HAMPTON UNIVERSITY- HOWARD UNIVERSITY
THE PROMISE PROGRAM

Our Vision

To reduce the disproportionate number of African American males who are involved in violence.

Our Mission

To assist African American males in reaching their greatest potential as healthy, self-sufficient and productive members of their communities and in avoiding violent behaviors and situations by:

- Providing them with knowledge, skills and resources that will: 1) build upon and increase their individual and cultural strengths, 2) improve their family relationships and 3) increase their exposure to and utilization of other strategies proven effective in other evidence-based programs.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Promise Program is a strength-based, culturally-relevant, and family-centered violence prevention program for African American males, ages 12-25. Sixty (60) of the participants will be residents of Hampton or Newport News, Virginia and sixty (60) will be residents of Washington, DC. The overall goal of this program is to help African American males to: a) achieve their greatest potential as healthy, self-sufficient and productive members of their communities; and b) be nonviolent and avoid situations that put them at risk of violence.

This intensive personal development and violence prevention program focuses on providing these young men with knowledge, skills and resources that will: 1) build upon and increase their individual and cultural strengths (including positive racial identity, having a sense of being supported by and responsible to their communities and spirituality); 2) improve their family relationships and 3) increase their exposure to and utilization of other strategies (proven effective in other evidence-based programs).

PROGRAM COMPONENTS
1. **Workshop sessions** – There will be 12-14, 2-hour workshop sessions. These sessions will be held on Saturdays each week at Hampton University (for Hampton and Newport News, VA participants) and select sites in Washington DC (for Washington DC participants). Workshop sessions will consist of groups of 15 participants each for the two age groups (12-17 and 18-25).

The intervention includes a facilitator curriculum, a participant curriculum and a brief parent curriculum with educational materials and resources.

Each session will be facilitated by trained facilitators, both elder and younger. Workshop facilitators have completed training for this program, have had prior experience working with youth and young adult males and have at least an associate degree or its equivalent.

In these sessions participants will learn about, discuss and participate in activities that focus on topics such as 1) what it means to be a black man in America; 2) healthy family and intimate partner relationships; 3) respect; 4) community responsibility and support; 5) self-efficacy; 6) anger management; 7) effective communication and conflict resolution; 8) healthy lifestyle choices; 9) the role that religion and/or spirituality plays in their lives and 10) having hope.

The workshops include didactic instruction, group discussion, small group activities, role-play, demonstration, experiential exercises, games, and multimedia.

2. **A Mentoring Program** - Participants will be mentored in groups with elder mentors and younger mentors. The mentors will a) serve as real life role models of behaviors encouraged in the workshops; b) help to reinforce what participants have learned in workshop sessions; c) facilitate the participants work on the cooperative project; d) escort participants on the 2-3 outings/events of interest to participants and e) assist and support them as needed with other life issues.

**MAJOR GOALS OF THIS PROGRAM FOR PARTICIPANTS**

To provide knowledge, skills and resources that will facilitate personal/positive development and prevent violence among African American males by increasing their:

1. Development of healthy relationships with significant family members.
2. Level of self-respect, respect for others and understanding of the meaning of respect.
3. Understanding of collective responsibility.
4. Understanding of the importance of community engagement and support for individual and community well-being.
7. Sense of self-efficacy.
8. Pro-social interpersonal skills.
9. Sense of purpose and belief in a positive future.
10. Decision making and problem-solving skills.
11. Ability to manage and resolve conflict.
12. Effective communication skills.
THE PROMISE PROGRAM IS ALSO A RESEARCH PROJECT

The Promise Program is also a Research Project that aims to facilitate the development of a national and model violence prevention program for African American males that is research-based, evidence-based, and community-based.

As this model violence prevention program is developed it will be empirically tested to determine its effectiveness in reducing violent attitudes, beliefs and behavioral inclinations among at risk African American males ages 12-25 in Hampton, Newport News and the Washington, DC metropolitan area. It will be developed, replicated and refined over the next four years. Each year a new cohort of 120 males will participate in the program [60 in Hampton and Newport News and 60 in the Washington, DC area]

HAMPTON UNIVERSITY’S MINORITY MEN’S HEALTH INITIATIVE AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE PROMISE PROGRAM

The Hampton University Minority Men's Health Initiative (MMHI) takes a comprehensive and meaningful approach to narrowing the gender and racial gap of health disparities by harnessing the resources and expertise of historically black colleges and universities. These HBCUs will collaborate in developing, advancing and implementing innovative transdisciplinary cross-tiered research that includes intervention components of education, training, and outreach; to effectively and efficiently reduce health disparities in minority men.

The Hampton University MMHI will develop translational research models that are sustainable and transferable across communities, regions and the nation. To this end, integrated research partnerships have been forged in the following areas: violence prevention (Hampton University and Howard University), cancer (Clark Atlanta University and Hampton University), cardiovascular disease (Jackson State University and Hampton University), and diabetes and obesity (North Carolina A&T State University). The Hampton University Minority Men’s Health Initiative is devoted to increasing research infrastructure and the capacity of its partnering historically black colleges and universities.

The Promise Program, as a component of the Hampton University Minority Men’s Health Initiative, will focus on identifying interventions that will reduce violence among African American boys and men and eliminate the disproportionately higher rates of violence among these males as compared to other racial/ethnic groups.
WHY IS THIS PROGRAM NEEDED?

While violence rates have been declining in the last several years among Americans overall, violence among African American men is a major concern. For example, murder victim rates in the U.S. have been dropping for years among White victims, yet Black male victims of murder has increased during this period more than 9% - from 5,307 in 2000 to 5,538 in 2012. Also, overall more than half of the nations’ homicide victims are African American, although blacks make up 13% of the population. And of those black murder victims, 85% are men, mostly young men. There have also been increases in African American men as perpetrators of murder since 2000 from 5,361 to 5,486, and a decline among Whites from 4,809 in 2000 to 4,429.

Further, research shows that Blacks between the ages of 17-29, commit more murders than any other age group. It is also important to note that homicide victims usually are killed by people of their own race and ethnicity. This Pattern goes back at least a generation. For example, the Bureau of Justice Statistics Data – show that in 2012 White victims were killed by whites 80% of the time and Black victims were killed by blacks 90% of the time

Also, it’s important to note that these killings remain high in poor pockets of cities large and small. In most of these cases, the victims were AAs younger than 30, and the people charged also were young black men. Black-on-Black violence tends to stay concentrated within poorer, inner-city areas

In sum, the epidemic levels of violence continue to exist in far too many poor inner-city black communities, destroying individual lives, disrupting families and communities and draining resources from police, prosecutors, social workers and hospitals.
LEADERSHIP TEAM

Hampton University

Dr. Linda Malone-Colon, Principal Investigator (PI)

Dr. Zina McGee, Co-PI

Dr. Candice Wallace, Co-PI

Mr. Brian Hawkins, Lead Facilitator

Mrs. Angelique Marcus, Project Coordinator

Ms. Nineveh Haysbert, Project Administrative Coordinator

Howard University

Dr. A. Wade Boykin, PI

Mrs. Crystal Cotten Faison, Project Director

Mr. Tony Upson, Project Coordinator

Mr. Richard Dixon, Research Associate

Mr. David Mitchell, Research Associate
ADVISORY COUNCIL – HAMPTON UNIVERSITY

1. Atty. Anton Bell, Commonwealth Attorney
   City of Hampton

2. Atty. Howard E. Gwynn, Commonwealth Attorney
   City of Newport News

3. Charles A. Hall, Executive Director
   Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board

4. Dr. Ashby Kilgore, Superintendent
   Newport News Public Schools

5. Richard Myers, Chief of Police
   City of Newport News

6. Gabe Morgan, Sheriff
   City of Newport News

7. McKinley L. Price, DDS, Mayor
   City of Newport News

8. Dr. Jeffrey Smith, Superintendent
   Hampton Public Schools

9. Terry L. Sult, Chief of Police
   City of Hampton

10. George Wallace, Mayor
    City of Hampton

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS – HAMPTON UNIVERSITY

1. MaRhonda Echols, Prevention Coordinator
   Youth and Gang Violence

2. Steve Bond, Assistant City Manager
   City of Hampton

3. Dr. Claudia Hines, Director
   School Counseling and Youth Development

4. Dr. Darwin Mills, Supervisor
   Operational Planning for Secondary School Leadership

5. Dr. Paula Barrows, FBI Special Agent
   Newport News Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI) Division
1. Judge Arthur L. Burnett, Sr. (Retired), Chair, Vice-President, National Executive Director
   National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.

2. Chad Clinton, Director
   Alliance of Concerned Men Community Organization

3. Gwendolyn Crump, Director
   Office of Communications
   Metropolitan Police Department

4. Dr. Darell Dones, Supervisory FBI Special Agent
   Washington, DC Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI) Division- Behavioral Sciences Unit

5. Robert Fairchild, Committee Chairman
   International Fatherhood Mentoring and International Stop the Violence Committee for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

6. Mziwandile Themba Masimini, Director
   Student Discipline and School Climate
   Office of the Chief of Schools/Office of Youth Engagement
   District of Columbia Public Schools

7. Janks Morton, American Filmmaker, Founder and CEO
   iYAGO Entertainment Group, multimedia production company

8. Sarah Navarro, Director
   Young Adult Learning Center
   Maya Angelou Public Charter School

9. Jasper Ormond, Associate Director
   Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA)

10. Alex Peerman, Policy and Advocacy Associate
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The Promise Program

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