

Black Men's Mental Health Conference: Heal Brother, Heal

August 16, 9:00AM – 3:00PM
UAlbany ETEC Building, Albany, NY, 12203



CENTER FOR THE
**ELIMINATION OF
HEALTH DISPARITIES**
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY | STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

REGISTER NOW

**The Beta Psi Boule Foundation, Inc. and
The Center for the Elimination of Health Disparities**

are pleased to invite you to participate in the

[Black Men's Mental Health Conference](#)

to be held on

August 16, 2025, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Continental Breakfast to be served at 8:30am

[Register Here!](#)

WITH PRESENTATIONS BY:

Alex L. Pieterse, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor and Director of the Institute for the Study of Race and Culture at Boston College. He received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University, his Master of Arts in Counseling from New York University, and holds a Bachelor of Health Science in Nursing, received from the Australian Catholic University. Dr. Pieterse's scholarship focuses on psychosocial aspects of race and racism, racial trauma, and anti-racism training and advocacy. He is a recipient of a Health



Disparities research grant received from NIH and the National Institute on Minority Health. Dr. Pieterse is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and is currently an Associate Editor for *The Counseling Psychologist*. He previously served on the Editorial Boards of the *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, and *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*. Dr. Pieterse co-authored with Robert T. Carter “Measuring the Effects of Racism” published by Columbia University Press. He is a licensed psychologist and maintains a psychotherapy practice working with individuals and couples.



Dr. Patrick Jean-Pierre, known as Dr. JP, is the dedicated *Principal of Paige Elementary Community School* within the Schenectady City School District. With *25 years of comprehensive experience* across public, charter, and university settings, Dr. JP is an educator, counselor, and leader passionate about fostering *systemic change* in schools.

Dr. JP previously served as District Director for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and Assistant Director for Diversity Recruitment in Schenectady City School District, and held

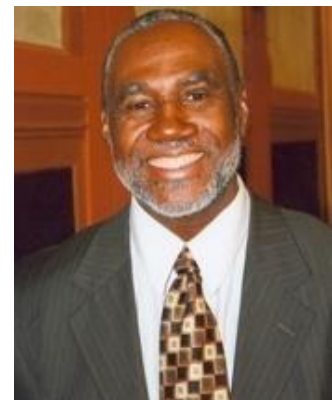
key leadership roles at the University at Albany and NYU, where he directed the NYS Technical Assistance Center on Disproportionality. His extensive background includes developing therapeutic programming for vulnerable students at Rutgers University and providing leadership development at the Wharton School. He also has taught Diversity, Equity, and Systems Leadership at various universities.

Dr. Jean-Pierre holds a Doctorate in Organizational Psychology from Rutgers University, complemented by master's degrees in Educational Leadership, Industrial Organizational Psychology, and Human Resource Management. His research interests are centered on leadership, masculinity, inter-group relations, disproportionality, educational equity, and systemic transformation in schools. When not dedicated to his professional endeavors, Dr. JP cherishes time with his wife and two children, and enjoys exercising and traveling.

FACILITATED BY:

Gregory Owens, LMSW, Chair of the Beta Psi Social Action Committee and Convener of the Albany Minority Health Task Force.

Owens is a licensed master social worker and worked for NY State for over 34 years. He retired from state employment in 2021. He is a highly sought-after keynote speaker, trainer and consultant in



leadership development, mentoring, cultural competence, and effective approaches for working with young Black males. He has consulted on racial disproportionality with the with the Annie E. Casey funded Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) program in the juvenile justice systems in Ohio, Michigan, and Hawaii and on Sports and Drugs in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Owens is currently the Executive Director of the Higher Horizons Community Development Corporation, a non-profit entity of the Macedonia Baptist Church in Albany, NY. In February 2024, Owens received the Harriet Tubman Titan Award in Community Leadership from the Isael AME Methodist Church in Albany, New York for his commitment and leadership in working in the Albany community. In October of 2023, he received the Harold Conover Leadership Award from the Alumnae Board at Rider University. The award is bestowed annually upon a Rider graduate who has distinguished him or herself as an exemplary leader in the field of nonprofit, community, or government service.

Locally he facilitates meetings of the New York State Department of Health Race Equity Work Group, which was convened after the State issued legislation stating that health disparities in New York State were due in part to structural racism. His work in health disparities includes convening the Albany Minority Health Task Force for the University at Albany, Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities, and consultation with the Adirondack Health Initiative, presenting workshops on health literacy and culture to stakeholders in the upstate region of New York State, and has worked with health care professionals in Schenectady and other municipalities in New York State.

BACKGROUND: We often hear that African American/Black men are reluctant to talk about mental health. For many. It's still taboo, considered a sign of weakness, or airing dirty laundry. The reasons are as varied and nuanced as anything else related to the lives and experiences of African American men in this country and the world. Anxiety, depression, worry, affect all of us. Living with the constant stressors caused by systemic and structural racism makes mental wellness even more challenging for Black and Brown, Native and poor people.

This forum will provide a perspective on the journey to attain and sustain mental health, wellness, and wellbeing for African American/Black men from clinicians and practitioners who have devoted their professional and personal lives to this work. It seeks to offer solutions as well as hope for healing for a group of people who consider mental health to be an important consideration and seek ways to attain it for themselves, each other, their families, and communities.

The forum is sponsored by the Beta Psi Boule Foundation of the Sigma Pi Phi fraternity, The Center for the Elimination of Health Disparities of the University of Albany, and Higher Horizon Development Corp.

Please contact Casey West, CEMHD Logistics Support, at cwest@albany.edu if you have any questions regarding this event.

