

Mr. Gary Farina
Executive Director
Michigan STEM Partnership
PO Box 12092
Lansing, MI 48901

May 10, 2016

Dear Mr. Farina,

I'm forwarding this letter and enclosed documents in support of recognizing Deacon Anthony Toney, for his efforts in exposing Pontiac Michigan youth to STEM focused educational pursuits and careers.

I've known and appreciated Deacon Toney for more than 10 years. The first thing that caught my attention was his name, Anthony Toney and I thought that someone with two first names has got to be special and he is. I've watched him freely give of his time, talent and treasure to assist and grow "Youth Focused Programs" at Welcome Missionary Baptist Church, Pontiac Michigan, that assist participating youth in developing a stronger understanding of what STEM Focused professions are and an appreciation for and an understanding of the preparation required to attain them.

Allow me to provide a brief 4 year overview of what Anthony Toney has created and grown since I have known him:

- **2016 – Planning and Community Outreach** already underway for the following at Oakland University Engineering Center, Rochester MI and Welcome Baptist Church (**May through September 2016**).
 - Youth Workshops (Character Building-Team Building-Community Service).
 - STEM Engineering Camp
 - Wok Shops (Actions-Consequences-Personal Growth-Leadership)
 - Engineering & Technology Day
- **2015 – NASA Space Camp for Kids**, Huntsville, AL
 - Prep for Huntsville - Michigan State University / 4-H Tech Wizards / Oakland University- Rocket build & Launch
 - Prep for Huntsville / Toledo Ohio-Imagination Station
 - Prep for Huntsville Character / Team Building
- **2014- 3 Day Camping Event**
 - Fire Side (self expression)
 - Canoeing
 - Zip-Lines
 - Gun Range
 - Bow and Arrow
 - Oakland University- Meeting Tuskegee Airman Presentation/Display
- **2013 3 Day Camping Event**
 - 3 Day Camping
 - Horseback riding
 - Youth Workshops (Character Building-Team Building-Community Service).
 - Octagon Kick Ball
 - Fire Side (Self Expression)
 - Team Building Competition (Obstacle Course-MAZE-Trust)
 - Team Building/Wall Climbing

I see the void being filled by Anthony Toney as tremendously impactful... Here's why.....

THE Center for Disease Control (CDC) Say's ... In the United States, 4,745 young people aged 10 to 24 were victims of homicide-an average of 13 each day **(2015)**.

That same CDC report stated that 707,000 young people aged 10-24 years old are physically assaulted each year or 1, 938 each day.

Locally **(Jan-June 2015)**. In Oakland County Michigan, there were 360 illegal drug deaths in a 6 month period.

Nov 2015 Macomb County- Drug related deaths SKY ROCKETED

Each Day 5:00 – 6:00-11:00 news we see and hear of Beat Downs-Shootings-Armed Robbery's-Murder-Parents Killing Children – Children Killing Children – Children Killing Parents – Car Jacking- Hit and Runs.

This is not just news, nor is it entertainment... this is who we've become...we are no longer a village but,

1. Disjointed, Non functional families and communities.
2. Non Functional School Systems.
3. Neighborhoods and Communities that are no longer safe places to live.
4. We kill each other, just because.....
5. To many have no job's and/or lacks the skill for jobs that pay a livable wage.
6. No viable training programs for the underemployed, unemployed or school drop outs and those with arrest records.

Nationally, we (African American/Blacks) are **14% of the total population**, but **47% of those incarcerated** and live in a state that spends **650 million dollars more** on jails & prisons than it spends on colleges and the students that attend those colleges.

The programs established by **Deacon Anthony Toney** are highly beneficial and restore a strong sense of self in the youth that attend the programs provided and in the communities served.

All activities developed by Deacon Toney.....

Engage youth and gives them something positive and fun to do.

Empower youth with the personal strength and resolve to think before they act.

Encourage positive peer influences within the school and community.

Educate youth about the effects and consequences of poor decision making.

Exposes youth to STEM focused educational and career pursuits.

Our trip to **Space Camp** last year provided the opportunity to sample local interest in this type of youth initiative. We reached out to the local community so that we might include additional youth and found organizations willing to assist with funding the trip. It was an amazing success. A (**DVD is enclosed** for your viewing and a brief bio of Deacon Anthony Toney follows on page 4-5).

I will close this mailing in the same manner that I began; by stating what I think is obvious... I'm forwarding this letter and enclosed documents in support of recognizing Deacon Anthony Toney, for his efforts in exposing Pontiac, Michigan youth to STEM focused educational pursuits and careers.

Warmest Regards,

James E. King, M. Ed

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CHANGING MINDS- CHANGES EVERYTHING

BIO
DEACON ANTHONY TONEY

Deacon Anthony David Toney has passionately pursued his life-long dream of exposing youth, male and female, to various engineering and other STEM careers. Deacon Toney has led training programs in churches to be a catalyst for transforming a child's aspiration and pushing youth from varied walks of life to a singular direction - the direction of success. Many inner-city children dream about success in spite of their environment; however, many do not have the confidence that they could escape the challenges that influence their lives. Deacon Toney encourages and stimulates youth to consider careers in STEM. He has spearheaded three youth trips to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, which included females and males. The most recent Space Camp trip was in August 2015, consisting of males, both men and boys, from Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac.

The NASA program, Pathfinders, which is a program of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, introduces participants to the wonders of space flight and the conditions of space travel.

They learn the training that astronauts go through to prepare them for space travel.

Participants are also introduced to the science of space flight and navigation.

When it comes to his own STEM path, Deacon Toney has had a storied career in industrial engineering. His experience includes plant layout, lean manufacturing, methods improvement, human resource training, work standards, and material flow engineering. He has had career stints at General Mills, Owens Corning, General Motors (GM), and Ghafari Associates. During his 25-year GM career, Deacon Toney held senior-level engineering positions in which he:

- Worked with a variety of engineering disciplines in the development of lean, flexible, and standard global plant layouts. He created feasibility, concept, and integration plant layouts for new programs and updated existing plant drawings to the new "Global Plant Layout Standards."

- Coordinated implementation of Kaizen principles with hourly employees to implement 5S process in a tool and die construction shop resulting in \$122,000 in asset recovery and identification of 25,000 square feet of floor space for new die storage and machining work cells

- Conducted classroom training for 5S, Standardized Work, Visual Controls and Management by Takt Time

- Implemented synchronous manufacturing strategies in both sheet metal stamping and vehicle assembly operations, which resulted in lower production costs, more efficient work cycles and shorter lead times

- Designed and implemented training videos to instruct production employees in the development of standardized work

- Established work methods and standards for stamping and weld assembly manufacturing operations through implementation of MTM, stopwatch time studies, and operation analysis, resulting in higher production efficiencies, increased product quality, and more effective work practices

Deacon Toney retired from GM in 2009, at which time he began a teaching stint. After two years of teaching, Deacon Toney returned to engineering in 2011 as an engineering consultant at Ghafari Associates. During his employment with Ghafari Associates, an architecture, engineering, consulting and construction services organization, Deacon Toney has provided consultative work at General Motors, Chrysler, and Ford Motor Company. A native of Bridgeport, Connecticut, Deacon Toney received a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Oklahoma City University and a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology from the University of Massachusetts - Lowell. He is a veteran, having honorably served his country in the United States Air Force.

Deacon Toney is married to Doris. They have five adult children and five grandchildren.
