

(IN)volved + (IN)cluded + (IN)spired = IN School Spirit

This is our INvestment!

INFLUENCED BY THE COMMUNITY

The Passion for Our Work is a Reflection of the Passion for Our Communities

By Danielle A. Stewart, Ed.D.

In School Spirit, LLC is an Educational Consulting company that specializes in research, program design, curriculum design and building resources and tools for both individuals and groups to learn using innovative methods. We want to ensure communities that we are working with you and on your behalf. We are in your corner.

No job is too great or too small for our company. Whether you are a parent who needs a sounding board, a student who needs additional resources to learn like tutoring, or if you are a school that is in need of innovative programming support we can walk you through your challenges and establish the support you may need to best serve your children.

As we continue to assess the needs of the educational community, we focus not only on the academics but also on the social and emotional learning approaches as well.

We partner with organizations and businesses that also believe that quality does not have to be expensive; nor should it only be accessible to those who can afford it. Well-rounded, quality education and support should be available to all students of color and begins with our three pillars, that students must feel INCLUDED, INVOLVED and INSPIRED in order to ensure a well-rounded educational experience.

IN THIS ISSUE:

1 Overview

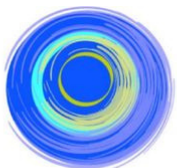
2 Inspiring People- *Interview with Semaj Thompson*

3 Inner Circle- *Healing spaces in learning environments*

4 List of Resources



Danielle A. Stewart, Ed.D.
Founder/President



INSPIRING PEOPLE

Interview by Gabrielle Williams

In School Spirit, LLC celebrates those who share in the work that we do for the community. We had the opportunity to interview our new partnering tutoring expert, Semaj Thompson, founder and president of Everyone Can Learn Tutoring Services.

What inspired you to start your own business?

After serving in the Milwaukee Public School System as a tutor and mentor through Americorps, I was outraged by the lack of proper academic support for students in communities of color.

What do you love most about tutoring?

I think the best thing about tutoring is seeing the joy in the eyes of my students when they finally wrap their head around something.

What challenges has the pandemic created for your organization and your clients? How has virtual learning impacted tutoring services?

The pandemic has prevented my organization from being able to tutor in person, which was the only way we offered services. At first, this was a challenge because everything we did involved sitting next to a client, sharing resources, and working through problems together.

I was constantly trying to make things fun and interactive. Zoom's screen sharing and the ability to control each others' screens has been a lifesaver. I can play a math game and then turn control of my screen over to the client, and they can play the game while I guide them through it. We can read an unlimited amount of ebooks through kindle; we can choose the books together, which has definitely helped to make things more fun when we're working on reading skills.

So in a way, the transition to virtual learning has helped me to expand my virtual resources which has given me more options to utilize when students are struggling to stay engaged. I've actually developed a preference for tutoring over Zoom, and it allows me to work with students in multiple states.

What motivates you to do this work?

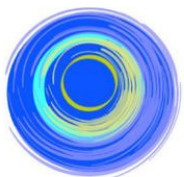
At the end of the day, as long as we've helped someone and made a positive impact in some way, we have accomplished our goal, and I'm fulfilled.

Learn more about Semaj and her organization by visiting:
everyonecanlearntutoring.com.



"I started Everyone Can Learn Tutoring and Coaching Services as a way to give back by providing an affordable supplemental education for anyone who needs it."

- Semaj Thompson





EVERYONE CAN LEARN

In School Spirit proudly supports our families because Everyone Can Learn!

Everyone Can Learn Tutoring and Coaching Services provides tutoring for grades K-12.

Learn more at [everyonecanlearntutoring.com](https://www.everyonecanlearntutoring.com)

Mention you heard about their services through In School Spirit for special rates

SERVICES INCLUDE

- 1-on-1 tutoring
- Group Tutoring
- Writing Support
- Virtual Study Hall
- Virtual Learning Support

INNER CIRCLE

Building Healing Circles for Students of Color in the Midst of Trauma

In the midst of 2020 trauma, it was imperative that we create a space where people of color could connect, heal, and feel safe. In School Spirit designed the Healing Circle approach for communities of color specifically, and worked diligently to support students of color in independent schools. This year has deeply impacted people of color in complex and hurtful ways, and the new virtual norm of the pandemic at first challenged our development of an interactive healing space. Nonetheless, the urgency to ensure people had a resource to refer to was our main objective.

In a healing circle, we acknowledge what has happened so that people can begin to heal in phases. The first step of the healing process is to bring affinity group members together, especially those who have experienced collective and individual traumas. Our healing circles this year focused on the Black community. In an effort to bring to the forefront the voices of Black alumni of independent schools, healing circles provided opportunities for alumni leadership to facilitate community and healing with current students.

Best Practices for Establishing Healing Circles:

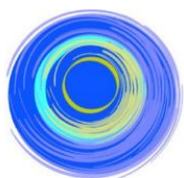
- 1. Allow the process to take place naturally**
- 2. Allow those who are most traumatized to heal collectively first**
- 3. Establish group norms**
- 4. Schools should embrace the support of their alumni of color as a resource**
- 5. Do not lose focus of the community in need. We can heal the world best by doing it one community at a time.**

For this particular institution, we have planned multiple workshops that will not only discuss healing and self-care, but will also provide a safe space to hold discussions of the issues Black individuals face as members of predominantly white institutions. Ultimately, we hope to invite the entire community into this ongoing and continuous healing process.

Healing circles are being created and utilized in multiple settings, including in colleges and corporations, as the impact of 2020 racial trauma has impacted each of us in various ways. It is important to remember that facilitators of these circles must also have their own form of support while navigating through this process.

To learn more about healing circles email inschoolspirit@gmail.com

The voices of alumni of color can heal the wounds of current black students in predominantly white institutions because we were once them.



Connecting & Healing Circles

**for Black Alumni and
current Black Students**
of GA Independent Schools

*Healing circles are
designed to reignite
the spirit of students
of color.*

**Connect, heal, learn and
grow in a safe space in
order to overcome racial
trauma.**

To join or create a group email:
inschoolspirit@gmail.com



LIST OF RESOURCES

WWW.INSCHOOLSPIRIT.COM

Our partners are in your corner too!

IN NEED OF TUTORING SUPPORT

For grades k-12
Everyone Can Learn Tutoring and Coaching Services.
Mention you heard about their services through
In School Spirit for special rates and discounts.
everyonecanlearntutoring.com

IN NEED OF PARENT/GRANDPARENT SUPPORT

- Email inschoolspirit@gmail.com to schedule a consultation
- Lillie's Foundation for Change advocates for grandparents raising school aged children

IN NEED OF EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

- Gavel Club Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
Email Alstenia @alstenia@gmail.com
- Want to design your own workshop with friends? College Prep & Connect Clinic- College Prep workshops for all high school students. Tell us what you want and we will create a group workshop for you!
- Excited about your future? Sign up for our future plan mapping workshops for children ages 10+ email:
inschoolspirit@gmail.com

KEEPING TEACHERS IN MIND

If you missed our Navigating through Trauma and Transitions event": Fireside chat for educators please visit our website for the recording or email us for a copy of the list of tools and resources that were shared, email **inschoolspirit@gmail.com**

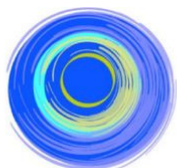
Educators looking for affinity groups to and DEI training please visit **ichangecollaborative.com**

KEEPING PARENTS IN MIND

If you missed our Navigating through Trauma and Transitions event": Fireside chat for parents and students please visit our website for the recording or email us for a copy of the list of tools and resources that were shared
inschoolspirit@gmail.com

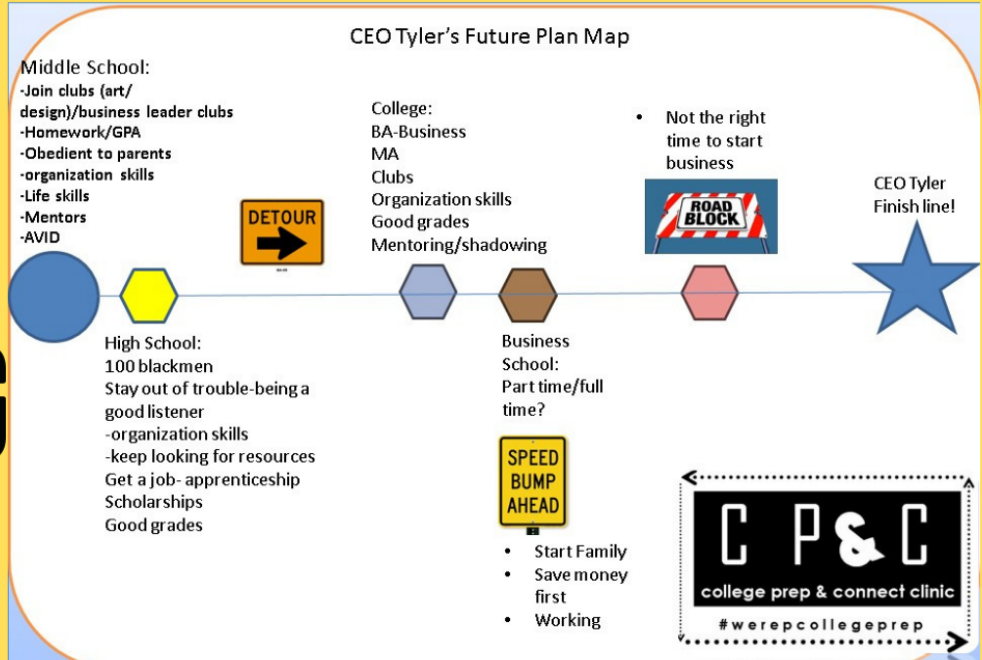
KEEPING COMMUNITIES IN MIND

Seeking self-care ideas and yoga and meditation communities to join? Please contact Ndelea Yoga email **ndelea@gmail.com**



College Prep & Connect Clinic Presents

FUTURE PLAN MAPPING



Accepting students now
for our virtual fall program!

email: inschoolspirit@gmail.com
678-431-6740

Program includes:

- 10 hours worth of future plan coaching
- Mentors for parents and students available
- Virtual college tours and career connections included
- Scholarships currently available

*"You can turn your passion
into purpose at any age and
plan for every step of the way!"*

