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Men's Mental Health

AWARENESS WORKSHOP



Mr. Mark Hayes
Moderator



Mr. Jared
Washington



Dr. Scott A.
Hughes



Dr. Matt
Smith



Sr. Officer Eric
King

**Tuesday, Nov. 11th (Veteran's Day)
7:00PM-8:30PM**

**Big Bethel AME Church
220 Auburn Ave. NE
Atlanta, GA 30303**



**Hosted by: Metro Atlanta Chapters of
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**



**Graduate Chapters: Tau - Eta Omega - Kappa Alpha Alpha - Delta Mu Mu
Phi Kappa Kappa - Mu Mu Mu - Chi Gamma Gamma - Beta Lambda Lambda
Theta Lambda Lambda - Zeta Mu Nu - Pi Nu Nu**

**Undergraduate Chapters: Beta Psi - Psi - Alpha Sigma - Zeta Theta - Gamma Zeta
Delta Kappa - Alpha Delta Nu - Pi Delta Delta**



MODERATOR: BRO. MARK HAYES

Award Winning Journalist & Founder of Varsity Connects, Inc.

Mark is an award-winning communications expert. Prior to launching his own communications firm, the CEO spent nearly three decades bringing news viewers in major cities across the country their news and information of the day. Some of his stops include Dallas, Denver, Detroit and Baltimore. However, his proudest accomplishments came during his tenure in the great city of Atlanta, GA. For more than a decade, Mark was a staple of early morning television on Good Day Atlanta. He believes his most noteworthy achievement was the nearly 20 hours he spent on air during the murderous rampage at the Fulton County Courthouse, the shootings and the subsequent capture of Brian Nichols.

Mark Hayes is the father of two Division One athletes and has a unique understanding of what it takes to be successful as a student athlete in college and professional sports. But he also understands the need for parents to understand how to communicate effectively with the student athlete to provide the much-needed support system every student athlete needs.

Varsity Connects is all about dynamic connections through communication.

Mark is a TEDx Speaker, a Silver Telly Award winner, a 2-time Emmy nominee and has received highly coveted national recognition for spot news coverage from the National Press Photographers Association,

Mark is a graduate of Howard University, Class of 1989. He is also a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and he and his wife, Latonya, also a Howard University graduate and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, love to travel the world over.



MR. JARED WASHINGTON (PANELIST)

Jared Washington is a Licensed Professional Counselor and the founder of Healing Outreach Purpose Empowerment, a distinguished private practice dedicated to fostering mental well-being and self-empowerment. He is also the Regional Behavioral Health Director for Armor Healthcare focusing on the correctional setting. With over 15 years of experience in the mental health field, Jared has honed his expertise across diverse clinical settings, including psychiatric hospitals, community mental health agencies, and foster care.

A passionate advocate for mental health awareness, Jared has contributed to numerous panels, conferences, and television shows, providing valuable insights on the profound impact of mental health on individuals and communities. He is also the author of “Heal or Repeat: Breaking the Cycle of Intergenerational Trauma”, a powerful work that delves into the effects of generational trauma and the path to healing.

For over a decade, Jared has been dedicated to educating and empowering communities by connecting individuals with vital mental health resources and encouraging them to take an active role in their own well-being. Through his work, he strives to inspire change, foster resilience, and advocate for those seeking a path toward healing and growth.



DR. SCOTT A. HUGHES (PANELIST)

Dr. Scott A. Hughes is the President-Elect for the 100 Black Men of DeKalb County. He works to better the future of our community through his mentorship of young adults at the 100 Black Men of DeKalb County Leadership Academy. Dr. Hughes is the founder and CEO of the leadership development firm Bridge Higher Group, LLC (BHG). As a seasoned executive and dedicated community leader, he has carved a distinguished career by inspiring individuals and organizations to reach their full potential. Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Dr. Hughes' passion for service and commitment to excellence became guiding principles after a life-change more than 2 decades ago.

With both real-world experience and a robust academic background, including a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration, Master of Business Administration (MBA), and a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA), Dr. Hughes has developed a deep understanding of organizational dynamics and leadership principles. He knows people. His expertise in change management, organizational development, and leadership training has equipped him to navigate complex challenges and drive positive transformation.

Dr. Hughes currently serves as the Executive Director of Trinity Community Ministries, where he leverages his extensive experience to lead the organization in fulfilling its mission of empowering men to reclaim their lives and return to their families and communities as mentors and leaders. As a member of the Board of Directors of New Life Community Alliance (NLCA), his ability to foster a collaborative environment, empower teams, and develop talent has been instrumental in the organization's success.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Dr. Hughes is actively involved in community initiatives, serving as a mentor, speaker, and advocate for social responsibility. His dedication to giving back is evident in his volunteer work with numerous outreach organizations and his involvement in many other community service programs. Dr. Hughes is a minister at New Life Church in Decatur, preaching the gospel for the last 20 years.



DR. MATT SMITH (PANELIST)

Dr. Matt Smith is a licensed psychologist and owner of Atlanta Consulting and Psychological Services. He also has been in a mental health field for over 25 years working with families, couples, and men issues. Dr Smith earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Jackson State University in Liberal Arts and Counseling respectively in Jackson, Mississippi. Additionally, he received his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in Springfield, Missouri.



SR. OFFICER ERIC KING (PANELIST)

- From Detroit Michigan
- BS in Psychology from Michigan State University '07'
- 17 years sworn with APD
- Started off in Zone 4 morning watch
- Bike Officer in Zone 4
- Crime Suppression Unit Zone 4
- Juvenile Repeat Offender Zone 4
- LGBTQ Liaison for City of Atlanta
- Senior POST Certified Instructor Currently assigned to the recruit training side of the Atlanta Police Training Academy. (5years)
- Responsible for Crisis Response Training for new police recruits, giving them the knowledge and training to safely deal with people in crisis.

MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH FORUM 2025

EVENT PROGRAM

Theme: "Impactful Service Through Intentional Friendship"

Date: November 11, 2025

Location: Big Bethel AME Church~ 220 Auburn Avenue, 30303

Time: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM



6:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Welcome

- **Panelists check in**
- **Guest Arrivals**
- **Networking opportunity**

7:00 PM – 8:15 PM

- **Opening Remarks/Welcome -Mr. Marcus Black**
- **Prayer – Mr. Everett Jolly**
- **Host/Panelists' Introductions**
- **Q&A by Moderator Mark Hayes,**
- **Panelists: Mr. Jared Washington, Dr. Scott Hughes, Dr. Matt Smith and Sr. Officer Eric King**

8:15 PM – 8:30 PM

- **Closing Remarks and Prayer**

*****Dinner will be served**