

Eric Grimes/Brother SHOMARI

Activist | Author | Speaker | Educator

- Director, Root Cause LLC
- Host, The Shomari Show (WURD 900am)
- Part-time Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education and School of Social Policy and Practice
- Co-Founder, AAKT Concepts LLC



Eric is an activist, author, speaker, trainer and educator. His primary focus is developing consciousness-raising and transformative learning experiences for those committed to overcoming social marginalization, oppression, and systemic racism. He is currently a Director for the Boston-based firm, Root Cause, a consulting agency for nonprofits and other groups. His current focus is developing the City Strategy and Support Plans for the Campaign for Black Male Achievement, as well as expanding Root Cause's work in the Black Male Achievement and Boys and Men of Color fields. Early in his professional career he was a youth development specialist and served as a College Access Coordinator for the Philadelphia Education Fund.

Shomari, as he prefers to be called, has worked as a program development consultant to many Black male and youth-serving organizations in Philadelphia and nationwide. He is the host of The Shomari Show, a weekly radio program airing on 900AM-WURD, Pennsylvania's only African-American-owned talk radio station. Additionally, he serves as a part-time/guest lecturer in both the Graduate School of Education and the Graduate School of Social Policy and Practice at the University of Pennsylvania, and a workshop presenter for various institutes sponsored by the University's Netter Center for Community Partnerships.

Shomari formerly served as Chair of the Education and Policy Committees for the Philadelphia Commission on African-American Males, as steering committee member of the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey's Philly Roots Initiative and the Black Male Development Symposium, and as founding convener and sponsor of Black CAPs Philly: an Annual Celebration of Black Men's Post-Secondary Achievement.

He is co-founder of AAKT (Action, Advocacy, Knowledge, & Training) Concepts for Social Justice and Community Development. AAKT's signature initiative, "Reaching Out For The Brothers: Concepts * Ideas * Strategies for the Exemplary Development of Black Men and Boys," engages in action, advocacy, knowledge development, and training to authentically and accurately articulate black male experiences in an effort to empower young black men and boys, as well as those who work with or on behalf of them.

When asked why he does what he does, he states: "Because it is easily forgotten that exemplary Black men and boys are an integral part of the fiber of families, communities, nations and the African Diaspora. Remembering and supporting this, in an environment that promotes otherwise, requires audacious effort!"

Education

- New School for Social Research, MS, Management and Urban Policy.
- Morehouse College, BA, Economics
- University of Delaware, Certificate, Community Based Economic Development.

Selected Writings

- The Promise of Place: Cities Advancing Black Male Achievement (Campaign for Black Male Achievement)
- Guide To Recruiting Black Men As Mentors To Black Boys (United Way of Southeastern PA)
- Building College Pathways Takes A Village (Annenberg Institute for School Reform)
- Retention In The United States Job Corps: Analysis and Recommendations (USDOL)
- Why Our Children Hate Us: How Black Adults Betray Black Children (self – published)