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## **100 Black Men of America and Walmart Host Summit to Address Disparities in Education, Education Reform and African-American Males**

*Youth experts, educators and community leaders offer valuable insights and tangible solutions*

**MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 15, 2009** – The 100 Black Men of America, Inc. and Walmart hosted an interactive panel discussion focused on education reform and disparities in the African-American community and provided steps groups and individuals can implement in their communities. A panel of national youth development experts, community leaders and educators discussed positive solutions and alternatives in successfully educating young African-American males during the Issues Summit at the Doral Golf Resort & Spa in Miami, Florida on Dec. 11. *Black Enterprise*'s Senior Vice President/ Editor-In-Chief Derek Dingle served as the moderator for the panel discussion.

“The 100 is committed to addressing critical needs in education and working with leaders to develop innovative and sustainable solutions to these challenges,” said 100 Black Men of America Chairman Albert E. Dotson, Jr. “We’re proud to partner with Walmart for this Issues Summit that highlights effective ongoing solutions that can be replicated, while highlighting the 100’s active engagement in meeting the educational challenges.”

Summit participants included **David Banks**, principal and founder, Eagle Academy; **Michael Benjamin**, executive director, Florida School Choice Foundation; **Dr. Jacqueline Del Rosario**, executive director, ReCapturing the Vision International; **Dr. Howard Fuller**, founder and director, Institute for the Transformation of Learning; **Tony Hopson**, president and CEO, Self Enhancement, Inc.; and **Dr. George Smith**, vice chairman, 100 Black Men of Chicago. Additionally, presidents of 100 Black Men chapter from across the country participated in the insightful forum. This group discussed a host of topics including mentoring in education, federal education policy reform, national high school retention rates, African-American graduation rates, improved job readiness and more.

“Our partnership with the 100 Black Men of American to examine topics of importance to African-Americans is an extension of Walmart’s dedication to make a positive difference in all the communities we serve,” said Esther Silver-Parker, senior vice president of Corporate Affairs at Walmart. “We are committed to doing our part to explore solutions and strategies in order to make an impact in our neighborhoods. Together, with the 100, we are working to get it done.”

With a goal to advocate policy change and provide steps community groups and individuals can implement in their local areas, the 100 and Walmart have partnered to host a series of featured discussions. Moreover, these forums are aimed to address the needs of black men and youth, inspire individual development and support necessary action for the African-American community.

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The first dialogue, hosted by the organizations along with Congressman Kendrick Meek, was held during the 2009 Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

**About The 100 Black Men of America, Inc.**

The 100 Black Men was founded as an organization in New York City in 1963. The national organization, 100 Black Men of America, Inc. began with nine chapters in 1986 as a national alliance of leading African American men of business, public affairs and government with a mission to improve the quality of life for African Americans, particularly African American youth. Today, under the direction of Albert E. Dotson, Jr., the organization has 116 chapters in the United States, England and the Caribbean. The 100 serves as an international coalition focused on creating educational opportunities, promoting economic empowerment, addressing health disparities and creating positive mentoring relationships. For more information about 100 Black Men of America, Inc., visit [www.100blackmen.org](http://www.100blackmen.org).

**About Walmart**

Every week, millions of customers visit Walmart stores, Neighborhood Markets, and Sam's Club locations across America or log on to its online store at [www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com). The company and its Foundation are committed to a philosophy of giving back locally. Walmart (NYSE: WMT) is proud to support the causes that are important to customers and associates right in their own neighborhoods, and last year gave more than \$378 million to local communities in the United States. More information about Walmart can be found by visiting [www.walmartstores.com](http://www.walmartstores.com).

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