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Department of Job and Family Services



662 Wolf Ledges Parkway, Akron, Ohio 44311



Dr. Sheldon
Wrice



MALE SUMMIT

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025
JEAN HOWER TABER STUDENT UNION

REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Jean Hower Taber Student Union, third floor, Atrium

PLENARY

9:00 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.

READING AND WRITING THE FUTURE: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS

Jean Hower Taber Student Union, second floor, Gardner Theatre

- **Speaker Introduction:** Alex Rieke, Freshman, College of Business, Williams Honors College, The University of Akron
- **PRESENTER:** David Lee Morgan, Jr., M.S., Hon. D.H.L., Author, Teacher, Award Winning Sportswriter, and Public Speaker
 - *The power of reading and writing remains an essential tool for personal and professional success. As an experienced journalist and author of sixteen books who has navigated and thrived in a field often marked by challenges and barriers, Morgan shares how literacy—both in reading and writing—has been pivotal in shaping his career as an author and journalist and creating opportunities. This plenary session will emphasize how mastering these skills can enhance academic and professional achievements and serve as a powerful means of self-expression, advocacy, and resilience. By discussing the transformative role of storytelling and critical thinking in the media industry, Morgan demonstrates how young adults can harness these tools to challenge stereotypes. Through practical advice and personal insights, Morgan seeks to inspire attendees to view reading and writing not just as academic exercises but as important skills for their empowerment and change, laying the foundation for a brighter, more impactful future.*

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION SESSION FOR STUDENTS

9:45 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. – Jean Hower Taber Student Union, second floor, Gardner Theatre

- **PRESENTER:** Chris Stimler, M.ED., Associate Director, Admissions, The University of Akron
 - *We will discuss the vibrant campus involvement opportunities, the comprehensive support services available to students, and the scholarship programs that make a Zips education accessible and rewarding. Discover how these factors create a welcoming and enriching environment that helps students thrive academically and personally.*

EXHIBITORS AND PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING

9:45 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. – Jean Hower Taber Student Union, third floor, Atrium



MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION 1

11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

FROM ARTICLES TO SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS: ESSENTIAL WRITING SKILLS FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

Jean Hower Taber Student Union, room 308

- **PRESENTER:** Juan Eduardo Contreras Barberena, M.A., Professor of Practice, General Manager, Z-TV, The University of Akron
- **PRESENTER:** Mike Kulick, M.A. Ed., Senior Associate Director, Career Services & Student Employment, The University of Akron
- **PRESENTER:** Zach Lininger, Segment Producer, Z-TV Sports Report, Senior, Media Studies Student, The University of Akron
 - *Writing for the media today requires a combination of traditional skills and the ability to adapt to meet the fast-paced, audience-driven demands of an industry that delivers content on digital platforms. From online news to YouTube content, ensuring the acquisition of necessary skills is a crucial step to open the door to opportunities.*

THE ART & SCIENCE OF PODCASTING: UNDERSTANDING THE STEAM BEHIND OUR FAVORITE CONTENT & MEDIA - Jean Hower Taber Student Union, room 310

- **PRESENTER:** William Eugene Blake, B.S., Director of Programming, Rubber City Jazz & Blues Festival
 - *Podcasting is more than just hitting "record", it is a fusion of creativity and technology that shapes the way we tell stories, share ideas, and make an impact. This session breaks down the S.T.E.A.M. factors for great podcasts, revealing what makes them both technically sound and compelling to listen to. From high-quality audio production to the art of engaging conversation, you will learn how to balance the technical and creative elements that bring podcasts to life. Whether you are looking to launch your own show, improve your production skills, or just understand what goes into the content you love, this session will give you the tools to navigate the podcasting space with confidence. Join us to explore how pre-production, storytelling, and technical precision work together to create content that informs, entertains, and inspires.*

MEET THE AUTHOR: A PANEL DISCUSSION - Jean Hower Taber Student Union, room 312

- **MODERATOR:** Dr. Jon Miller, Professor of English, Director, The University of Akron Press, The University of Akron
- **PANELIST:** David Giffels, M.A., Author, Professor, NEOMFA Campus Coordinator, The University of Akron
- **PANELIST:** Edward L. Gilbert, Esq., Author, President, Edward L. Gilbert Co., L.P.A.
- **PANELIST:** David Lee Morgan, Jr., M.S., Hon. D.H.L., Author, Teacher, Award-Winning Sportswriter, Public Speaker
 - *Join us for an engaging and insightful panel discussion featuring local Akron area authors. This session brings together a diverse group of writers to share their experiences, inspirations, and the stories behind their latest works. This panel offers a unique opportunity to hear from the minds behind the books distributed to attendees. Dr. Jon Miller serves as the moderator guiding the discussion with thought-provoking questions about the authors' writing journeys, challenges, and successes. Attendees will have the chance to ask questions and engage with authors directly.*

THE GREAT AI DISRUPTOR: HOW TECH IS CHANGING THE WAY YOU LEARN & LIVE

Jean Hower Taber Student Union, room 314

- **PRESENTER:** Steve Kaufman, M.Ed., Senior Instructional Designer & Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, The University of Akron
 - *Artificial Intelligence is transforming the way students learn, work, and prepare for the future. From personalized tutoring and study assistance to financial management and productivity tools, AI can be a powerful asset in your daily life. But with great power comes great responsibility. In this session, we will explore how AI can help you succeed, while also addressing the ethical concerns that arise when AI is used in education. Where do we draw the line between assistance and academic dishonesty? How can you leverage AI responsibly to build real skills that prepare you for the workforce? Join us as we discuss the best ways to use AI for personal and academic growth—without sacrificing integrity.*

E3 IN PRACTICE - Jean Hower Taber Student Union, room 316

- **PRESENTER:** Duane Matthew Dodson, M.A., Assistant Professor, English, Stark State College
 - *In this dynamic session, Dodson will expound on the following concepts: 1) understanding and practicing male empowerment; 2) elevating oneself as student, citizen, and family member; and 3) defining excellence for oneself. Come to learn how to put E3 into practice...leave equipped with a holistic approach to male empowerment which fosters growth, self-awareness, and a positive impact on one's environment and relationships.*

YOU ARE WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE - Jean Hower Taber Student Union, room 335

- **PRESENTER:** Ace Epps, Certified Education Facilitator, Business Coach, Official Ted Ex Speaker, Community Manager, JP Morgan Chase
 - *This presentation is your ticket to mastering the art of personal branding and communication. With practical tips, insightful anecdotes, and expert advice on social media, Ace shows you how to create a powerful personal brand that will set you apart from the competition.*

LUNCHEON

11:50 a.m. – 1:55 p.m. – Jean Hower Taber Student Union, third floor, Grand Ballroom

ENTERTAINMENT

- Cedric Talbert Trio

GREETINGS

- Dr. Sheldon B. Wrice, VP Community Engagement, Opportunity, and Belonging, The University of Akron

INVOCATION

- Mark Greer, M.M., Executive Director, Akron 200 Inc.

WELCOME

- Dr. Sheldon B. Wrice, VP Community Engagement, Opportunity, and Belonging, The University of Akron

KEYNOTE SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

- Fredrick Yeboah, President, Student African American Brotherhood, Biomedical Sciences Student, The University of Akron

KEYNOTE

- Dr. Eddie Glaude, Jr., Author, Political Commentator, Public Intellectual, and Passionate Educator

E3 MALE SUMMIT AWARDS PRESENTATION

LEGACY AWARDS

- Dr. Sheldon B. Wrice, VP Community Engagement, Opportunity, and Belonging, The University of Akron

COMMENDATION, FROM THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OHIO, MIKE DEWINE

- Monique (Moe) Moore, Northeast Ohio Regional Liaison, Cultural Outreach Coordinator Ohio Governor's Office

AFTERNOON SESSION 2 – SPOKEN WORD ARTISTS – PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS

2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

VOICES OF WISDOM: WEAVING TRUTH AND LITERACY THROUGH SPOKEN WORD

Jean Hower Taber Student Union, second floor, Gardner Theatre

- **SPOKEN WORD ARTIST:** Calil Cage, B.S., Executive Director, The Sparrow's Fortune
- **SPOKEN WORD ARTIST:** Xposyur, Creative Writing and Development Coach, Xposyur, LLC
 - *This presentation will be an open dialogue about resilience using the power of spoken word poetry. Xposyur and JUST C.O.S. will share glimpses of their lives using poetry as a means of empowerment and elevation for participating audience members. From pen to page, from person to person, words come alive and help to tell all of our stories. This presentation is the perfect moment to engage in the art of spoken word with these two electrifying guests.*

AFTERNOON SESSION 3 – PROFESSIONALS

3:05 p.m. – 4:25 p.m.

SHAPING A CITY: THE HISTORICAL LEGACY OF AKRON'S SCHOOLS

Jean Hower Taber Student Union, room 335

- **PRESENTER:** Dave Lieberth J.D., Akron Historian, Author, Attorney, Executive Secretary, Akron's Bicentennial Commission, President, Akron History Center
 - *Dave Lieberth will explore the early development of Akron's formal education and school system, shedding light on how these foundational institutions shaped the city's growth and identity. He will emphasize the significance of understanding this historical legacy, highlighting the importance of communities connecting with their shared past to foster a deeper sense of pride and engagement in shaping the future.*

CAMPUS TOUR – STUDENTS

3:05 p.m. – 4:25 p.m.

CONFERENCE EVALUATION / CLOSING REMARKS

4:25 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Jean Hower Taber Student Union, room 335

