

DR. TYRONE HOWARD INSPIRES BUFFALO ADMINISTRATORS ADDRESS GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF BCSA LOCAL 10

Each year, September means a fresh start for educators. This year, BCSA Local 10 in Buffalo sponsored a talk given by Dr. Tyrone Howard from the Urban Division of the UCLA Graduate School of Education. On August 25, his passion and perspective were an inspiration for a new school year. Dr. Howard reminded the members about the real purpose of education—to improve the lives of students. He called on administrators to be bold and courageous in meeting this goal. He acknowledged that administrators are expected to fix problems that we did not create. The challenge is enormous.

In an urban District like Buffalo, poverty is often cited as a reason for poor academic performance. Dr. Howard reminded the audience that poverty doesn't mean that a student can't learn. It does mean that they need help with social and mental issues. Like it or not, race is a factor. This is certainly true in Buffalo where the Federal government is involved in remedying institutional racism within the school system.

Dr. Howard left BCSA members with a positive message. Our students need our help, support and concern to be successful. Yes, academics are important. First and foremost, however, we must give our students hope. Hope for a quality, fulfilling and happy life starting with a successful education as a foundation.

Dr. Howard is the founder and director of the Black Male Institute at UCLA.