

of A TRADITION EXCELLENCE

Piper High School Black Leaders of America ACCELERATE Conference

On September 23, 2021, two Piper High student representatives (senior Langston Bassett and junior Jillian Collier), Principal Nguyen, and Amber Buck attended the Student Voice & Choice workshop with the Kauffman Foundation and Startland, a non-profit organization that focuses on developing entrepreneurial mindsets and ventures. There, the students used design thinking to come to the following conclusion about how to infuse the district's Real World Learning efforts with student voice and choice. The group identified that marginalized groups of students need a way to see that their voice, presence, and concerns are valued so that they can leverage their Piper experience into post-secondary fulfillment. They realized that the upcoming Black Leaders of America conference was a way to start filling this need. Leveraging the collaborative work with the Kauffman Foundation and Startland, Piper High's Black Leaders of America group

#FROM^{the}HELM *Piper* USD 203

held its first off-site conference on October 1st. Sixty students from Piper High, Bishop Miege, Lawrence High, and Lawrence Free State attended ACCELERATE: Empowering Students of Color for Success.

The student-initiated conference's four sessions focused on intersectionality, mental health, entrepreneurship, and scholarship essay writing. Speakers were all Black professionals from the metro area. The goal was to empower students of color to identify and pursue their interests throughout their high school career. The following PHS BLA Board members facilitated this amazing learning opportunity for the KC Metro students of color.

Jillian Collier
Lisa Calhoun
Jonika Jenkins
Langston Bassett
Jai Moore
Masya Calhoun
Frances Obiesie
Che Clemons

Andre Randle
Adriana Lopez
Jamar Re'Air Jarrett
Nnenna Okoye
Amiyi Union-White
Jahnye Jamison
Amara Williams
Marissa Covington

Educator Sponsors: Amber Buck,
Justin Richmond, and Kyle Moore



Black Leaders of America ACCELERATE
Conference took place on September 23, 2021.



Newest Kauffman Education Fellow
CONGRATULATIONS to Amber Buck, Coordinator of Community Relations, Partnerships & Inclusion for our District, who was recently named as one of the newest Kauffman Education Fellows. The Kauffman Education Fellowship was founded in 2018 to examine pressing issues in education, explore equity in schools, and learn the fundamentals of community organizing.

Amber is the daughter of veteran educators and a native of Kansas City, KS. A proud alumna of Howard University and the University of Southern California, she has 14 years of professional experience writing for newspapers such as *The Boston Globe*, *The Kansas City Star*, and *The Tampa Bay Times*, and 12 years of teaching secondary English. On Saturday mornings, you can usually find Amber at her daughter's ballet class.

