



Reach Society



Building Connections

Patrons: Lord Herman Ouseley & Professor Trevor Williams Report of Third Careers Conference 2014

(See the Image Gallery for Conference Photos)

“Reach your goals” was the emerging theme at the third Reach Society Careers Conference which attracted around 840 people – the largest number of young people and parents so far – and the launch of the UCFB Reach Society Scholarship Programme.

The event, which was held at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, Thursday, 10 April 2014, offered 10 workshops that included CV writing, interview skills, maximising the use of the Internet and a panel of experts in medicine, science and engineering introduced Black students to a range of career options and pathways.

Nineteen organisations, including the Alpha BSE Training, British Interplanetary Society, Black Police Association, Carnaby Erp, EDF Energy, Jobcentre Plus, Lloyds Banking Group, Royal Navy, UCFB Wembley plus community groups like Amos Bursary, ACES Youth Project, BTEG, Galaxy Radio, RESPECT and 100 BMOL were represented and 40 professional Black men were on hand to encourage, motivate and inspire the attendees.

The conference also highlighted the availability of scholarships and bursaries, such as the Lloyds Scholars programme, which helps students from lower income backgrounds to attend high value universities and the launch of the UCFB Reach Society Scholarship Programme, worth £27,000 per student, by Lord Herman Ouseley, the Society’s Patron, Professor Philip Wilson, UCFB Provost & CEO and Clarke Carlisle, UCFB Ambassador.

Myles Ball, a third year UCFB undergraduate, also shared the benefits he gained from his three years of study with UCFB and his plans after graduation. This is a five year Scholarship Programme which is designed to provide significant financial support to two students from the Black community, one male and one female, annually until 2018.

The Conference also saw the soft launch of Reach Society’s children’s edition of the book, “Our Story, For Us, By Us – The Story of British People of African Caribbean Origin”, which was adapted for primary school children by Mrs Paula Neil and Dr Dwain Neil. It contains an evocative introduction from Ms Marva Rollins, headteacher who intends to make use of the book to inspire students.

The children’s edition of the book is a conversation between grand parents and their grand children, Clinton and Doreen, while on holiday. In a series of eight stories the grand children discover the history and achievements of British people of African



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Caribbean origin; and are inspired to respect and value the work of men and women of action, their ancestors.

Reach Society is a social enterprise which began operations in October 2010. It is the brainchild of a small group of professional Black men who are passionate about reaching back into the community to inspire young people.

Dr Dwain A Neil, Reach Society, Chairman (April 2014)