

Stay Positive Work Hard Make It Happen

On February 18 and 19, Southside Virginia Community College hosted an annual "Make It Happen" day, spearheaded by Dr. John Hicks, for area high schools on the Christanna Campus and the John H. Daniel Campus. Approximately 200 young African-American men participated. These young men were treated to a diverse panel that included the following:

- Dr. Quentin Johnson, President, Southside Virginia Community College
- Dr. Gregory K. McLeod, President, Edgecombe Community College
- Mr. Walter L. Lindsay, Jr., Supervisory Patent Examiner, US Dept of Patents and Trademark Office
- Mr. Ryan Lewis, Plant Manager Engineer, Boyd Corp
- Mr. Marseille Maxey, Dean of Students, Rowanty Technical Center
- Dr. Zoe Spencer, Professor of Sociology, Virginia State University
- Mr. Earl Jarrell, Pastor, Poplar Mount Baptist Church
- Mr. Damon M. Reed, Staff Sergeant, US Army
- Dr. Alfonzo Seward, Professor of Criminal Justice, Southside Virginia Community College
- Mr. Justin Ellis, Student Life Counselor, Reynolds Community College
- Mr. Maurice Randall III, MSPA, NXT Medical Group, LLC
- Dr. Michael Reynolds, Dean of Business, Engineer, and Technology, John Tyler Community College
- Mr. Tavorise Marks, Regional Coordinator, Virginia Department of Health

Historically, African-American male students have been significantly less successful than their female and white counterparts relative to retention and graduation rates. Southside Virginia Community College initiated MAKE IT HAPPEN in the fall of 1998 in an effort to enhance the academic success of these students. This comprehensive program provides meaningful activities for participants and establishes an institutional climate supportive of the success of African-American males.

