

“The solutions are not as difficult or as far away as many people often suggest.”



What Is Visionary Leaders Institute?

Isn't it GREAT to know that there is a qualified professional development company who not only know our children, but who can also help us help our children to reach their full academic potential!

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Ako Kambon
President and Founder

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Visionary Leaders Institute (VLI) to serve as a national educational training company whose sole purpose is to offer training, guidance, inspiration and technical assistance to school personnel, parents and students.



WHAT IS VISIONARY LEADERS INSTITUTE?

Visionary Leaders Institute (VLI) is a national educational training company, headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, whose sole purpose is to offer training, guidance, inspiration and technical assistance to school personnel, parents and students. **VLI is** founded on the belief that the root causes of academic underachievement are lack of motivation, chronically low expectations and school environments that do not consistently promote excellence. The company's primary focus has been African American and Latino students; especially the males of both groups.

To advance its mission, **VLI** brings together a wide array of nationally-known instructors and speakers in an interactive conference or workshop format that focuses on problems faced by the targeted group. **VLI** also tailors programs to meet unique community objectives, bringing together some of the brightest minds in the country to address issues that are important to specific clients.

In the past fourteen years, **VLI** has rendered services in more than 20 states and 100 school districts across the country as well as Bermuda, Canada and the Virgin Islands.

MENU OF SERVICES

STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

- ❖ Who Are Today's Students and How Do We Reach and Teach Them?
- ❖ Getting on the Same Page: Building an Effective Team
- ❖ Using Data to Drive Instruction
- ❖ What Every Educator Needs to Know about Special Education
- ❖ Empowerment
- ❖ Creating a Positive School and Classroom Culture
- ❖ Resolving Conflict without Confrontation
- ❖ Improving Classroom Management
- ❖ Do You Know Enough About Me to Teach Me?
- ❖ Whole Brain Development: Filter Through the Noise
- ❖ Cultural Diversity: Like It or Not, It's Here
- ❖ Best Practices for Better Results
- ❖ Coaching in the Classroom
- ❖ Hip Hop: How It Impacts Your Classroom and How to Manage It
- ❖ Using Technology & Social Media in the Classroom
- ❖ How to Implement A Male-Focused Lesson Plan
- ❖ Differentiated Instruction

ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT

- ❖ Math: Multi-Sensory Math Techniques
- ❖ Science: Improving Classroom Application of Science
- ❖ Writing: Rap, Rhythm & Rhyme: Rebuilding the Writing Foundation

STUDENT MOTIVATION/DEVELOPING STUDENT LEADERS

- ❖ School is My Job
- ❖ Success is My Birthright
- ❖ When I Grow Up, I Want to be Like You (Elementary)

SINGLE GENDER PROGRAMS

- ❖ The **BOLD** Program (Boys Orientation to Leadership Development)
- ❖ The GIFTs Program for Girls (includes: books, stoles) 6 visits
- ❖ Boys 2 Men Program (for young boys who are reluctant learners) 6 visits

INCREASING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

- ❖ Improving Parental Involvement in Schools

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

WHO ARE TODAY'S STUDENTS AND HOW DO WE REACH AND TEACH THEM?

This workshop will lay the foundation to understanding today's youth and why educators respond as they do. In addition, almost all educators have read or heard about the concept of multiple learning styles or multi-intelligences. However, very few have been trained to consistently use the concept in the classroom. This workshop will take participants through a series of exercises to improve their understanding of the concept and provide useful and practical strategies to implement the concept in the everyday classroom.

GETTING ON THE SAME PAGE: BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE TEAM

Most schools are simply a collection of people who are expected to carry out a well-discussed task. However, very few people understand the necessity for teamwork. This workshop will help the participant understand how to build a team and how to get the team to perform at their optimum.

USING DATA TO DRIVE INSTRUCTION

Schools that use appropriate data sources to drive effective decision-making have proven to be those capable of realizing maximum success. The information presented in this session will demonstrate how to invest time into data work that yields dividends in increased student achievement. Participants will learn how to interpret the results of standardized test reports and practice using the results to effectively support their school improvement efforts. A particular emphasis will be placed on meeting and exceeding the school accountability mandates of NCLB.

WHAT EVERY EDUCATOR NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION

Students receiving special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are now required to participate in statewide assessments. The expectation is that they will access the standards, participate in assessments and be included in educational accountability systems just as their non-disabled peers. NCLB requires the participation of all students in state and district assessments, in specified subject, at the grade level in which they are enrolled. What will it take to ensure their success?

EMPOWERMENT

"Empowerment" is one of the most misused terms in education. However, this workshop will permit each person to understand how they can improve their ability to work with their students and colleagues.

CREATING A POSITIVE SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM CULTURE

Expectations, Group Standards, and Personal Satisfaction are critical to the success of the class and/or school. This workshop will walk each person through an interactive process. In addition, this workshop will help staff members identify their personal expectations and blend those expectations with those of their school.

RESOLVING CONFLICT WITHOUT CONFRONTATION

This workshop emphasizes skills to improve effective communication between people. The focus of this workshop identifies the sources of conflict and stresses that anger is a natural emotion that need not result in violence, confrontation or discomfort. Participants learn to manage their own anger and that of others as well.

IMPROVING CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Classroom management is the key to effective teaching. This workshop is designed to provide classroom teachers and administrators with strategies and skills to identify and manage classroom disruptions before they start. Each participant will be provided with the tools necessary to manage the classroom effectively. These strategies include: Discipline with Dignity, Laws of Least Intervention, 13 Ways Not to be a Part of the Discipline Problem, Use of Humor as an Effective Classroom Management Tool, Effective Strategies for Managing Conflicts in the Classroom, and other Best Practices in the Classroom.

DO YOU KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT ME TO TEACH ME?

Schools are full of talented educators who possess degrees from impressive colleges and universities. That should give them the upper hand in dealing with today's youth. Simply not so, say teachers who attend this workshop. This powerful workshop outlines twenty specific strategies teachers can use to Capture, Inspire and Teach the children attending our schools today. Many of our students want to learn, but have difficulty because educators lack vital information necessary to meet their needs. Participants are offered an opportunity to affirm and validate those approaches and strategies they are already using and an opportunity to explore the reality that today's students need more.

WHOLE BRAIN (FILTER THROUGH THE NOISE)

Whole Brain provides an insightful understanding of each person's communication style preference and how it impacts our successful and/or challenging interactions with others whose styles may be different than our own. Based in the Left/Right Brain communications theory, Whole Brain expands the concept into a fun, highly-energetic, interactive exercise that allows each person to see their learning and teaching style behaviors from different perspectives. It also demonstrates how teachers, parents, students and school administrators can learn to leverage their own styles in an effort to create a more effective learning environment, and become more flexible and adaptable in adjusting to the complimentary styles of others.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY: LIKE IT OR NOT, IT'S HERE

We know that racism, homophobia and discrimination against anyone perceived as "different" are issues that are faced everyday in the workplace, the classroom, social service agencies, and in almost every aspect of our society. It is important to address these issues in a sensitive, straightforward manner. Visionary Leaders Institute can provide the kind of training that helps individuals identify their feelings, recognize the cause for certain behavior; and provide strategies that can lead to better appreciation of other cultures. In an atmosphere that encourages the free exchange of ideas, **VLI** can assist the school in working through issues that can decrease productivity and negatively affect morale.

BEST PRACTICES FOR BETTER RESULTS

What are the cutting edge techniques that bring out the best in our children? How can we use repetition, rhythm, and rapport to help our children perform at the level we know they can? Teachers will walk away with practical activities and resources that can be used immediately to tap into the genius of our children.

COACHING IN THE CLASSROOM:

HELPING UNDERSERVED STUDENTS WIN THE GAME OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Pedagogy without motivation is dead—and too many of our students are failing in the classroom because they are not motivated to learn. Motivation is fundamental to learning. Students become engaged in the learning process when caring teachers incorporate motivational strategies into their lesson plans, communications, and overall relationships with students.

In *Coaching in the Classroom*, author Professor Alfred “Coach” Powell provides strategies and techniques to help educators develop their Inner Coach™. In many communities, the coach is a respected symbol of hope. When students know their teacher-coaches are dedicated to helping them win the game of academics, students will respond with positive behavior and improved academic performance. Children revere their coaches because they are dedicated to winning the game.

Coaching in the Classroom is based on Coach Powell’s 30+ years of coaching inner city student athletes to several state championships, playoffs, runner ups, and qualifiers. His student coaching method instills discipline, responsibility, mental toughness, character, and team work—exactly what young scholars need to be successful in the classroom.

With Coach Powell’s trademark humor and compassion, teachers will develop as motivators, tough-love task masters, and team builders. Developing the Inner Coach even relieves the dreaded teacher burnout. As Coach Powell says, “We’re in it to win it!”

HIP HOP: HOW IT IMPACTS YOUR CLASSROOM AND HOW TO MANAGE IT

One of the most powerful cultural influences in the United States today is Hip Hop. The impact of Hip Hop clearly crosses traditional barriers such as race, culture and ethnicity. Hip Hop is now the number one form of music in the United States. Everyday, Hip Hop is impacting classrooms across the country. Unfortunately, the “BLING” of the Hip Hop TV-lifestyle suggests to students education is not important to success. In addition, few educators understand Hip Hop or use their understanding to develop classroom strategies that improve learning. This workshop will examine Hip Hop’s influence on the behavior and attitude of students and suggest solutions to staff and students on how to not get caught up in the hype!

USING TECHNOLOGY & SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE CLASSROOM

This workshop is designed to help inform and educate participants on the “coded language” that is used in various mediums of social media. Our focus is to enhance participants’ ability to *recognize, analyze, evaluate, produce and participate* in this rapidly growing field of technology. This workshop will demonstrate how educators may counter the negative impact of social media in the classroom while utilizing technology to enhance student learning.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT A MALE-FOCUSED CLASSROOM LESSON PLAN

Every well-developed classroom lesson plan asks three questions:

- Where are your students going?
- How are they going to get there?
- How will you know when they've arrived?

This workshop will demonstrate how almost all lesson plans used in today's classrooms are female focused. And it will suggest a series of ideas on how to shift current plans to ensure that males become active classroom participants.

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

This interactive workshop will provide an understanding that Differentiated Instruction isn't a strategy; it isn't a program; and it isn't a person. It's a way of planning and a way of thinking about all you do when you teach. More importantly, it's what students do when they are learning. The session will provide participants with a better understanding of differentiated instruction. The focus will be: *What is it? Who needs it? Why do it? and How to do it?*

SCIENCE: IMPROVING CLASSROOM APPLICATION OF SCIENCE

Our objective is to educate teachers regarding the history of minorities in the fields of science, math and technology, thus providing role models in these fields. This process exposes students to the major sciences through practical applications and demonstrations, thereby educating them and demonstrating the relevance of science in everyday life, with the intention of stimulating future career interest.

WRITING: RAP, RHYTHM & RHYME: REBUILDING THE WRITING FOUNDATION

This workshop is a high-energy, participatory workshop that utilizes music, movement, and mnemonics to introduce and reinforce writing fundamentals. The goal is to help parents and teachers level the playing field whereby all students are actively improving their writing skills.

STUDENT MOTIVATION/DEVELOPING STUDENT LEADERS

School districts across the country are spending millions trying to better prepare teachers and administrators on instruction. However, in our opinion, very few national programs focus on motivating the student. Our presenter provides four workshops that speak the language of the students. He has the unique ability to meet students where they are and move them to the next level.

B O L D (BOYS ORIENTATION TO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT)

Our objective is to help at-risk males, especially the African American and Latino male, transition into positive young men. This process begins by connecting with young boys and helping them to see themselves differently. The curriculum includes over 45 interactive and hands-on activities that make the program objective clear to every participant. At the conclusion of the program, each participant will be able to do the following:

- Improve coping and conflict management skills
- Improve attendance
- Reduce/eliminate the onset of drug and alcohol use
- Demonstrate alternatives to violent and anti-social behaviors
- Discuss examples of success: professional, career, academic and healthy living
- Develop positive work ethics
- Expand his understanding of the contribution he can make to himself and the community in which he lives
- Be prepared for life-long learning

THE GIFTS PROGRAM (FOR GIRLS)

This program is especially designed for girls in the 5th through 10th grades, ages 11 through 16 years. The program is formatted to assist girls, focusing on African American and Latino girls, in the development of their skills, talents, and abilities. The process identifies up to 30

Female students and begins to meet bi-weekly with them to discuss where they are; where they want to go; and the process (work) necessary to get them there. At the conclusion of the program, each participant will be able to do the following:

- Improve coping and conflict management skills
- Improve attendance
- Reduce/eliminate the onset of drug and alcohol use
- Demonstrate alternatives to violent and anti-social behaviors
- Discuss examples of success: professional, career, academic and healthy living
- Develop positive work ethics
- Expand her understanding of the contribution she can make to herself and the community in which she lives
- Be prepared for life-long learning

BOYS 2 MEN

Research has clearly shown that most classrooms in America are designed for the development and attention span of young white females. Thus, it is not uncommon to see scores of young black males in the office or not focused in the classroom. Not only are the African American males predominantly visual learners, they are heavily influenced by kinesthetic behaviors. This weekly session will identify behavior-challenged boys, and through the use of the arts, help them to modify their behavior.

IMPROVING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLS

It's no secret that parental involvement in schools has dramatically decreased. Most believe the decline can be traced to the elimination of "neighborhood schools." However, this training session will examine the impact of school environment on the lack of parents' desire to participate. It will also examine what's happening in today's home and provide suggestions for parents on how to get the best out of their children. It will propose concrete solutions for change.