QEM PRESIDENT AND CEO SERVES ON UNIQUE PANEL AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) The Early Childhood Education Initiative and the Teaching and Learning teams at the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) invited QEM’s president and CEO, Ivory A. Toldson, Ph.D. to speak on its first-ever “Let’s Talk” program for families. Teaching for Change co-facilitated the event for parents of young children, ages 0-6, at the museum on Monday, September 23, from 4:00 o’clock until 8:00 o’clock in the evening.

“Parents raising small children in the current climate of racial discord and division, presents some unique and difficult challenges for parents of small children,” said Dr. Toldson. “Those parents who are raising male children have an additional fear that they will be profiled in a negative way, and therefore must learn behaviors that are linked to survival,” he added.

A scholar and educator considered by many an expert in the field of racial identity, Dr. Toldson has spoken and written extensively on the subject of raising African American male children.

The NMAAHC symposium was billed as an opportunity for parents and families to learn more about racial identity development in young children (ages 0-6), and to think critically
about how to engage with their children in age-appropriate ways to discuss tough questions about race at home. Families were presented with ideas for re-thinking the way they approach the topic of race at home, including introducing critical literature to their children, and starting new conversations at meal times. The event was billed as “a morning of learning, reflection, and community.” The sponsoring organization has said it seeks to impact the dialogue around race, racism and other challenging topics through work with educators, parents and the general public.

And, through its programming, it aims to investigate race and racism in society, the legacy of race in American society, the institution’s and the individual’s role in fostering inclusion, the benefits of having open dialogue about race and racism, and the tools to foster conversation with students and others.

In addition to Dr. Toldson, special guest presenter, early childhood educator Megan Madison joined the conversation. According to its literature, “Teaching for Change provides teachers and parents with the tools to create schools where students learn to read, write and change the world. By drawing direct connections to real world issues, Teaching for Change encourages teachers and students to question and re-think the world inside and outside their classrooms, build a more equitable, multicultural society, and become active global citizens.”

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