

African American Male Initiative (AAMI) 2024 Summit: He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother!

Time & Location	Activity
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Bldg. B, B-Atrium	Attendee check-in
12:00 - 12:20 p.m. Bldg. B, B-Atrium	The AAMI Summit will be kicked off with performances by GGC Percussion, GGC Steel Drum and National Collegiate Entertainers Group, Chapter X Performers; Golden, Malia Mia, Kai and Sage.
12:20 - 12:30 p.m. 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	Opening Remarks by Provost George Low Lunch buffet open
12:30 - 1:20 p.m. General Session Bldg. B, B-Atrium	Welcome to the Chop Shop! Led by GGC's Dr. Brandon Lewis, director of AAMI-Elite Scholars and Allen Clarke, assistant director of AAMI-Elite Scholars The Chop Shop is a dynamic and engaging weekly dialogue session within the AAMI-Elite Scholars program at Georgia Gwinnett College. Designed as a safe space for African American male students, the Chop Shop provides an opportunity for open and candid discussions on various topics relevant to their experiences. From sports to critical aspects of Black life, such as fatherhood, investing, and community progression, participants share perspectives, learn from one another, and build meaningful connections. Through active listening, respectful questioning, and shared learning, the Chop Shop fosters personal growth, empowerment, and a sense of community among its participants. Come experience the Chop Shop live and be a part of the discussions!
1:20 - 2:20 p.m. Keynote Speaker Bldg. B, B-Atrium	Gilbert Young "He Ain't Heavy" Artist, Muralist, and Art Conservator One of the AAMI norms spoken in unison at every meeting is, "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother!". This powerful and passionate statement was inspired by artist Gilbert Young's painting <i>He Ain't Heavy</i> . During his keynote presentation, Mr. Young will share an intimate retrospective that spans his seven decades as an artist while featuring some of his newest completed work.
Breakout Session 1: "He Ain't Heavy..." Exploring the AAMI Virtues of Loyalty, Strength and Authenticity	
2:30 - 3:20 p.m. Bldg. B, Room 1500	Option 1: He Ain't Heavy: The Importance of Loyalty, Strength and Authenticity Presented by Dr. Kendrick Savage This session will examine the AAMI virtues of loyalty, strength, authenticity, and passion. Attendees will understand the importance of these virtues as it relates to being able to uplift your brother, family, community, and beyond. These virtues will be discussed inside of motivational stories, ideas, and the successful journeys of those that have proven true that He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother.

<p>2:30 - 3:20 p.m. Bldg. C, Cisco Auditorium</p>	<p>Option 2: Pathway to Passion: The Keys to High Performance and Motivation</p> <p>Presented by Lyndon Earley</p> <p>In this session, we'll delve into the fundamental elements crucial for cultivating motivation and passion in your performance. Drawing inspiration from AAMI's poignant theme, "He ain't heavy, he's my brother," we'll explore strategies to alleviate the burdens you may carry, thereby empowering you to devote more energy towards aiding others. Discover how embracing these principles can transform you into a beacon of support and encouragement, lightening the load for both yourself and those around you. After all, when you prioritize self-care and growth, you become an even greater asset in uplifting others. So, let's embark on this journey together and unlock the true potential within you.</p>
<p>2:30 - 3:20 p.m. Bldg. B, Room 1600</p>	<p>Option 3: Authenticity: The Original Version, or Chopped and Screwed</p> <p>Presented by Aric Johnson</p> <p>In this session, participants will explore the concept Authenticity and young Black men, focusing specifically on what does it mean to be authentic for young Black men and how being authentic has gotten them killed, placed in jail and prison. However, once young Black men discover what being authentic means, they are able to allow that authenticity to guide and inspire them in their undertakings to make significant positive impact in their communities and beyond. This session aims to highlight the paths through which authenticity can be harnessed as powerful tool for transformative leadership. Participants will explore the historical and cultural significance of Authenticity and young Black men and how understanding what this means has transcended throughout history. Through interactive discussions and personal storytelling, participants will gain a deeper appreciation for the role of authenticity in developing positive change in our world.</p>
<p>Breakout Session 2: "He's My Brother!"</p> <p>Exploring the AAMI Virtues of Honesty, Accountability, Integrity and Passion</p>	
<p>3:30 - 4:20 p.m. Bldg. B, Room 1500</p>	<p>Option 1: Passion and Purpose: Black Men as Transformative Leaders</p> <p>Presented by Dr. Brian Williams</p> <p>In this session, participants will explore the concepts of passion and purpose, focusing specifically on how they guide and inspire Black men in their endeavors to make a significant positive impact in their communities and beyond. This session aims to illuminate the paths through which passion and purpose can be harnessed as powerful tools for transformative leadership. Participants will explore the historical and cultural significance of passion and purpose and examine how these driving forces have shaped the contributions of Black men throughout history, from civil rights activism to advancements in science, education, and the arts. Through interactive discussions and personal storytelling, participants will gain a deeper appreciation for the role of passion and purpose in fostering positive change in our world.</p>

<p>3:30 - 4:20 p.m. Bldg. C, Cisco Auditorium</p>	<p>Option 2: Black Males Proceeding with Integrity: Constructing Our Identity through Honesty and Passion</p> <p>Presented by Marvin DeWitt</p> <p>Black males enter life with challenging roles bearing the burden of society’s stereotypes. Media portrayal of Black males can be overwhelming and exhausting causing clouded images of their identity. This session will help black males develop positive images of how they would like society to view them through their lens. The session’s focus is to encourage purposeful planning through their gifts and talents leading to self-development, self-reflection, and growth while leading with passion.</p>
<p>3:30 - 4:20 p.m. Bldg. B, Room 1600</p>	<p>Option 3: He’s My Brother: Why Black Male Teachers Matter Now More Than Ever</p> <p>Presented by Dr. Jamie Lewis, Dr. George Darden, Dr. Gwendoline Ayuninjam and Dr. Dymaneke Mitchell</p> <p>This panel discussion will include members of the GGC social foundations faculty who will delve into the multifaceted challenges surrounding the shortage of black male teachers within the educational landscape. Through an insightful exploration, we’ll scrutinize the systemic barriers hindering the recruitment and support of black males in the field of education, shedding light on the urgent need for transformative action. Drawing upon their extensive expertise, our panelists will unpack the pivotal role of honesty, accountability, integrity, and passion in navigating the complexities of educational success amidst the backdrop of cultural erasure. We’ll delve deep into the intersectionality of race, gender, and education, unpacking how these factors intersect to shape the experiences of black males within academic settings. Join us as we embark on this critical conversation, committed to driving meaningful change and fostering inclusive educational environments for all.</p>
<p>Freestyle Friday and Closing Remarks</p>	
<p>4:30 - 4:45 p.m. General Session Bldg. C, Cisco Auditorium</p>	<p>Freestyle Friday</p> <p>Led by AAMI-Elite Scholars, Elijah Noisin and Xander Boyd; featuring students, alumni and our campus community.</p> <p>Freestyle Fridays is an electrifying event within the AAMI-Elite Scholars program at Georgia Gwinnett College. It serves as a vibrant platform where members of the campus community come together to showcase their talents in hip-hop, spoken word, and various art forms. Each Friday, participants display their creativity, skill, and improvisation in a spectacular showcase of lyricism and dexterity. From intense battle rap sessions to thought-provoking expressions of consciousness, Freestyle Fridays offer a diverse range of themes that cater to different interests and preferences. This event not only celebrates artistic expression but also fosters a sense of community and camaraderie among participants, creating a space where individuals can freely express themselves and engage in meaningful dialogue through the arts.</p>
<p>4:45 - 5:00 p.m. General Session Bldg. C, Cisco Auditorium</p>	<p>Wrap Up and Final Thoughts</p> <p>Presented by GGC’s Dr. Brandon Lewis, director of AAMI-Elite Scholars and Allen Clarke, assistant director of AAMI-Elite Scholars.</p>