

Reach Society

Building Connections

Patrons: Lord Herman Ouseley, Professor Trevor Williams & John Budu-Aggrey

Report of Fourth Careers Conference 2015

“Opportunities for everyone” was the emerging theme at the fourth Reach Society Careers Conference which attracted around 750 people – of which more than 600 were young people – and the launch of the Society’s third book, “The Story of Reach Society”.

The event, which was once again held at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, Thursday, 9 April 2015, offered the Perfect 10 Workshops which included a range of employment opportunities in the BBC, Thames Water and Lloyds Bank; interview skills; sport and leadership opportunities; building personal confidence via the ICE books; access to bright, young Black men attending top universities; a panel of Black experts in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM sectors); and introduced students to a range of career options and pathways.

Twenty one organisations, including Aloe Alchemy, British Interplanetary Society (or BIS), Carnaby Erp, EDF Energy, GV Media Group (or the Voice newspaper), Lloyds Banking Group, Mind The Gap Massage, Rare Recruitment, Royal Navy, Thames Water, UCFB Wembley plus community groups like Amos Bursary, ACES Youth Project, Black & Asian Coaches Association (or BACA), Camberwell After-School Project (or CASP), Council of Leaders (or COL), Excellence In Education, Influential Brainwaves, Kick It Out and the NUT’s Black Teachers Network were represented and 53 professional Black men (the largest cohort so far) were on hand to encourage, motivate and inspire attendees.

The conference also showcased the availability of the **Lloyds Scholars Programme**, which helps students from lower income backgrounds to attend 8 high value universities. Two Scholars, Kanye Kola and Alice Davies, shared the many benefits they gained from this Programme like paid internships, dedicated mentors, generous financial support and leadership skills growth while at university.

The Conference also saw the launch of Reach Society’s third book, “**The Story of Reach Society – The Professional Black Men Who Chose To Add Value**”, written by Dr Dwain Neil and Ms Paula Neil. It contains evocative reviews by Lord Herman Ouseley, and Ms Marva Rollins, head teacher.

This book tells the story of three passionate professional men who chose to create a social enterprise for inspiring young people after the 2010 Coalition Government scrapped the National Role Model Programme for Black boys and young Black men, after just 18 months. It describes the extraordinary careers of the 9 professional men at the heart of Reach Society; and shows how they solved the issues of funding and attracting dozens of professional men from the Black community, and the impact of its careers conferences on young people and adults; and the impact of its recognition awards on the community.

Dr Dwain A Neil, Reach Society, Chairman (April 2015)

RSCF Ltd is a social enterprise trading as Reach Society