

SELECTED FACTS

Annual 200+ Scholars Breakfast

- Since the first 200+ Scholars Breakfast on May 16, 1998, about 7,000 African American male scholars with a 3.0 or better grade point average and their parents/guardians have been honored by the Hampton Roads Committee of 200+ Men Inc. Many early honorees have completed their higher education and are now contributing in communities throughout the nation. Several have returned to Hampton Roads, joined the workforce, and have become 200+ members, “throwing back the rope” to help others.
- The annual breakfast, the signature event of The 200+ Men Inc., is fortunate to receive support from several colleges and universities within and outside Hampton Roads. Some presidents or their representatives attend the breakfast and announce scholarships to some of the honorees. Since 1998, the honorees have received more than \$13 million in scholarships from Virginia colleges, universities and the Gates Foundation that partner with The 200+ Men on the breakfast.
- The breakfast is not a fundraiser for The 200+ Men Inc. In fact, we steadfastly maintain the cost of the event at a level that will enable the honorees’ parents/guardians and friends to attend. Arrangements can be made for extreme hardship cases.
- Corporate partners, churches, volunteer organizations, 200+ members and friends generously provide various levels of breakfast sponsorships. The sponsorships cover the direct costs of the event: printings and mailings, food for the honorees and other guests, facility rental and related audio/visual support, and the speaker’s honorarium, hotel, and transportation. Last year’s sponsors are listed in the breakfast program.
- Over the years, breakfast attendees have heard some of the nation’s premier motivational speakers. Among them are economic/networking guru George Fraser, our first breakfast speaker; William W. Sutton, Jr., then president of the National Association of Black Journalists and Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist Leonard Pitts Jr.; then CNN anchor Tony Harris, who spoke in 2008 and later “plugged” the breakfast on his next broadcast. At the 12th annual breakfast in 2009, noted educator-author Dr. Dennis P. Kimbro challenged the students to think big, commit to personal excellence, and to be responsible. Dr. Freeman Hrabowski III, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, was the keynote speaker in 2010. TIME Magazine named him “One of 10 Best College Presidents” in America. In 2011, Dr. Christopher Howard, the 24th president of Hampden-Sydney College, spoke. Dr. Todd Davidson, former pastor at Piney Grove Baptist Church, delivered an inspirational message to the attendees at the 15th anniversary breakfast in 2012. 2013 featured Anthony “Tony” Lewis, an executive with Verizon Communications as our keynote speaker; 2014 Dr. L.D. Britt, chair of the Department of Surgery at Eastern Virginia School, spoke to the more than 300 scholars in attendance. The 2015 anniversary breakfast featured Gary T. McCollum, an accomplished businessman and civic and community leader. Last year, a former scholar returned to address the class of 2016. Mr. Henry A. Thompson, II, of The Law Office of Henry A. Thompson, Washington, D.C. was our featured speaker. Mr. Thompson is a graduate of Granby High School and a former 200+ Scholar, Class of 1999.
- The 20th Annual Scholars Breakfast was held on May 20, 2017, at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, Virginia. Roland Martin, journalist and syndicated radio creator and host, was the speaker.