



BYRON GARRETT

— SPKR4LIFE —

Spotlight on Byron

An accomplished business executive, government official and humanitarian, Byron V. Garrett is a true renaissance man. One of the most compelling and inspirational voices of our time, Byron is Chairman of the National Family Engagement Alliance (NFEA), a nonprofit dedicated to transforming education through meaningful family engagement. Byron is the Visionary and Chief Creative Officer of The Valdecio Collection, a lifestyle luxury brand consisting of clothing, watches, fragrances and eyewear. The former Director of Educational Leadership & Policy for Microsoft serves as a consulting author for Scholastic.

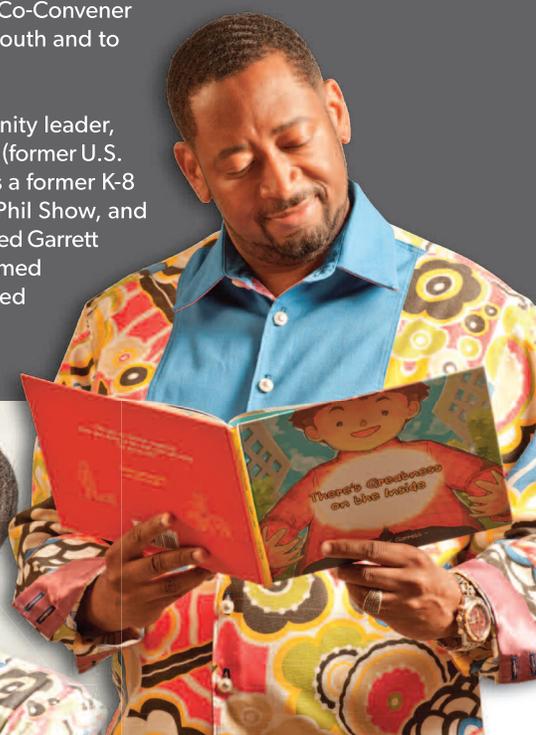
Scholastic launched the Byron V. Garrett Social Emotional Learning Collection. Inspired by his bestselling book, *The ABC's of Life* (Scholastic 2013), the library was created to equip young people with the skills needed to navigate society, making it a powerful and inspiring resource for today's classroom.

Currently, he is a Board Member for CircleIn, Alumni Advisory Board for High Point University, and the CeCe Peniston Youth Foundation, an Emissary for The Guyana Foundation, and was named "Mr. Enterprise" by Black Enterprise on their Modern Man 100 list.

Throughout his career, Byron has been a visionary agent of change promoting the idea that everyone has an obligation and opportunity to serve the best interests of our nation's most precious resource—children. Byron is a HuffPost blogger and former columnist for Parenting, where he served on their Editorial Advisory Board. Lending his talents to prominent platforms to engage the broader public, Byron served as a lead strategist and planner for NBC News' Education Nation and produced the 1st Annual Building a Grad Nation Summit for the America's Promise Alliance.

The former CEO of the National PTA, Byron has a unique combination of experience from both the nonprofit and governmental sectors, having served as the first Chief of Staff for the Office of Public Affairs at U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Prior to this, Garrett served as National Program Leader for the National 4-H Headquarters at the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the program's seven million participants and 90,000 clubs. While at USDA he was appointed by the White House as Co-Convenor of the Helping America's Youth initiative, an interagency effort to address challenges facing youth and to promote successful solutions.

Earlier in his career, Garrett spent a decade in Phoenix as an education advocate and community leader, serving as a Policy Advisor for Faith and Community Initiatives for then Governor Janet Napolitano (former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security). An education commissioner for the City of Phoenix, Byron is a former K-8 charter school principal and has been a guest on the TODAY show, MSNBC, Fox and the Dr. Phil Show, and featured in publications such as The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and JET Magazine. Ebony named Garrett to its "Power 150," an annual list of "The Most Influential Black Americans." And he was also named to The Root 100. Author of several books, Byron has delivered presentations across the United States, Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean.





Byron is available to speak and motivate groups of all sizes.

Some of his speaking topics include:

Family Engagement: Education's Best-Kept Secret

The concept of an engaged family takes on different forms depending on where you are located. The notion of a two-parent household is long gone and today, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and neighbors make up the growing "extended family" engaged in the education process of young people. It's been said that a parent is a child's first teacher. Research shows clearly that family engagement is a leading indicator of student achievement and valued at an additional \$1,000 per pupil funding. With an increasing emphasis on families, this thought-provoking session will uncover the challenges to meaningful engagement while presenting solutions that minimize barriers for success.

Wired for Greatness: A Collaborative Approach to Head and Heart Learning

The growing field of social and emotional learning (SEL) and its relationship to academic success and well-being are explored in this collaborative session. Issues in implementing and assessing SEL solutions are analyzed, including the roles of school and district leadership, teachers, families, and communities. Participants will understand how incorporating current events and SEL themes is essential for success in school and life, leading to a growth mindset. Increasing intentionality by appreciating the whole child and identifying tools available for applying this knowledge in classrooms serves to connect educational settings and meet the needs of students we serve. All participants will be provided with professional learning tools for actionable success.

Transforming Education Through Understanding Changing Demographic

The nuclear family has been destroyed. The agrarian calendar continues to dominate the K-12 education arena. The proliferation of social networking and technology continues to push education to the limits. In this thought-provoking session, participants will embark on a journey to understand how societal changes are transforming education. While many talk about unions, teacher contracts, and the Common Core, a culture of demand-driven consumers (parents and students) has arrived. From the Real Housewives of Atlanta to Xbox Kinect to Facebook, the landscape has changed, requiring the educators to not only understand but embrace these changing demographics in order to foster student success.

It All Begins in the Mind

Highly successful and highly effective people recognize, realize and understand one simple principle, It All Begins In The Mind. Based on the mantra "if the mind can conceive and the heart can believe it then the hands can achieve", Byron inspires and engages audiences to plot, plan and strategize their way to success. By exploring current successes and failures, this session equips attendees with the skills needed to navigate life. Whether it's completing school, making a career transition, launching a business or any endeavor you must be clear in your mind and heart about what you desire and commit to bringing it to fruition. It All Begins In The Mind.

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Speaking Requests
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