KINGMAKERS
Instructor’s Curriculum
AAMAA
AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE ACHIEVEMENT
Kingmakers of Oakland is an inspiring 5 part docu-series that explores the short history, challenges, triumphs, and five-year road to sustainability and success of the Office of African American Male Achievement Program (AAMA) in Oakland Unified School District, which was the first program in the nation to embed a culturally centered curriculum to help close the educational achievement gap for African American boys.

This docu-series curriculum seeks to:

1) **Help educators understand the impact of historical and institutional bias on students of color.**

2) **Offer an approach that engages, encourages and empowers all students.**
5 EPISODES, 5 LESSONS

Episode 1: Who is Chris Chatmon?
Episode 2: Oakland: The Blueprint
Episode 3: Kings & Kingmakers
Episode 4: Destiny is Calling
Episode 5: The Village
EPISODE 3: KINGS & KINGMAKERS

Why do AAMA facilitators refer to the students as kings?
“Other teachers may have given up on them and doesn’t see the potential in our kids the way I do.”

- Bryan Bassette

**AAMA facilitators understand that:** African-American boys have been depicted by media culture as dangerous and ostracized by society at large and **thus in need of adults around them that believe in them and support their potential.**
Transformational Instruction requires the ability to see beyond a bad day, week or month for a student. They can see themselves in every student. They tap into and remember what they needed and never stop believing a student can get better.
Transformational Instructors also understand the need for a transformative curriculum that not only teaches skills and content but also allows for self-reflection, perceptual analysis and the building of self-esteem and self-efficacy...
Why did Taiwon believe that Asians were smarter than black people?

How would you have handled that in your class?
Why did Taiwon change his mind about Asian students being smarter than African-American students?
How important is esteem and confidence on student performance?

How does this relate to Claude Steele’s research on stereotype threat?
"That’s what is lacking with a lot teachers, they’re not connecting with the students. I want them to see, I’m just like them and they’re just like me”

- Kevin Jennings

AAMA’s Transformational Instructors never stop ‘leaning in.’ They connect with their students ideologically and literally. This often times is exactly what the students need.
Transformational Instruction

Connection

Transformational Curriculum

High Expectations/Belief in Potential
AAMA’s Transformational Instructors also have a clean slate mentality. Every day is a new day with the students. No negative expectations are acceptable ever. But it is necessary to follow up with all disciplinary actions if they were declared during class. Keeping your word with students is key to them for building trust with you.
“First thing we do is focus on them emotionally and physically as well…we have them think about what happens when they think positively.”

- Lamar Hancock

“I realize that we’re just watering and planting seeds and that God and time will help them grow”

- Remi Bereola

“In ten years I expect the walls on my class to have nothing but hoodies.. from whatever colleges my students got into”

- Earnest Jenkins

“At the end of the day it’s love. To see them love themselves and each other”

- Olafemi Akintunde