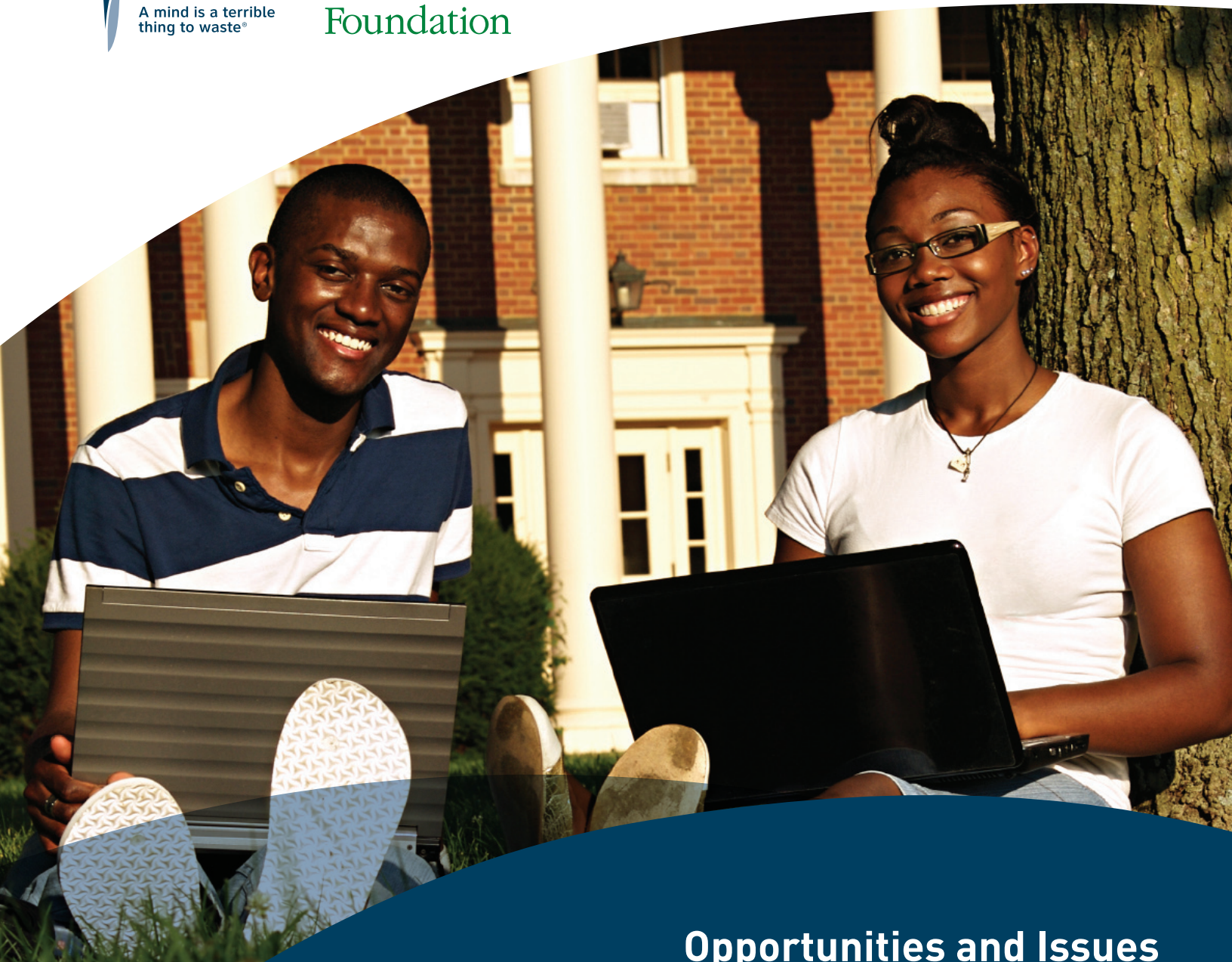




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Opportunities and Issues for Engagement in Digital Culture

**UNCF Digital Media and Learning in Multicultural Contexts
Public Forum Series**

Johnson C. Smith University
Charlotte, NC

April 8, 2010, 9 a.m. – 2:45 p.m., Mary Joyce Taylor Crisp Student Union

A Project of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Digital Media and Learning Initiative



Dr. Michael L. Lomax
President and CEO



April 8, 2010

Dear friends,

Welcome to the UNCF Digital Media and Learning in Multicultural Contexts Public Forum, "Opportunities and Issues for Engagement in Digital Culture."

This event is the last of three critical forums convened to help us gain a greater understanding of how youth, especially youth of color, use new digital media and social networking tools. Considering the rapid expansion and explosion of new technologies, it is imperative that educators, scholars and all stakeholders in education can apply the latest research and innovative applications to advance teaching and learning to benefit our students and the broader community.

Thanks to the generous support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, UNCF has a remarkable opportunity to work with historically black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions to advance our work with new media. This new venture provides the necessary platform for engaging stakeholders to develop programs and services that increase the number of faculty, students and other people of color who can access, utilize and lead innovations in digital media. Advancing education, however, is only one goal; leveraging technologies that are vital to our nation and its ability to compete more effectively in the digital age is another.

I am excited about the potential that this forum series presents. I am also encouraged by the levels of enthusiasm and interest this initiative has generated. There are few opportunities to bring together such a diverse group: teachers, faculty, students, afterschool program directors, administrators and members of technology organizations. UNCF continues to be pleased to lead this important effort.

On behalf of UNCF, I extend our thanks and appreciation to Johnson C. Smith University for hosting today's public forum. To the presenters and participants, I thank you for committing your time and resources to attend this ground-breaking event. I wish you a very successful forum.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Lomax
President and CEO



April 8, 2010

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to "Opportunities and Issues for Engagement in Digital Culture," the third event in the UNCF Institute for Capacity Building's Digital Media and Learning in Multicultural Contexts Public Forum Series. We are delighted to continue the important dialogue around developing ways to increase research and innovative uses of new media technologies, especially among students and faculty at historically black colleges and other minority-serving institutions.

Our first forum focused primarily on how African American youth engage with digital media while the presenters at the second forum discussed research about the participation of both African American and Latino students in the digital culture.

Presenters at today's forum will share more research on young people's use of digital media as learning tools in formal and informal educational settings. In addition, they will talk about ethics in digital culture and policies at institutions that can either facilitate or hinder innovation by young people in the digital world.

We appreciate your participation in this dialogue about how we, as a community of minority-serving institutions, can lead an effort to help students, faculty and all people of color compete more effectively in the digital age.

We want to especially thank the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for sponsoring this important initiative and Johnson C. Smith University, our host institution, for providing the venue for this forum.

Sincerely,

Elfred Anthony Pinkard, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Institute for Capacity Building



April 8, 2010

Dear symposium participants,

On behalf of Johnson C. Smith University, I am pleased to welcome each of you to the UNCF Digital Media and Learning in Multicultural Context Public Forum Series. We are delighted to be a part of this dialogue in which we engage our students, faculty, researchers and community.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to UNCF and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for being such visionaries and making this opportunity possible.

The focus of this forum will be on "rules of engagement in digital culture," which includes the opportunities and consequences of digital media as learning tools faced by youth and educators in the free-flowing digital cultures.

It is my sincere desire that each of you will leave this forum with many thought provoking ideas and a renewed determination to increase the awareness of minority student's interest in research, careers and civic engagement in digital media.

Again, we welcome you to Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte's premier, independent urban university.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Carter", written in a cursive style.

Ronald L. Carter, Ph.D.
President

NAVIGATING DIGITAL CULTURE

Clarissa Myrick-Harris, Ph.D.

**Director, UNCF Institute for Capacity Building
Curriculum and Faculty Enhancement Program**

"Opportunities and Issues for Engagement in Digital Culture" is the last in a series of three forums in the UNCF Digital Media and Learning in Multicultural Contexts Public Forum Series. The forum series is supported by the MacArthur Foundation's Digital Media and Learning Initiative, which was launched in 2006 to support research that reveals how digital technologies are changing the way young people learn, play, socialize and participate in civic life. Moreover, the MacArthur initiative supports efforts that seek to determine how educational and other social institutions must change to meet the needs of this and future generations.

The purpose of the UNCF forum series has been two-fold:

1. To spur a critical mass of students and faculty at UNCF-member institutions as well as other HBCUs and minority serving institutions to investigate current and future opportunities for research, careers and civic engagement that are informed by innovative uses of digital media
2. To spark discussions and initiatives aimed at helping educational institutions at all levels transform themselves to meet the needs and learning styles of African American and other youth of color and to help prepare them for careers as digital innovators

The first forum, "To Be Young Digital and Black," was convened at Morehouse College in Atlanta last February and presented an overview of the myriad ways that African American youth in particular interact with digital media. The second forum, "Digital Literacy in Networked Learning Environments," convened at Huston-Tillotson University in Austin in March, explored research on how African American and Latino youth negotiate digital

cultures in intentional learning situations as well as informal learning environments.

Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) was chosen as the venue for the last UNCF forum in the series for important reasons: At this institution, there is an intentional and consistent emphasis on ensuring access to technology and encouraging digital literacy within its diverse community. JCSU has been recognized as one of the "most wired small colleges" in the country, and the university supplies a laptop to each student and faculty member. In addition, JCSU is a part of the VA-NC Alliance for Minority Participation, a consortium of higher education institutions in North Carolina and Virginia, which aims to increase the number of African American, Latino and American Indian graduates in technology-related fields.

Today we will focus on the opportunities and challenges faced by young people and educators living in increasingly free-flowing digital cultures. The presenters will share their research and applications of digital media in higher education, public school and community settings. Featured presenter Dr. Jabari Mahiri of the University of California, Berkeley's Graduate School of Education will speak specifically about his research initiative that collaborates with urban school and community partners on educational equity and academic achievement, as well as digitally-mediated literacy and learning in and beyond schools. Panelist Rik Panganiban of the Online Leadership Program for Global Kids, Inc. will discuss strategies that can be used to promote self-critical, moral and ethical ways of thinking among young people as they interact in the digital world. Dr. Hang Chen of the Johnson C. Smith University Computer and Engineering Department will discuss the application of her research on the use of animation and robotics as instructional



tools to instill in students an enthusiasm for technology and to enhance their learning experience. Alafia Clyburn, a JCSU computer science and information systems major, will share her own experiences negotiating digital culture for educational, career and social purposes.

Following the presentations, the panelists will engage the audience and discuss issues such as media literacy among students, identity, privacy and appropriate on-line behavior, as well as the barriers to learning sometimes created by institutional policies meant to circumscribe the use of digital media by youth.

The forum is being streamed live on-line by JCSU and can be viewed by going to www.UNCF.org. Highlights from all three forums will be shared at a later date through video webcasts that will be accessible from the UNCF Web site.

The UNCF Institute for Capacity Building will soon launch the Digital Media in Multicultural Contexts virtual community to provide an arena for continuous communication about these opportunities among

our stakeholders within HBCUs and MSIs to facilitate participation in the larger Digital Media and Learning Research Hub. All registered forum participants will be invited to join this on-line community.

As the largest provider of scholarships and fellowships to African American students and a key player in efforts to build the capacity of historically black colleges and universities, UNCF is ideally situated to help disseminate the findings of digital media and learning research efforts and recruit a diverse pool of talented young scholars to pursue careers in the emerging field. Developing and recruiting minority scholars—in both the fields central to digital media and learning and for the academy more broadly—are urgent priorities for the UNCF Institute for Capacity Building's Curriculum and Faculty Enhancement Program. We will keep you informed and engaged as we continue to develop our UNCF Digital Media and Learning Initiative.

OPPORTUNITIES AND ISSUES FOR ENGAGEMENT IN DIGITAL CULTURE**UNCF Digital Media and Learning in Multicultural Contexts**

Public Forum Series

Johnson C. Smith University

9 A.M.

Registration/Continental Breakfast

10 A.M.

Welcome

Clarissa Myrick-Harris, Ph.D.

*Director**UNCF Institute for Capacity Building**Curriculum and Faculty Enhancement Program*

Elfred Anthony Pinkard, Ed.D.

*Executive Director**UNCF Institute for Capacity Building*

Craig Wacker

*Senior Program Officer**John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation*

Dave Eubanks, Ph.D.

*Dean of Academic Support**Johnson C. Smith University***Featured Speaker**

Jabari Mahiri, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor and Chair**Language and Literacy, Society and Culture**Graduate School of Education**University of California, Berkeley***Forum Panel**

Jabari Mahiri, Ph.D.

Rik Panganiban, *Assistant Director, Global Kids, Inc.*Hang Chen, Ph.D., *Chair, Computer Science and Engineering, JCSU*Alafia Clyburn, *JCSU Student***Moderator:** Clarissa Myrick-Harris, Ph.D.

OPPORTUNITIES AND ISSUES FOR ENGAGEMENT IN DIGITAL CULTURE

UNCF Digital Media and Learning in Multicultural Contexts

Public Forum Series

Johnson C. Smith University

Questions and Answers

12 P.M. - 1 P.M.

Lunch

Digital Orchestra Performance and Presentation

Directed by Christopher Weise, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Music, JCSU

1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M.

**Johnson C. Smith University and Women's Inter-Cultural Exchange Presents:
"Careers in Technology"**

Freda Belton, *Microsoft*

Anne McNeill, *IBM*


Megan Riley, *Cisco*

Juan Flowers, *Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools*

Questions and Answers

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This public forum series is made possible by a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.



FEATURED SPEAKER

Jabari Mahiri, Ph.D.

Dr. Jabari Mahiri is a Professor of education in University of California, Berkeley's Graduate School of Education, and for the past four years he has been chair of its language and literacy, society and culture area. He has been a visiting professor at Harvard University; a visiting scholar at the University of Minnesota, Michigan State University, and the University of Iowa; and a senior fellow at Brown University in the Annenberg Institute for School Reform. Currently, he is a senior scholar for the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education and the principal investigator of TEACH (Technology, Equity and Culture in High Schools), a research initiative that collaborates with urban school and community partners on educational equity and academic achievement as well as digitally-mediated literacy and learning in and beyond schools.

Dr. Mahiri received the University of California, Berkeley's Chancellor's Award for Advancing Institutional Excellence in 2007 and the American Educational Research Association's Outstanding Mentorship Award in 2008. He is the author of *Shooting for Excellence: African American and Youth Culture in New Century Schools* (1998); *Digital Tools in Urban Schools: Mediating a Remix of Learning* (2010); and *Out of Bounds: When Scholarship Athletes Become Academic Scholars* (2010). He also is the editor of *What They Don't Learn in School: Literacy in the Lives of Urban Youth* (2004) and *Virtual Lives: Nerdfighters, Scarlet Writers, Little Sisters, Future Souls, and Future Schools* (forthcoming, 2011).

PANELISTS

Rik Panganiban

Rik Panganiban is assistant director of the Online Leadership Program for Global Kids, Inc. He has a long history of using technology to facilitate civic action—from Usenet, bulletin board systems and Gopher in the 1990s, to virtual worlds and machinima today. Most recently, he was the coordinator of an innovative program at the Social Science Research Council that connected media activists and media academics with funding and project support. Panganiban coordinated non-government organization participation at the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society in Tunisia in 2005 and managed a human rights internship program for the European Commission in Geneva in 2003.

Panganiban earned his undergraduate degree in communications and sociology from UCLA and a graduate degree in politics from New York University.

Hang Chen, Ph.D.

Dr. Hang Chen is assistant professor and chair of the computer science and engineering department at Johnson C. Smith University. She has more than seven years of research experience in wireless and mobile networking, communication theory and system performance evaluation. Dr. Chen has published more than 10 conference and journal papers for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). In 2005, she received a travel award to the IEEE International Conference on Network Protocols, and in 2002 she received a "Best Paper" award at the Association for Computing Machinery's International Workshop on modeling, analysis and simulation of wireless and mobile systems. Currently, Dr. Chen is working on several projects supported by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Chen earned her doctoral degree in computer science and engineering from the University of Cincinnati.

Alafia Clyburn

Alafia Clyburn is a graduating senior at Johnson C. Smith University majoring in computer science and information systems. The Charlotte native is currently on the dean's list with a grade point average of 3.43. She also is involved in many campus clubs, including STARS Alliance, Women in IT! and Power of Girls as a mentor and tutor to local middle and high school

students. These volunteer activities have allowed her to take her knowledge back to students at her own high school alma mater and to educate them on career opportunities in technological fields. Alafia plans to attend graduate school and to focus her career in the area of information systems security.





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About the UNCF Institute for Capacity Building

The UNCF Institute for Capacity Building (ICB) was established in May 2006 to support strengthening the capacity of the 39 UNCF-member private historically black colleges and universities in the areas of fund-raising, enrollment and retention, academic programming and faculty development, financial management, campus facilities and executive leadership and governance. The existence of the Institute for Capacity Building underscores the strategic intent of UNCF to support the efforts of its member institutions, within their unique traditions, missions and circumstances, to remain viable, compelling and competitive choices for the growing number of African American and other students of color seeking a college education.


About UNCF

UNCF—the United Negro College Fund—is the nation’s largest and most effective minority education organization. To serve youth, the community and the nation, UNCF supports students’ education and development through scholarships and other programs, strengthens its 39 member colleges and universities and advocates for the importance of minority education. UNCF institutions and other historically black colleges and universities are highly effective, awarding 18 percent of African American baccalaureate degrees. UNCF administers more than 400 programs, including scholarship, internship and fellowship, mentoring, summer enrichment and curriculum and faculty development programs. Today, UNCF supports more than 60,000 students at over 900 colleges and universities across the country. Its logo features the UNCF torch of leadership in education and its widely recognized motto, “A mind is a terrible thing to waste.”® Learn more at www.UNCF.org.

About the MacArthur Foundation

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, the foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places and understand how technology is affecting children and society. In 2006, MacArthur launched its digital media and learning initiative to explore how digital media are changing the way young people learn, play, socialize and participate in civic life and what that means for their learning in the 21st century. More information is available at www.macfound.org/education.





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