is F.O.C.U.S.: Fighting Our Cause Unified in the Struggle. I cannot imagine a more timely or compelling subject.

Public education is more than simply mastering a set of skills or memorizing a series of facts and figures. The mission of public education is to prepare students such as you to become thoughtful, productive citizens who make a difference in their communities and throughout the world. Your voice is power, so it is important that you use it wisely and effectively. Remember, if you don’t stand for something, you’ll fall for anything.

We are very proud of our incredible student leaders who come together each year with the shared mission of creating a world where all students can achieve at the highest level. I am very confident that you will learn quite a lot from the conference speakers and from one another. When you return to your schools and your districts, please share what you have learned here. Together we can use our voices to make the world a better place.

Sincerely,

Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent
Shaker Heights City School District

WELCOME FROM MSAN’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear MSAN Scholars,

On behalf of all of the 28 school districts who are part the MSAN network, welcome to the 2017 MSAN Student Conference! I am so excited you are here. Spending time each year with exceptional student leaders like you truly is one of the best parts of my job. YOU really are the best part of MSAN!

For the past 18 years, student leaders from network high schools (students just like you) have gathered each fall to learn from one another and strategize about how to make schools more meaningful places for learning; places where each student feels they belong and can achieve their goals.

The student conference planning team from Cleveland Heights-University Heights City Schools has created an incredible agenda for you, with each speaker selected and activity developed in relationship to the conference theme: F.O.C.U.S.: Fighting Our Cause Unified in the Struggle. Through this theme, I hear the team asking us to listen to and support one another across our areas of difference, unified in our goal of social justice. I hear them challenging us to step up our activism, remembering that every single one of our actions (or inactions) either fights against or perpetuates oppression. And, I hear them reminding us to keep front and center the core of their work, our work, the work: taking action to systematically dismantle the many manifestations of institutionalized racism within our schools.

Wishing you a wonderful MSAN Student Conference,

Madeline Hafner, Ph.D.
MSAN Executive Director
F.O.C.U.S.: FIGHTING OUR CAUSE UNIFIED IN THE STRUGGLE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 18, 2017
3:30-4:30 p.m.  Registration – DoubleTree, Beachwood, OH  Ballroom 1-5 Foyer
4:30-5:00 p.m.  Welcome and Greetings  Ballroom 1-5
5:00-6:00 p.m.  Dinner  Ballroom 1-5
6:00-7:30 p.m.  Keynote: Jeff Johnson, Managing Principal for JIJ Communications  Ballroom 1-5
7:30-9:30 p.m.  District/Team Group Activities/Icebreakers with Elec Simon  Ballroom 1-5
7:30-9:30 p.m.  Chaperone Orientation and Mixer  Ballroom 6
9:30-10:30 p.m.  Introduction of MSAN Districts  Ballroom 1-5
10:30-10:45 p.m.  Late Night Snacks  Ballroom 1-5
10:45 p.m.  Return to Rooms (lights out at 11:00p.m)

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 19, 2017
7:00-8:00 a.m.  Breakfast  Ballroom 1-5
8:00-9:00 a.m.  Bus to Campus Tours  Ballroom 1-5
Cleveland State (Group A), Case Western (Group B)
9:00-11:30 a.m.  Campus Tours (both Groups A and B)
11:30-12:30 p.m.  Bus to Kent State  Ballroom 1-5
12:30-1:30 p.m.  Lunch on Kent State Campus  Ballroom 1-5
1:30-4:00 p.m.  Kent State Campus Tour (all students and chaperones)  Ballroom 1-5
4:00-5:30 p.m.  Return to Hotel  Ballroom 1-5
5:30-6:15 p.m.  Break  Ballroom 1-5
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FRIDAY - OCTOBER 20, 2017
7:30-8:00 a.m.  Breakfast  Ballroom 1-5
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SATURDAY - OCTOBER 21, 2017
8:00-10:00 a.m.  Breakfast and Closing Reflections  Ballroom 1-5
10:00 a.m.  Farewells & Departures
CONFERENCES EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Congratulations on being selected as a delegate from your school district for the 2017 MSAN Student Conference! You are joining a community of MSAN Scholars from around the country who are working for educational equity in their school districts.

Each year, students just like you help design the MSAN Student Conference. Support their leadership by reviewing the guidelines for behavior, dress code suggestions, and other conference details, below.

PLANNING, PREPARATION, PERFECTION

- Read this document with your chaperones, your family, and the other student delegates from your school district.
- The planning committee has selected several readings for your team to review and reflect on prior to arrival at the conference. These required readings can be downloaded from http://msan.wceruw.org/conferences/studentConf.html

DRESS CODE GUIDELINES

We have found that dress code guidelines can help to set the tone for different activities at the conference. The dress code guidelines for the conference range from casual to business casual:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY 1 (WEDNESDAY) – CASUAL ATTIRE FOR ARRIVAL AND INTRODUCTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• All participants should wear clothing that will allow for comfortable movement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Shorts or skirts should be mid-thigh or longer. Sheer or see through clothing requires participants to wear appropriate under-layers. Pants or jeans should fit comfortably; belt loose fitting pants/shorts. Gym shoes okay.</td>
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<th>DAY 2 (THURSDAY) – BUSINESS CASUAL ATTIRE FOR COLLEGE CAMPUS VISITS</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Casual dress shirts, such as button downs or polos. No t-shirts with advertisements or slogans that wouldn’t be okay in school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Skirts, dresses, capris, dress shorts, and business casual pants (for example, khakis). Jeans not recommended.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Wear comfortable shoes for campus visit – extensive walking is required. Flip flops are NOT recommended.</td>
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<th>DAY 3 (FRIDAY) – CASUAL ATTIRE FOR DAYTIME ACTION PLANNING</th>
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<th>DAY 4 (SATURDAY) – CASUAL ATTIRE FOR CONCLUDING ACTIVITIES</th>
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To request alternate transport for you/your students for the campus visit please contact Connie Showalter at connie.showalter@wisc.edu or (608)263-1565.
MSAN STUDENT CONFERENCE DELEGATE AGREEMENTS

• MSAN Student Conference delegates agree to use technology appropriately during the conference. DO post appropriate conference updates on social media, and tag @ MSAN_Achieve. DON’T use your phone or device in a way that takes away from your experience, the experience or other delegates, or the experience of our guest speakers.

• MSAN Student Conference delegates agree to a strict no alcohol, tobacco, or other drug policy at all MSAN events.

• MSAN Student Conference delegates agree to socialize only in public spaces. Conference delegates are NEVER allowed to socialize in each other’s rooms. Outside guests are not permitted at the conference. Family members who attend the conference need to register with MSAN as official conference volunteers.

• MSAN Student Conference delegates agree to cooperate with all reasonable requests made by adults affiliated with the conference.

• Comply with reasonable requests made by your/all chaperones or other adults affiliated with the conference.

• MSAN Student Conference delegates agree to follow all curfew rules.

• MSAN Student Conference delegates agree to keep shared spaces (e.g. hallways, stairwells) quiet, and remain with the group at all times.

• Students are NOT allowed in the fitness center or swimming pool area without their chaperone.

MSAN STUDENT CONFERENCE DELEGATES ARE…

MSAN STUDENT CONFERENCE DELEGATES ARE LEADERS

• Express and discuss your ideas, views and opinions.

• Think about how you will use the information you learn when you get home.

• Create a plan of action to implement in your school district.

MSAN STUDENT CONFERENCE DELEGATES ARE DEPENDABLE

• Attend all events and activities.

• Be on time.

• Complete tasks and assignments.

• Stay with chaperones.

MSAN STUDENT CONFERENCE DELEGATES ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR SCHOOLS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

• Represent with pride!

• Wear MSAN name tag at all times.

• Observe rules and curfews.

MSAN STUDENT CONFERENCE DELEGATES ARE COMMUNITY BUILDERS

• Cooperate with others.

• Give, accept, and use feedback effectively.

• Ask questions, network, and share information with peers, adults, and presenters.

• Stay involved and engaged.

MSAN STUDENT CONFERENCE DELEGATES ARE FULL PARTICIPANTS

• Be positive – it’s contagious!

• Be Flexible.

• Ask Questions. Listen. Reflect.
**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

**WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 18, 2017**

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**MR. JEFF JOHNSON** is a teller of stories, developer of messages, and architect of social solutions who’s as comfortable in front of the camera as he is behind the scenes developing strategy and messages for his clients. The award-winning journalist and communications specialist is currently Managing Principal for the Baltimore based strategy firm JIJ Communications, where he provides strategic insight and messaging consulting to clients in the private, public, and entertainment sectors. Over the last two decades Jeff has developed expertise in communications, political engagement and strategic consulting to create a unique career committed to developing solutions and systemic change. He calls it double bottom-line impact and is committed to it for both his personal brand and that of his clients.

He recently sat with both President Barack Obama and Secretary Hillary Clinton for BET News and provides regular content on the nationally syndicated Rickey Smiley Morning Show. Jeff formally served as National Director for the Youth & College Division of the NAACP and held an appointment by Russell Simmons as the Vice President of the Hip Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN). In 2014 Jeff worked with Steve Harvey on his New York Times Best Seller, *Act Like A Success, Think Like A Success*, is author of his own book *Everything I'm Not Made Me Everything I Am*, and every Monday through Friday he leads Manhood Legacy Prayer, a daily prayer call attended by nearly 500 men.

Jeff commits much of his personal and professional life to the development of leadership and social impact infrastructure serving on several boards including Vote Run Lead, The Cleveland Foundation’s African-American Philanthropy Committee, and the historic Lincoln Theatre in Columbus, Ohio. Jeff is the honored husband of Jacqueline and the proud father of Madison, Myles, and Malcolm.

**THURSDAY - OCTOBER 19, 2017**

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**MR. JAMIE ALMANZÁN** is a facilitator, teacher, curriculum developer and leadership coach currently working as the founder and partner of The Equity Collaborative LLC in Oakland, California. Prior to leading The Equity Collaborative he held the position of Senior Coach at the National Equity Project, in Oakland CA and he has held the position of Director of Learning and Teaching at Pacific Educational Group in San Francisco. He has focused his career on working with school and district teams to create more equitable learning environments incorporating observation, collaboration, and changing instruction to best meet the needs of underserved populations, particularly African American and Latino students. Jamie is involved in systemic school reform initiatives and is responsible for the development and facilitation of leadership seminars for state, regional and district teams across the country. Jamie leads professional learning and coaches in a wide range of schools and districts in California and nationally.

**FRIDAY - OCTOBER 20, 2017**

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**THE 2017 MSAN STUDENT CONFERENCE PLANNING TEAM WISHES TO THANK**

- Cleveland State University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Kent State University
- Our esteemed speakers and performers: Elec Simon, Percussionist; Jeff Johnson, Managing Principal for JIJ Communications; Jamie Almanzán, The Equity Collaborative; everyone who performed during MSAN’s Got Talent; and DJ Lo-Key
- Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District: Dr. Talisa Dixon, Superintendent; and our incredible volunteers!
Be sure to complete your conference evaluation before departing. Thanks!
MSAN Student Conference
Host Districts

2000  Cleveland Heights-University Heights and
      Shaker Heights City School Districts, OH
2001  Ann Arbor Public Schools, Ann Arbor, MI
2002  Evanston Township High School District 202 and
      Oak Park & River Forest High School District 200, IL
2003  Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, Chapel Hill, NC
2004  Princeton Public Schools, Princeton, NJ
2005  Cambridge Public Schools, Cambridge, MA
2006  Green Bay Area Public Schools, Green Bay, WI
2007  Arlington Public Schools, Arlington, VA
2008  Madison Metropolitan School District, Madison, WI
2009  Evanston Township High School District 202 and
      Oak Park & River Forest High School District 200, IL
2010  Bedford Central School District, Mount Kisco, NY
2011  Columbia Public Schools, Columbia, MO
2012  Paradise Valley Unified School District, Phoenix, AZ
2013  Amherst – Pelham Regional Schools, Amherst, MA
2014  Farmington Public Schools, Farmington, MI
2015  Verona Area School District, Verona, WI
2016  Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, Chapel Hill, NC
2017  Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School
      District, University Heights, OH
DISCOVER • ENGAGE • CHALLENGE • ACHIEVE

The Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) is a national coalition of multiracial school districts that have come together to understand and eliminate opportunity/achievement gaps that persist in their schools. Since 1999, MSAN has worked fervently to achieve the parallel goals of closing gaps while ensuring all students achieve to high levels. To this end, districts work collaboratively to conduct and publish research, analyze policies, and share promising practices that support the Network’s mission: to understand and change school practices and structures that keep racial opportunity/achievement gaps in place.

THANK YOU TO OUR CONFERENCE SPONSORS

SPECIAL THANKS TO

The MSAN Planning Committee
Ms. Shawn Washington, MSAN Advisor and AVID High School Coordinator
Mr. Nate Williams, MSAN Advisor and Social Studies Teacher
Ms. O’Dasha Blue, MSAN Advisor and Science Teacher
Dr. Talisa Dixon, Superintendent
Ms. Felisha Gould, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Leticia Maldonado, Confidential Administrative Assistant
Ms. Caroline Jewell-Rogers, Executive Administrative Assistant
Dr. Sandy D. Womack, Jr., Director of Principal Leadership and Development
Ms. Allison Byrd, Director of Data, Research and Assessment
Mr. Robert Swaggard, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Issa Augustin-Glave, Student and MSAN Planning Committee Member
Dash Chesney, Student and MSAN Planning Committee Member
Jaylin Coleman, Student and MSAN Planning Committee Member
Josephine Johnson, Student and MSAN Planning Committee Member
Hasson Lewis-Majied, Student and MSAN Planning Committee Member
Christine Roberts, Student and MSAN Planning Committee Member
Jada Streifel, Student and MSAN Planning Committee Member
Taylor Thomas, Student and MSAN Planning Committee Member
Mikaiah Truitt, Student and MSAN Planning Committee Member
La’Quay Ward, Student and MSAN Planning Committee Member

Wisconsin Center for Education Research
Madeline Hafner, MSAN Executive Director
Connie Showalter, MSAN Outreach Specialist
Shahanna McKinney-Baldon, MSAN Director of Professional Learning
Janet Trembley, Conference Program and Website Development
Bonnie Sullivan, WCER Copy Shop
Jessica Miller, Conference Registration

To learn more about MSAN please visit us online at: MSAN.WCERUW.ORG