

## Louisiana Council on the Social Status of Black Boys and Black Men

In 2009, Louisiana Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu appointed Dr. Mackie to the Louisiana Council on the Social Status of Black Boys and Black Men. The board voted Mackie the chair and he is leading the state's effort to create policy and programs to positively impact the quality of life of black males and families in the state of Louisiana.

The council was created through legislation to address the effects of five areas, income and poverty, education, health care, crime and the criminal justice system, and family and community, on the lives of black boys and black men. Their research brought to light some sobering statistics. More black males in Louisiana are incarcerated or fall victim to homicide than white males. Among children, the percentage of black males in poverty is three times that of white males. Homicide is the leading cause of death for black males ages 15 to 34. For every one white male age 19 to 44 that is incarcerated, about four black males of that age are incarcerated.

Dr. Mackie is leading their mission by instituting personal mentoring programs in schools, developing curricula (currently awaiting funding for implementation), and speaking at schools to promote the importance of the changing how black boys and men are currently faring. Dr. Mackie passionately believes in the council's vision, "To create sustainable conditions in local communities and throughout the state which enhance the ability of black men and boys to reach their full potential."

On this note, Dr. Mackie is also a member of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. Started in 1963 by a group of concerned African American men to explore ways of improving conditions in their community. The organization has grown to over 116 chapters with more than 10,000 members who continue to strive to improve the quality of life in our communities and enhance the educational and economic opportunities for African Americans. 100 Black Men of America, Inc. has more than 100,000 youth participants annually in its mentoring and youth development programs. With a mission to improve the quality of life and enhance educational opportunities for African Americans, members of the 100 continue to serve as a strong force in the world by overcoming the cultural and financial obstacles that have limited the achievements of African Americans, particularly young African American males. Members of the 100 have made outstanding progress, proving that Blacks can, and do, excel as corporate leaders, community leaders and as independent business owners.

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