



# DT Cares 2026 Leadership Summit IMPACT REPORT



*Access By Design  
Building Networks That Change Trajectories*

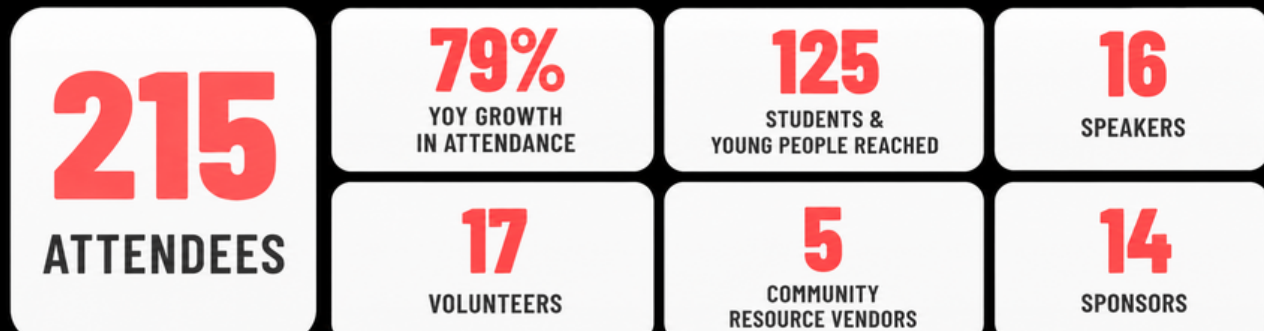
**Talent Is  
Everywhere.  
ACCESS IS NOT.**



The 2nd Annual DT Cares Leadership Summit and 7<sup>th</sup> year celebrating Dilligence Training, brought students, families, educators, mentors, professionals, community leaders, sponsors, and resource partners into one room.

Designed as more than a conference, the Summit created opportunities for young people and families to build relationships, hear new perspectives, access community resources, and connect with people capable of influencing their next steps.

**Reach & Growth**



**Feel The Room**



*The Summit connected youth and families with leaders across education, healthcare, business, media, athletics, entrepreneurship, public service, and community development.*

**Sponsor Recognition**



**BECAUSE OF THEIR INVESTMENT, ACCESS BECAME OPPORTUNITY.**

## FROM ACCESS TO ACTION

The Summit's substance, moment by moment — how one room of speakers, mentors, and families moved from vision to lived experience.

### THE SUMMIT JOURNEY

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>1</b> <b>From Vision to Institution</b><br/><i>Raishaun McGhee, Terrell Huff &amp; Devontè Dillion</i><br/>Building the leadership, systems, and partnerships required to create opportunity intentionally.</p> |  <p><b>2</b> <b>Youth Voice</b><br/><i>Ciana Hill</i><br/>Mentorship and access strengthen confidence, leadership, and future vision.</p> |  <p><b>3</b> <b>Building the Foundation</b><br/><i>Health &amp; Education Panel</i><br/>Young people thrive when families, schools, healthcare, and community systems work together.</p> |  <p><b>4</b> <b>Parent Perspective</b><br/><i>Keisha Barno</i><br/>Supporting young people also means strengthening their families and support systems.</p>                     |
|  <p><b>5</b> <b>Owning Your Story</b><br/><i>Panel Discussion</i><br/>Resilience, identity, leadership, and turning obstacles into opportunity.</p>                                                                    |  <p><b>6</b> <b>Community Recognition</b><br/>Sustainable impact requires trusted people who consistently invest in others.</p>           |  <p><b>7</b> <b>Mentorship in Action</b><br/><i>Raymond "Yayo" Rodriguez</i><br/>Mentorship develops leaders who return to create access for the next generation.</p>                    |  <p><b>8</b> <b>Media, Business &amp; Entrepreneurship</b><br/><i>Joe La Puma &amp; Delroy Ross</i><br/>Exposure expands possibility, and relationships expand opportunity.</p> |

### COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS

"I saw at least three generations come together and share experiences with a message of resilience and perseverance borne via pain and growth."

"The event was especially on theme as the panelists shared information that was not just theoretical but practical, giving attendees insights they could directly apply to their day-to-day lives."

"Access was the key point. Allowing people the opportunity to actually meet folks who have lived what these students are hoping to achieve. The passing of knowledge and first hand accounts is a game changer."

### WHAT COMES NEXT

The Summit brought the village into one room. Our **More Than An Athlete mentorship program** keeps that village connected year-round and helps the next generation thrive.

#### WHAT IS MTA?

Now accepting applications for our fourth cohort, More Than An Athlete is DT Cares' four-year leadership and mentorship program supporting scholar-athletes from ninth grade through graduation. Through sustained mentorship, exposure, education, and community, MTA turns access into long-term opportunity.

- Sustained Mentorship
- College & Career Exposure
- Networking Opportunities
- Leadership Development
- Financial Education
- Transition Planning

#### WAYS TO ENGAGE

##### Refer a Scholar-Athlete

Help connect an incoming ninth-grade scholar-athlete to More Than An Athlete.

##### Partner With DT Cares

Support mentorship, professional exposure, volunteerism, sponsorship, or community programming.

##### Invest in Access

Support mentorship, wellness education, leadership development, scholarships, and opportunity.



LEARN MORE



DONATE / INVEST

# SPEAKER RECOGNITION

7-YEAR LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



## Summit MC

**Alicia M. McKenzie**

Director, H. Fred Simons  
African American Cultural Center  
University of Connecticut

## SPEAKERS



**Kayla Monroe**

### Moderator

Corporate Social Responsibility  
Manager, STEM Initiatives  
RTX



**Raishaun McGhee**

President, DT Cares



**Terrell Huff**

Executive Director, DT Cares



**Devontè Dillion**

Vice President, DT Cares



**Tracy Stefano**

### Moderator

K-12 Supervisor of Health &  
Physical Education  
East Hartford Public Schools



**Dr. Melissa Ross**

Board-Certified Pediatrician  
Kaiser Permanente



**Thea Montañez**

Senior Fellow  
The Connecticut Project



**Leonard Lockhart**

Education Leader  
Fire Department Captain



**Joshua Boyd**

### Moderator

Manager,  
ESPN Research



**Tyler Coyle**

Former NFL  
Defensive Back



**Rebeca Frisk**

Academy Operations, Hartford Athletic  
Assistant Coach, Post University



**Nnamdi Obukwelu**

Principal  
Blue Ridge Partners



**Delroy Ross**

### Moderator

Global Business  
Continuity Director  
Cigna



**Joe La Puma**

SVP of Content Strategy  
Complex Networks

**DT.CORES**  
EMPOWERMENT. INVOLVEMENT. COMMUNITY

**BEWHOY**  **UNEEDED**  
*growing up*

**August 1, 2026**  
DT Cares 7-Year Leadership Summit