



# Reach Society

Building Connections



**Patrons:** Lord H. Ouseley, Ms Marva Rollins OBE, Prof. Sir G. Palmer, Prof. T. Williams & John Budu-Aggrey

## 2023 Careers Conference Report

On Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, Reach Society once again showcased talent in the Black community at its 11<sup>th</sup> Careers Conference. The registration for the day was slightly lower than 800 young people, aged 13 to 24, and some parents. The turnout was more than for the previous year, which signalled that the recovery from Covid is continuing.

The high point of the event was once again the “Yes We Can” (or YWC) interlude in which a diverse Panel of six highly successful people shared their favourite sayings or phrases and explained their significance. Then they took questions from the many young people. This year the YWC interlude featured **Sir William Atkinson**, former superhead in the secondary sector; **Jeff Boothe**, chief superintendent at the Metropolitan Police Service; **Colette Machado**, PR consultant and former editor; **Dr Keith Davidson**, founder of KAD Publishing and former director of education; **Gerry Davis**, schools inspector; and **Kirsty Smith**, director of global engagement, Brunel University London.

Roughly ten lucky young people who asked questions of the Panellists were rewarded with copies of the Society’s book – “The Story of Reach Society; The Professional Black Men Who Chose to Add Value.”

Once again the Careers Conference attracted 30 exhibitors all of whom were eager to be involved in face to face engagement with the attendees. Four of the new exhibitors were from the insurance sector and they included Asta UK, Gallagher, Marsh McLennan or MMC, and the African Caribbean Insurance Network or ACIN. They joined Lloyd’s of London in showcasing the many opportunities in that sector.

Six more first time exhibitors were involved. They were 42 London (coding skills training); ELBA Parity (mentoring Black young men); Leeds University (promoting the benefits of postgraduate qualifications for Black graduates); Life Radio UK (online broadcasting entrepreneur); London Strategic Network (environmental health) and Turtle Bay (a popular national restaurant chain).

We are enormously grateful for the ongoing support of many firms and groups who are listed hereby: Amos Bursary, Arup UK, the British Army, Deloitte LLP, Durham University, Enfield Caribbean Association, HarperCollins Publishing, HS2, Imperial College London, King's College London, LBEN, Metropolitan Police Service, RAFFA, the Royal Air Force, Simon Hudson Publisher and York University.

This year the STEMM (science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine) team had 13 in attendance which was a record number, and once again they attracted a steady flow of eager young people to their stand.

**RSCF Ltd is a social enterprise trading as Reach Society**



# Reach Society



## Building Connections

**Patrons:** Lord H. Ouseley, Ms Marva Rollins OBE, Prof. Sir G. Palmer, Prof. T. Williams & John Budu-Aggrey

The Perfect 10 Workshops were also offered on the day; and again they proved to be very popular. They featured essential messages from a diverse range of facilitators from Lloyd's of London, Durham University, Delve Consultancy, Krystal Alliance, Turtle Bay, Leeds Universities, Life Radio UK, York University, a team of male and female alumni from Amos Bursary; and the three women who led the Michelle Obama Qualities.

**Dr Dwain A Neil OBE, Reach Society, Chairman (April 2023)**