“There is a targeted attack on you to believe that the only you can become successful is by using your body, or entertaining someone or to believe the hype that you will fit into a box with thousands of people who did not make it.” Jeff I. Johnson

In This Issue

Wilson on Obama Care
Pages 2-3

Aspiring Youth Conference
Page 4

Fatherhood Initiative
Page 5

The Health Section
Page 9

The Fitness Motivator
Page 6

Eating Seafood
Page 7

Alzheimer Book
Page 8

Wear Red

Changing
Page 10

Deltas' Founders' Day
Page 11

Central State Chorus at Third
Page 11

Black History Month events
Page 12

Where's the Music
Page 13

Classifieds
Pages 14-15

IMA Officers
Page 16
Mistress of Ceremony Alexis Means of ABC 13 Action News opened the program. Elected officials and dignitaries offered greetings and thanked parents for attending this morning with their children, all followed by a moment of silence for one of the program’s original advocates, Alice Skeens, Ph.D.

“Dr. Cooks is the founder of Toledo EXCEL and quick to remind us without the contributions of Dr. Alice Skeens, Toledo EXCEL in all likelihood would not exist. Dr. Skeens walked in the proposal to Toledo EXCEL, 23 years later here we are. Dr. Skeens passed away earlier this year, and we feel that loss. She served on our joint committee every year, tutored, wrote proposals, made phone calls and whatever was needed,” said David Young, director of Toledo EXCEL.

Keynote speaker, UT alumnus, award-winning journalist, MSNBC contributor, White House correspondent and weekly commentator Jeff I. Johnson addressed and encouraged students and parents to strive for excellence.

“It’s important to recognize when we’re talking about planning and success and aspiring minority students that we don’t start at the success point. It’s sometimes overwhelming to hear my resume read here, I made more mistakes than anywhere else, and people questioning me if my accomplishments would ever happen,” said Johnson.

He went on to encourage young men in our communities to take advantage of all opportunities. “There is targeted attack on you to believe that the only way you can become successful is by using your body, or entertain someone or believe the hype that you will fit into a box with thousands of people who did not make it,” said Johnson. “If you can play basketball then play, but play enough basketball to get a full-ride to Stanford to play basketball.”

The afternoon concluded with separate student and parent sessions. While students were focusing on ways to use foresight in day-to-day decision making with presenter George E. Rice III, CEO of Triple Threat Enterprises, LLC; parents learned about ways to assist their children for future planning.

Facilitators Talmadge Thomas of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and Teresa Quinn of Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls worked with parents on tools necessary for action plans, understanding critical thinking and encouraging open communication.

The University of Toledo Joint Committee which has worked in collaboration since January 1985 has 23 members representing educational institutions: UT, Monroe County Community College and TPS; nonprofits ONYX and United Way of Greater Toledo; corporations Owens Corning, Managed Wealth Financial, Superior Industrial Supply and Services, Inc, and Huntington; State Representative Michael Asford and Mt. Zion Baptist Church.