

For Immediate Release

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Superintendent Hamlet Invited to Attend Ford's Men of Courage MLK Day Program

PITTSBURGH January 12, 2017 – Superintendent Anthony Hamlet will join other African American leaders from across the country for Ford Motor Company's Men of Courage event. This Martin Luther King Jr. Day event will serve as a day of action for advancing the narrative of black men and creating positive social change.

The Men of Courage event, honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., takes place January 16, 2017, from 2-9 p.m. CT, at 1871 Technology & Entrepreneurship Center, Suite 1212 of Merchandise Mart.

“This is a prestigious opportunity to convene with intelligent, like minds on the serious matters impacting African American men” said Dr. Hamlet. “It is fitting that we meet on a day celebrating a man whose legacy promotes non-violent social change. This national program debut sets the bar for conversations and strategies aimed at changing the narrative about African American men, including the students we serve.”

Through both an online [Men of Courage](#) tool kit and a daylong forum in Chicago, black men are uniting to tell their stories and develop strategies and solutions for challenging stereotypes while improving their economic and social status. In addition to downloading a tool kit, participants can also access #menofcourage for updates.

“Men of Courage enables African American men to unite behind a common mission of being great family men, innovators and barrier breakers through storytelling, visioning sessions and action pacts,” said Shawn Wilson, manager, multicultural community development, Ford Motor Company Fund. “Dr. King often spoke about poverty as the root cause for many of our social ills. I'm excited to hear the solutions we develop in Chicago and around the U.S. that will benefit not just African American men — but all of our communities.”

Alongside Dr. Hamlet will be a cross-section of African American men who will gather to share stories and experiences as well as to create action plans. Other participants include Nate Sutton, owner of Sutton Ford Lincoln in Matteson, Illinois; NBA legend and former Detroit mayor Dave Bing; linebacker DeAndre Levy from the Detroit Lions; NFL Hall of Famer Jerome Bettis; educator Barrington Irving, the youngest person to pilot a plane around the world solo; Bill Pickard, founder Global Automotive Group; and author and criminal justice advocate Shaka Senghor.

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Ford has enlisted African American leaders from across media, political, technology, sports and music arenas to encourage black men to host similar events in their homes, houses of worship and workplaces nationwide.

More about Men of Courage

Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company, launched Men of Courage in Detroit in August 2015, aiming to connect diverse black men from local communities with a growing list of advocates and celebrities working to create positive social change for African American men. Ford Fund has joined with Sean Anderson Foundation and Dave Bing Youth Institute to promote Men of Courage. The program expanded to Baltimore last year for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, then Atlanta for the 2016 Father’s Day weekend at the 100 Black Men of America National Conference.

Interview opportunities for the Chicago event are available 2-7 p.m., with the exception of 3-4:30 p.m., when there will be a closed-door session. For media requests or to RSVP for media credentials, please contact Melody McDowell, 312.371.8917.

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