

## Welcome from the Executive Director

Dear Symposium Attendees:



Welcome to the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Arkansas HIV/Tobacco Prevention and Awareness Symposium. On behalf of Future Builders' Board of Directors and Staff, it is our privilege and pleasure to offer you education and training in areas of optimal importance to the health and lives of Arkansas' communities.

This symposium was created under the leadership of Mrs. Linder Conley, founder of Future Builders, Inc. She had a profound awareness of HIV and tobacco-related illnesses among the community and worked passionately to participate in the solution. We have sustained her legacy through our efforts to help advance a systemic and comprehensive approach for addressing the full spectrum of HIV and tobacco prevention.

This year's theme, **HIV & Tobacco: Impact and Solutions**, represents your approach to HIV and Tobacco in our communities. You are more than conversationalists; you are solution finders. You are among ambitious and passionate workers and leaders who remain faithful and dedicated to finding solutions to the problems that impact our communities the most. You share your time, gifts, and energy to ensure others' health and wellness in some capacity. It is your strength and inspiration that keep many of us progressing toward a healthier and better Arkansas.

Thank you for attending the 2021 Symposium. We hope your time with us is productive and meaningful, and we wish you all the best during this season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ebony Conley".

Dr. Ebony Conley  
Executive Director  
Future Builders, Inc.



# AGENDA

**Symposium Moderator: Dr. Marian Evans,  
Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office**

**Pre-Event - 8:50 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

**Participant Entrance to Meeting**

**Opening Prayer - 9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.**

**Joe Brown, Holy Temple Cathedral Church of God in Christ  
Elder, Program Director of Tobacco Prevention and Cessation**

**Welcome - 9:05 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.**

**Linder Conley, Future Builders, Inc., Founder**

**Speaker: Tobacco and Mental Health (Impact and Solutions) - 9:15 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.**

**Dr. Brandynicole Brooks-Harris, Eban Consulting, CEO/Lead Consultant**

**Speaker: Tobacco and the Impact on our Communities - 9:55 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

**Katherine Donald, Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Arkansas, Executive Director**

**Q & A, Tobacco Speaker Evaluation Survey - 10:35 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.**

**Speaker: HIV and Stigma (Impact and Solutions) - 11:00 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.**

**Eddie Wiley, MPH, Maverick Consulting, Principle Consultant**

**Speaker: HIV and the Impact on our State - 11:40 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.**

**Dr. Charles Bedell**

*Arkansas Department of Health, Associate Branch Chief of the Infectious Diseases Branch*

**Q & A, HIV Speaker Evaluation Survey - 12:25 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.**

**Closing – 12:50 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

## ABOUT OUR GUESTS



### Moderator

#### **Marian Evans, PhD, MPH**

Dr. Marian S. Evans is the Program Coordinator for the Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office and the Interim Director of the Minority Research Center on Tobacco and Addictions, both at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. She holds a Master of Public Health Degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, LA, and a Doctorate in Public Health from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, AR. She has over 22 years in community-based program planning and

implementation, capacity building, program evaluation, and policy development. Dr. Evans's research interests are policy and community public health development in minority and rural communities.



### Opening Prayer

#### **Joe Brown**

Joe Brown was born to Joseph and Gertrude Brown. He is the youngest son, with one sister. He has been married to Roslin Brown since April 10, 2004. Joe graduated from Little Rock Central High School in 1990 as the class President. Joe attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA; however, he received his undergraduate degree from Philander Smith College. After the completion of his undergraduate degree, Joe pursued and received his master's

degree in Management. Joe is a lifetime member of Holy Temple and an ordained clergyman. He is the Program Director for the HTC cares campaign and is the 2021 recipient of The Dr. George Blevins award for outstanding service.

## Welcome **Linder Conley**



Linder Conley is the founder of Future Builders, Inc., and served as the Executive Director for 30 years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Philander Smith College and a Master of Arts in Communications from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Under her leadership at Future Builders, Inc., many programs were implemented that touched the lives of thousands across Arkansas. She started the Annual Arkansas HIV/Tobacco Prevention and Awareness Symposium, and this year marks the 17<sup>th</sup> year of this educational event. Mrs. Conley was instrumental in writing, designing, and implementing the National AmeriCorps Demonstration Model, an intergenerational service concept involving three states in the Lower Delta areas: Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. This demonstration model is now a nationwide program known to many as AmeriCorps.



## Speaker

### **Brandynicole Brooks-Harris, PhD, LICSW**

Brandynicole Brooks is a clinical social worker with seventeen years of experience in providing trauma-informed crisis intervention, service coordination, and therapeutic support to various populations. Since 2014, Dr. Brooks has utilized the skills garnered from the practice of social work to educate, empower, and develop professionals and students with a specific focus on diversity, equity and inclusion, trauma-informed care, addressing secondary traumatic stress, and leadership development and support. Her book, *Black Single Mothers and the Child Welfare System: A Guide for Social Workers on Addressing Oppression*, was published by Routledge

Publishers in December 2015. Dr. Brooks also practices as a full spectrum doula and a perinatal mental health specialist and holds certification as a Certified Clinical Trauma Specialist and a Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional.

## Speaker **Katherine Donald**



Katherine Donald has served as the Executive Director for the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Arkansas for more than nineteen (19) years. She has been instrumental in assisting in the passage of several statewide and local tobacco control laws and numerous voluntary policies that help to protect the public from exposure to secondhand smoke in places where they live, work, learn, worship, and play. For the past thirty plus years, Katherine has worked professionally for both the private and public sectors in fields affecting adolescent development, family enrichment, public health, and community development. She is a certified trainer and

consultant for a national organization that focuses on family enrichment and parental empowerment issues. Katherine has conducted trainings and supervised iterant programs from California to Massachusetts and much of the Mid-west. Additionally, she has managed and administered a multiplicity of programs at the local level. Katherine received her first degree from Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas, and continued her education through graduate studies in Rehabilitation Education at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

## Speaker **Eddie Wiley, MPH**



For 16 years, Eddie Wiley has worked across the Southern United States to combat HIV stigma and health disparities, particularly within communities of color. He has facilitated and received numerous trainings around health literacy, stigma reduction, cultural humility, and trauma-informed approaches. As a presenter at local and national conferences, Eddie has been able to speak of his experiences as a person living with HIV in addition to being an HIV service provider. Eddie began his career as a 3MV facilitator. Since then, he founded and serves as the Principle Consultant for Maverick Consulting. As a consultant, he has

developed training curriculum, managed the HIV.gov social media channels, and facilitated the HIV/AIDS Bureau's Community of Practice. Eddie received his Master of Public Health in Social and Behavioral Sciences from the University of Memphis in 2017 and a B.A. in English and Communications from Philander Smith College in 2010.

## Speaker

### **Charles Bedell, MD, MPH**



Dr. Charles T. Bedell was born in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa. He is the *Associate Branch Chief* of the Arkansas Department of Health, Infectious Diseases Branch. He achieved a Bachelor of Science in 2001, and a Doctor of Medicine in 2009, from the University of Liberia, and a Master's in Public Health in 2016, from the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences. Dr. Bedell is employed with the Arkansas Department of Health (June 2011 to present) and currently serves as the Infectious Disease Branch Associate Branch Chief (August 2018 – present). He served as *Provider Relations Specialist* for the

Arkansas Ryan White Part B Program (July 2011- December 2015) and *Coordinator* for the state of Arkansas *HOPWA Program* (July 2011-December 2015). He was the HIV Services (Ryan White Program Part B and AIDS Drugs Assistance Program, ADAP) Manager (January 2016 – August 2018). Dr. Bedell is married (Edna) and has three beautiful children, Christopher (8 yrs.), Albert (3 yrs.,) and Edmond (6 months).



# OUR TEAM

## Partners/Sponsors

Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office – UAPB  
AFC Youth Ministries - Arkansas  
Arkansas Dept of Health - STI/HIV/Hepatitis C/TB Section  
Qualls, CPA Firm

## Symposium Planning Committee

Ruthie Johnson, Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office - UAPB  
Dr. Marian Evans, Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office - UAPB  
Linder Conley, Future Builders, Inc.  
Khalil Al-Ameen, Future Builders, Inc.  
Sybil Ward, JCCSI

## Continuing Education Coordinator

Ruthie Johnson, Minority Initiative Sub Recipient Grant Office - UAPB

## Board of Directors

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Gus Swain  
Robert Williams

## Future Builders, Inc. Staff

Dr. Ebony Conley, Executive Director  
Lisa Strain, Program Director RSVP  
Dee Edwards, Volunteer Coordinator, RSVP  
Khalil Al-Ameen, Program Outreach Coordinator for HIV

FUTURE BUILDERS, INC.

17TH ANNUAL ARKANSAS HIV/TOBACCO

PREVENTION & AWARENESS SYMPOSIUM



# NOTES

*Keep good notes here!*