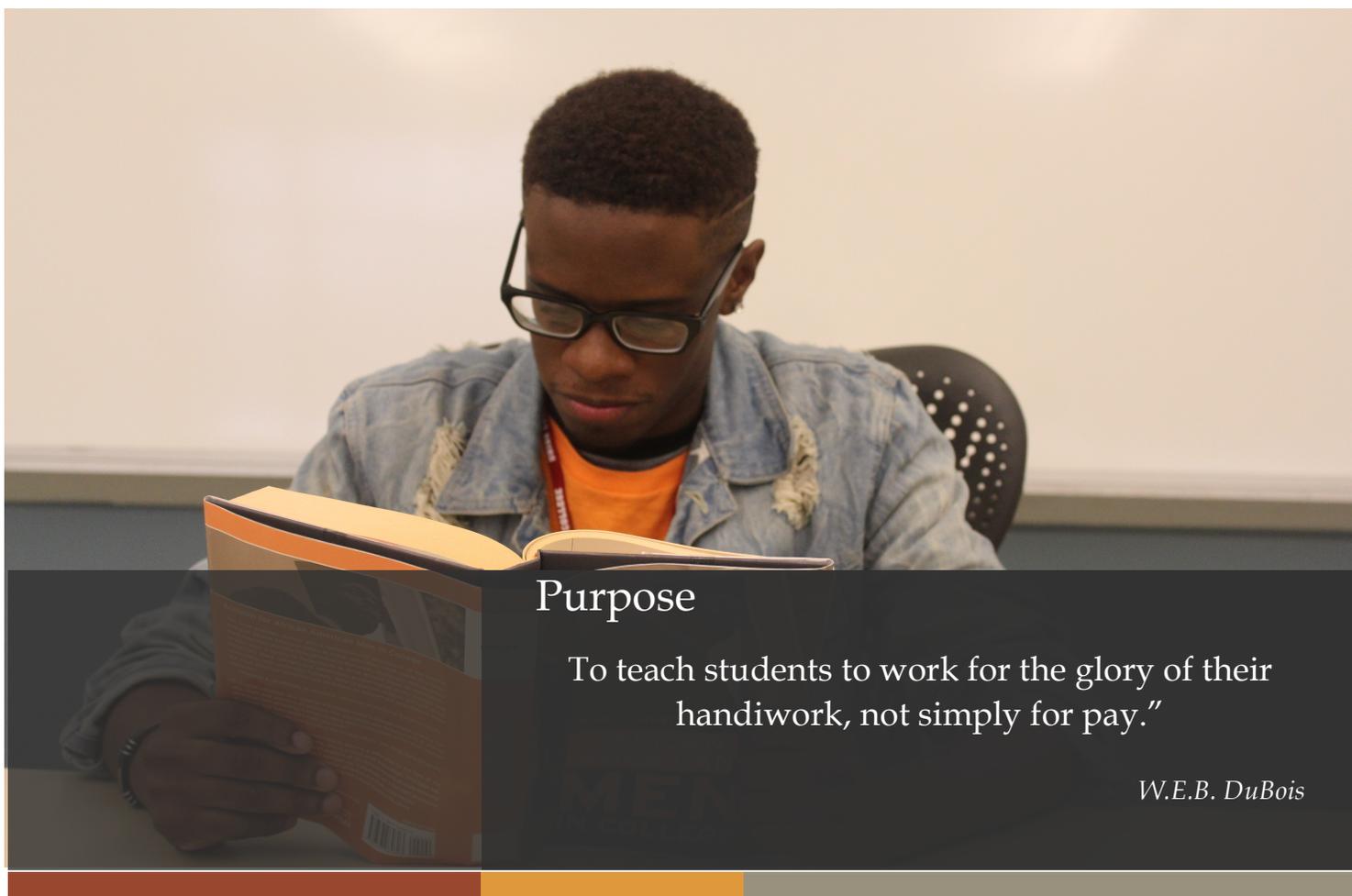


# The Men of the Tenth Inc.

## Coming of Age Program





## Purpose

To teach students to work for the glory of their handiwork, not simply for pay."

*W.E.B. DuBois*

The Coming of Age (COA) program is an empowerment program to help students transform themselves into successful leaders that will impact change in their community.

Dr. LaVon Williams created this program for high school and college students to learn how to design and execute a successful plan for overcoming obstacles they may experience as students. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), there are too many students that pursue a postsecondary education and do not graduate due to lack of academic preparation, motivation, culture shock, time management, and financial instability.

Given that students often struggle pursuing a postsecondary education, the COA program is designed to teach students how to transform themselves into active learners that can understand the power of choice.

Participants in this program are influenced by historical figures and activities that focus on developing a creator's mindset. In particular, students learn to overcome stereotypes and other biases by identifying their values, expectations, and reasons to excel.

Consequently, the goal of this program is to provide students with the information they need to succeed. This 10-hour training program is divided into five sessions to develop students' self-awareness for achieving their goals and dreams. These five (two-hour) sessions also represent W.E.B. Dubois' concept of the talented tenth. In 1903, Dubois declared that the problem of education "is the problem of developing the best of this race [students] to guide the mass away from contamination and death." He emphasized that, "the talented tenth" are leaders of thought and missionaries of culture that rise and pull their people up. He also asserted that every student needs their own peculiar curriculum to build their character to earn a living.



## Authentic Leadership

Our mission is to provide authentic leadership that teaches students to accept personal responsibility, discover what motivates them, and learn how to manage their time.

“It’s time to come up and hold my own weight and defend my crown.”

Jay Z

The COA program teaches students how to earn a living by providing authentic leadership. We teach students by providing great educational experiences through unique planning and train students to use their foresight to prevent decisions that are detrimental to their growth. We use pop culture (hip-hop, social media, sports and entertainment) to assist students with creating a plan to become successful individuals.

Our definition of success is not determined by financial status or professional status; it’s defined by a student’s ability to prevail under any circumstance. Success to us is a person consciously transforming into a lifelong learner that can pull others up to their vantage ground.

In short, our goal is to reform how students learn by meeting them where they are and offering them the opportunity to create the blueprint for the success they desire and beyond.

## FIVE SESSIONS OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



### **Make Momma (My Family) Proud.**

This session teaches students to accept personal responsibility for seeing themselves as the primary cause of their outcomes and experiences. Students attend this session to find purpose in their lives by discovering personally meaningful goals and dreams. They also learn how to plan and take purposeful actions in pursuit of their goals and dreams.



### **Find a Way.**

During this session students learn how to establish a creator mindset. Students learn that their choices create the outcome and experience of their lives. When student attend this session, they learn to master creator language and how making wise decisions design the future they want.



### **Mastermind Group.**

In order for students to grow they need to have a support system that will help them persists toward their goals and dreams. This session is designed to help students create a compelling life plan by studying the actions of successful individuals. Students will leave this session understanding that life is richer when giving to and receiving from others and how to achieve success in a world of increasing diversity.



### **Times Up.**

Is an interactive session about mastering time management. Students participating in this session will learn how to act with a purpose. They will learn how to choose deeds that move them closer to their goals and dreams and how commitment, focus, and persistence are part of the recipe for success.



### **The Blueprint for Guaranteed Success in College (School) and Beyond.**

In this session students learn to recognize when they are off course and how to identify their self-defeating patterns of thought, emotion, and behavior. Students will also learn to seek new learning experiences that offer valuable lessons that will develop their skills.



“Listen, that’s the key. It's not like you have a whole bunch of work you have to do. You just have to pay attention to the lessons because they are not just school lessons but lessons about life.”

*Kevin Steele  
Valedictorian*

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