

SUMMER
23

BRIDGING THE GAP



Message from
our CEO.....2

Wealth Through
Entrepreneurship..... 4

Closing the Digital
Divide..... 6

Fulfill Their Potential..... 8

Strong Partnerships 10

How To Help..... 11



*Kelley Cornish, MA, CCDP
President & CEO
T.D. Jakes Foundation*

“Our focus is not only to help underserved communities catch up, but to provide access, tools, and partnerships to help them get ahead”

Opening Note from our President & CEO, Kelley Cornish

It has been a little more than three years since the T.D. Jakes Foundation was established with a mission of building bridges to opportunity for underserved populations in the United States and around the world. This was particularly true in the aftermath of the global pandemic shutdown and the racial reckoning that put a critical spotlight on the institutional barriers that hinder communities of color.

Our legendary Founder and Chairman, T.D. Jakes, formed this nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, which operates independently from T.D. Jakes’ companies and ministries, to push for the creation of a world where all people can live up to their full potential. We have made great advancements in empowering young people in STEM/STEAM technology and connecting corporations to new, highly skilled pools of talent amid increasing global competition. However, our battle cry is getting louder.

In 2023, many of the commitments from corporations and institutions to fight for diversity, equity, and inclusion to help advance underserved communities have fallen silent – either by appearing too polarizing, not knowing exactly how to have a direct impact on those who need support most, or navigating their own struggles with the rising inflation, a shaky economy, and mass layoffs. The T.D. Jakes Foundation is here to help guide these organizations and keep the momentum for diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I) strong and prospering.

Our focus is not only to help underserved communities catch up, but to provide access, tools, and partnerships to help them get ahead, and close the racial wealth gap, which is the worst it has been in more than 100

T.D. Jakes Team

Foundation Team:

Kelley Cornish, MA, CCDP
President & CEO

Kezia Stegemoeller
Chief Partnerships Officer

Jennifer C. Stimpson, Ed.D.
Chief Programs Officer

Arnetta Harris
Chief of Staff

Trina Ochoa
Executive Assistant

Foundation Board:

T.D. Jakes
Chairman of the Board

Cynthia “Cynt” Marshall
Board Member

Jeff Rich
Board Member

Janice Bryant-Howroyd
Board Member

Continued on Page 3

“By leveraging our resources, expertise, and partnerships, we can continue to pave the way for transformative change”



years. Our focus is evolving. In addition to championing STEM/STEAM education and workforce development, we will move forward strategically providing resources, training, and partnerships to support:

- Financial literacy
- Homeownership
- Closing the digital divide
- Empowering Black female leaders
- Spurring Black entrepreneurs

Like Chairman Jakes, I am driven by a passion for social progress and present an inspiring agenda aimed at tackling systemic inequities head-on. I envision the Foundation as a dynamic think tank, dedicated to researching and devising innovative solutions for the most pressing issues surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion. By leveraging our resources, expertise, and partnerships, we can continue to pave the way for transformative change, empowering marginalized communities and fostering a more equitable future for all.

As an organization, we recently hosted our fourth annual STEAM Academy in partnership with the Dallas Mavericks, Goldman Sachs and the Steward Family Foundation. During the two-week period we not only provided students ages 11-15 with hands on valuable experiences to explore, create and problem-solve using STEAM methods, we also created a spark that will lead these students to career paths that they might have not have ever considered. Through our programs we can promote digital inclusion and bridge the gap of the digital divide, acknowledge the transformative power of Black entrepreneurship, recognize the importance of empowering young women in our communities and address the critical aspect of financial literacy and homeownership.

Thank you to our partners and team for their continued commitment to the Foundation and this academy. I am excited to embark on this journey with all of you and look forward to the remarkable achievements we will accomplish together.

In partnership,

Kelley Cornish, MA, CCDP
President & CEO
T.D. Jakes Foundation



THE POWER OF BUILDING WEALTH THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

As a workforce development and community-building foundation committed to building bridges to opportunity, T.D. Jakes Foundation is helping drive and build Black entrepreneurship in America and provide access to the resources necessary to bridge the gap for those who have been historically underrepresented through programs like the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) Academy.

**ONLY 2% OF BUSINESSES ARE BLACK-OWNED.
T.D. JAKES FOUNDATION AND STEAM ACADEMY ARE WORKING TO CHANGE THAT.**

The goal of the academy is to create a spark that can lead students to places they might have never considered, especially if that is Black entrepreneurship. It is key to provide the students with the proper exposure and resources, so they are aware of all of the opportunities and that there are virtually no limits to their success.

“Greatness starts, right now, at the age that you are,” Foundation Founder and Chairman T.D. Jakes said. “You need to have a rich dream!”

As leaders in this effort, T.D. Jakes Foundation knows that it is crucial to expose students to STEAM as a driving force to get students engaged

in finding new, more effective ways to create entrepreneurship goals, and provide themselves with new and effective ways to grow as an individual. While the academy also focuses on engineering, technology integration and innovation, the students were also exposed to the idea of not only building something but owning it.

One of the tactics to closing the racial wealth gap and empowering underserved communities is through entrepreneurship, but sadly, only 2% of businesses are Black-owned, according to an Alliance for Entrepreneurial Equity report. But, T.D. Jakes Foundation, and events like the STEAM Academy are working to change that.

During opening remarks on the first day of the STEAM Academy, students heard from SaulPaul, a Grammy Award-nominated artist that has garnered an international reputation as a musician with a message. SaulPaul shared his inspirational story with the students and spoke about ways to drive change and build wealth.

Continued on Page 5



"If you listen and you keep gaining this week to what they share with you, you can get money," explained SaulPaul. "Money is in the room right now and you want to pay attention, not because you're going to do anything that is going to help them [event educators]. It's because it's going to benefit you. And then the real goal is after you succeed, you help other people."

SaulPaul also talked about another movement under the T.D. Jakes Group banner, Good Soil, which serves as a platform and clearing house for business leaders, influencers, and would-be entrepreneurs to inspire and proliferate opportunities for scaled black entrepreneurs and small

businesses in diverse communities. The Good Soil movement is cultivating the next generation of business leaders.

T.D. Jakes Foundation is not only inspiring future culture shifters but bringing together those who are committed to connecting ideas to actions in the communities. The programs serve as more than inspiration, they are taking action to impact, grow and scale communities through a supportive ecosystem that will drive financial inclusion and achieve generational wealth-building for our communities. ♦

GREATNESS STARTS RIGHT NOW



STUDENT SUCCESS IN BLACK COMMUNITIES DEPENDS ON CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

It's no secret that a vast majority of the world's population lack access to the services necessary for internet use as well as the technology needed to access it. This digital divide often impacts student success and education. Roughly 17% of students are unable to complete their homework due to limited internet access, according to the ACT Center for Equity in Learning. In fact, the Pew Research Center also found these rates to be significantly higher for Black and Hispanic students when compared to their white peers.

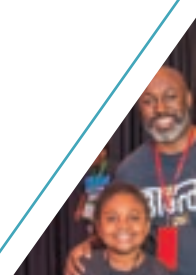
By creating opportunities for youth in underserved communities, T.D. Jakes Foundation is working to address the digital divide that faces many low-income and minority families. With the help of experts from a variety of industries, the Foundation is hosting the STEAM Academy during which students leave with tangible skills toward a career.

"There are so many brilliant children who are left behind simply because of the environment they grow up in," said Dr. Jennifer C. Stimpson, chief programs officer for T.D. Jakes Foundation. "We believe every child should have an opportunity to explore and build skills that lead to a career as well as access to the technological resources they need on a daily basis to do so."

During the academy the students participated in hands-on activities and were exposed to the resources necessary in STEAM that they might not have readily available to them at home.

Additionally, to showcase careers utilizing STEAM and sports, the students got the chance to build cars and race in a competition. Members of the Dallas

Continued on Page 7



Formula Racing team spoke to the students about their experience, highlighting the importance of failure and taking risks in the development process.

After hearing the racing team's presentation, students broke off into groups and were tasked with building cars out of simple materials like balloons, tape, sticks and cardboard wheels. The top three teams won laptops, furthering their digital access, with the fastest team also winning the Goldman Sachs box seats to a Dallas Mavericks game.

"[At school] I don't get to do things like this and it has given me resources that I didn't really have," said Genesis Wilson, a 16-year-old student attending the academy. **"STEAM means to me problem solving and creating solutions for the betterment of the world. [T.D. Jakes Foundation bridging the gaps] gives disadvantaged people, my people, a chance to elevate themselves. If you can see someone like you do something, you know you can do it."**

At the end of the academy, students leave with the knowledge and connections that enable them to succeed in their academic and future careers. The T.D. Jakes Foundation is dedicated to youth programs like this that will open the door to opportunities and access as well as build confidence that will propel young people forward. ♦



"If you can see someone like you do something, you know you can do it."

Genesis Wilson
STEAM Academy
Student Attendee





WE MUST FIND SOLUTIONS FOR YOUNG GIRLS AND WOMEN OF COLOR TO **FULFILL THEIR POTENTIAL**

T.D. Jakes Foundation recognizes the importance of empowering girls and young women in our communities. Over the years, we have noticed the trend of Black women leaving Corporate America for many reasons, but by investing in their education, mentorship, and support, we can help break down barriers and create equal opportunities for all. When girls are given the tools and resources they need to thrive, they become catalysts for change, shaping a brighter future for themselves and society.

We often see that throughout their lives, girls and women are systematically tracked away from science and math throughout their education. According to the American Association of University Women, this limits their opportunities to see these as career fields when they grow up. And until women and girls have equal learning opportunities, they cannot realize their fullest economic potential. While women still only comprise 28% of the workforce in science, technology, engineering and math-related fields, T.D. Jakes Foundation is actively working to increase that number.

Throughout the STEAM Academy, the Foundation has focused its impact on the young girls at the academy and utilized the opportunity to empower and provide them with the resources necessary to achieve a career in STEAM and Corporate America.

Continued on Page 9



“For us to begin shattering the glass ceilings that once limited our ability to dream, grow and change the world, we must begin empowering women at a younger age with the tools and resources necessary to do so,” said Kelley Cornish, chief executive officer of T.D. Jakes Foundation. “By working together, we can help build a better world for women and young girls.”

Shattering what the glass ceiling represents is important for Black women due to the false promise of elevated organizational positions, which can be “seen” through a glass ceiling but are, in reality, unattainable. However, it is also critical that we keep Black women from being lured onto a glass cliff, a new concept of catapulting them into leadership roles during a period of crisis when their risk of failure is almost inevitable. The term implies the inability to perceive the dangers of the cliff’s transparent edge.

One female camper, Ziya Huns from Chicago said, “People don’t really hear us because we are girls, but we got a lot going for us in the world.” Huns believes she can be anything she wants to be when she grows up, and being around other female techies helps.



Ziya’s friend Zariah Harris said she was proud to be here “to show other black girls that you can do anything and coding can be fun.” The Virginia resident added, “I think it is important [that girls attend technology camps] because we have a lot of bright ideas and our voices shouldn’t be silent.”

T.D. Jakes Foundation’s vision is to cultivate transformational experiences that galvanize young girls to reimagine their futures and help find solutions that support women in their careers. ♦



“By working together, we can help build a better world for women and young girls.”

Kelley Cornish

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS ARE KEY TO OUR PROGRAM SUCCESS



Since 2020, the racial wealth gap has narrowed, however, it is still enormous. Black workers make 21% less than the median white worker, according to the Economic Policy Institute. And, in 2021, more than 70% of white households in America owned a home but that figure for Black households is around 44%, according to the National Association of Realtors. Without access to higher-paying jobs and an ability to own a home, African Americans will continue to struggle to catch up and create generational wealth to move them ahead.

That is the reason T.D. Jakes Foundation is dedicated to addressing these systemic barriers and providing financial literacy that can support better employment and homeownership. The key is through strategic partnerships with allies such as Wells Fargo, which recently announced an investment up to \$1 billion in the T.D. Jakes Group, to provide financial empowerment education and revitalize neighborhoods in underserved low- and moderate-income communities by increasing homeownership and fostering business creation in several cities including Atlanta, Chicago and Dallas.

The Wells Fargo alliance allows the Foundation to further our work to continue our education programs and close the racial wealth gap.

Our partnerships with Goldman Sachs, Steward Family Foundation and Dallas Mavericks ensure our STEAM Academy

continues, and we are able to align the youth of communities who need support the most and guide them through a greater financial trajectory.

“We are honored to be presenting STEAM Academy again,” said Cynt Marshall, CEO of the Dallas Mavericks. “Over the past four years, we have seen the immense, life-changing impact this program has on the students who attend, and it’s a privilege to partner with T.D. Jakes Foundation on yet another innovative experience.”

Ramanathan Narayanan, Head of Goldman Sachs Texas Engineering said, “We are excited to continue our partnership with T.D. Jakes Foundation and the Dallas Mavericks, and we are grateful for the instruction and technology brought to the STEAM Academy this year by AWS Deep Racer, the University of Texas at Dallas’ professors, students and their Dallas Formula Racing Team and Veena Somareddy, CEO of NeuroRehab VR.”

In addition, several companies were a huge part of what made the second week of STEAM Academy a success. Robotopia provided curriculum and our partners at State Farm and Texas Instruments served as corporate volunteers.

TOGETHER, WE CAN REALIZE A DREAM OF TRUE EQUITY.



HELP US BRIDGE THE GAP

DONATE TODAY

to join us in helping to close the racial wealth gap for the next generation by continuing to provide programs like STEAM Academy:

TEXT **GIVETDJF**
TO 28950

CLICK ON THE LINK:

[TDJFOUNDATION.ORG/DONATIONS](https://tdjfoundation.org/donations)



givelify

Snap-To-Give™



T.D. JAKES
FOUNDATION