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630.907.5000 . 1500 SULLIVAN ROAD, AURORA, IL 60506-1000 . IMSA.EDU

January 14, 2020

Dear IMSA Student:

The Black and Latinx faculty/staff at IMSA meet to discuss strategies to provide additional support for Black and Latinx students. This year, the group is hosting a retreat for students on Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup>. As a strategy of the IMSA Board of Trustees approved Equity and Excellence Policy (<https://go.boarddocs.com/il/imsa/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AXVRKP68F803>), the goal of the retreat is to provide Black and Latinx students with additional academic resources and social/emotional support to ensure they have the tools to be successful at IMSA and in the global world. The theme of this year's retreat is:

***Building Unity and Strengthening Resilience***

**Saturday, February 1, 2020**

10:00am – 11:00am: Activities and Icebreakers led by **Brotherhood and Sister Circle**

11:00am - 11:15am: Kick-off/Introduction

**Dr. Jose Torres**, President and CEO, IMSA

11:15am - 12:15pm: Unity and Developing Your Community

*A session that will equip students with the strategies and tools necessary to create a community for themselves here at IMSA. Provide students with insight into how they can look out for one another within this community of IMSA.*

**Betty Hart**, Innovation Center Program Manager, IMSA

**Jerami Johnson**, Assistant Director of Residence Life, IMSA

12:15pm – 12:55pm: Brunch

1:00pm – 2:00pm: Alumni Panel

2:05pm – 3:00pm: Breakout Sessions

***Strengthening Resilience in Young Men of Color***

**Dr. Storm Robinson**, Chief Innovation and Education Officer, IMSA

***How do we continue to empower our Young Women of Color?***

**Alexis Thomas**, Chief Strategic Partnership and Initiatives Officer, IMSA

3:05pm – 4:00pm: Black and Latinx Emotional Social Well-being in a Radicalized Society

**Takeisha Rheams**, School Counselor, IMSA

4:05pm – 5:00pm: Unity by Developing Your Community and Empowering Yourself

***A session that will tie many of the topics covered together, and give valuable lessons on the strength from within. How do we empower ourselves, as young men and women, to believe we can do for ourselves beyond IMSA?***

**Traci Ellis**, Chief Human Resource Officer and Chief Equity Officer, IMSA

5:00pm – 5:45pm: Wrap-up/Clean-up

5:45pm – 6:30pm: Dinner

6:45pm – 10:00pm: Evening Activity (Round One, Escape Room, or Main Event)

This is an effort to provide students with the tools they need to thrive at IMSA and matriculate to the higher education institution of their choice. Although this event is not mandatory, attendance is strongly encouraged. Please use the link below to register for the retreat:

<https://forms.gle/Nak8oMDEBSLWVfsm9>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Adrienne Coleman, 630.907.5079 - [acoleman@imsa.edu](mailto:acoleman@imsa.edu) or Denna Mohamed, 630.907.5952 - [dmohamed@imsa.edu](mailto:dmohamed@imsa.edu)

Sincerely,



Adrienne Coleman, Ed.D.  
Director of Equity and Inclusion