



As of Mar 12, 2020

# AUTHOR, PREVENTION SPEAKER, & YOUTH/PARENT EMOTIONAL WELLNESS EXPERT

## ROD CUNNINGHAM

*Prepared for:*

**YOU**

***Submitted by: Chief Empowerment Network, LLC***

Valerie Cunningham, Chief Operations Officer

---

### ***Contact Us:***

Email: [Valerie@chiefempowerment.com](mailto:Valerie@chiefempowerment.com) or [Rod@chiefempowerment.com](mailto:Rod@chiefempowerment.com)

Phone: Valerie (813) 770-7011 | Rod: (813) 380-8045

*All information in this proposal is confidential in nature*



“Nearly 2,000 of our students heard Mr. Cunningham’s professional and enthusiastic presentation. He was excellent delivering content regarding youth mental health and opioid abuse/misuse and our youth. His visit to the JDC was very motivational. ALL students walked into class angry and/or defensive and ALL left happy and inspired.

Mr. Cunningham’s energy and inspirational views has him quickly connecting with his audience – in our case the students. He certainly has become one of our favorite speakers to work with.”

- Carolyn Geisler, S.T.A.N.D. Prevention Program, Manatee County School District



## ROD CUNNINGHAM

AUTHOR | PREVENTION SPEAKER | YOUTH/PARENT EMOTIONAL WELLNESS EXPERT

### CLIENTS:

- Hillsborough, Pinellas, & Manatee County School Districts
- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) & FBI
- Department of Defense (DOD), Special Ops, USAF, & US Army
- Bay Pines VA Hospital
- Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
- Pasco Alliance for Substance Abuse and Prevention
- Alachua County Health Promotion & Wellness Coalition
- University of South Florida
- St. Petersburg College & Pasco-Hernando State College
- City of St. Petersburg – Youth Success Programs
- Urban League – Youth and Parent Empowerment Programs
- AKA Academy - Youth Development Foundation , Inc
- Pinellas County Job Corps

### Presented Topics:

- CLIMB: Believe the Hype! Opioids and Vaping Are Dangerous
- CLIMB: You are Stronger Than You Think
- CLIMB: Face It! You are Incredible
- CLIMB: It's Never Too Late to SOAR



As of Feb 28, 2020

## INTRODUCTION OF ROD CUNNINGHAM



The product of 15-year-old mother and a 19-year-old father, Roderick Cunningham was born in the crime-ridden housing projects of Jacksonville, Florida. Tragedy would strike Rod even before he entered the world when his young father died two weeks before his mother gave birth to him. In his formative years and while still a young and impressionable child, Rod was exposed to the harsh reality of domestic violence when he witnessed his step-father repeatedly abuse his mother both verbally and physically. Eventually his mother was forced to flee by night with young Rod for fear of their lives.

His mother's divorce from his stepfather rendered Rod to once again be a victim of abandonment. At first, he was 'abandoned' by his biological father when he died, and now he was forced to separate from his stepfather in order to escape his cruelty

towards his mother. The absence of a significant adult male influence in his life had an adverse effect on Rod's emotional well-being, the effects of which would plague him into his adolescence.

Rod found redemption through his decision to join the Air Force. "Joining the Air Force was one of the best decisions I ever made and represented a turning point in my life. The Air Force provided me with structure, discipline, and exceptional influence from men of honor, dignity, and character", Rod often shares. After an exemplary 29-year career, Chief Master Sergeant Roderick Cunningham retired in February 2016, his acclaimed E-9 rank is an achievement only earned by one percent of the enlisted force.

Now in his retirement years, Rod continues to serve the community in various capacities including that of a mentor to youth primarily in the Tampa Bay area as well as urban centers throughout the nation, he is a leader in the area of developing economic empowerment programs for families, and he is a highly sought-after speaker on various inspirational topics. Mr. Cunningham has delivered hundreds of motivational speeches on a wide array of topics to over 35,000 youth and adults.

A passionate advocate in the areas of drug prevention and misuse, Rod encourages youth to engage in positive decision-making behaviors by addressing the issues of parental abandonment, loss of a loved one, trauma, and peer rejection/bullying. According to Cunningham's intense research, these are some of the primary contributing factors to the depravation of youth who struggle with emotional pain. Rod focuses on empowering young men, women, and adults by teaching them 'The 5 Steps to Emotional Wellness'. He has worked successfully with community leaders to build effective programs that inspire emotional wellness and sustainable drug-free living by addressing the root causes of drug abuse, teaching coping skills, and building self-esteem.

- Rod is masterful at speaking to the 13-year-old in each of us. His presentations are humorous yet hard-hitting. He has the unique propensity to connect with each person in a room of hundreds as he challenges and inspires them to discover their true value.



***"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."***

- Frederick Douglass

## SPEAKING TESTIMONIALS



Mr. Cunningham is a well-respected member of our community due to his work with hundreds of our youth in mental and emotional health. I consulted with him in 2016 with respect to our Second Chance Program which eliminates arrest records for juveniles who commit low level crimes and volunteer their enrollment. Thanks to his input, we have seen a major reduction in the recidivism (reoffend) rate in St. Petersburg.

- *Anthony Holloway, Chief of Police, City of St. Petersburg*



We had the pleasure of having Rod Cunningham speak during our convention's morning plenary. With approximately 500 local stakeholders and concerned citizens in attendance, Rod engaged the crowd with charm and humor, making topics such as **opioid abuse** and **mental health** approachable. From the perspective of the event's coordinators, Rod was easy to work with and was very responsive.

He stayed after his speaking engagement without having to be asked to further engage participants during the lunch session whom had questions. Our participants were thankful for his information, insights and for the opportunity to speak with him further afterwards. We are happy to endorse Rod as a capable and engaging speaker.



- *Monica Rousseau, Chair of the Pasco Alliance for Substance Abuse and Prevention (ASAP) Board of Directors*



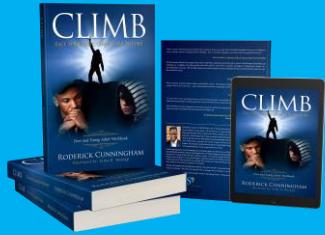
We can't thank you enough for speaking at our school assembly here at Braden River High School. You spoke to 1,230 students! Needless to say, this is a topic our students need to hear about, and your delivery was informative as well as entertaining. We feel confident our students gained insight into a topic that currently touches the lives of so many of our citizens, often beginning at the age of our students.

■ Thank you again for a job well done. We look forward to having you back next semester if your schedule permits.

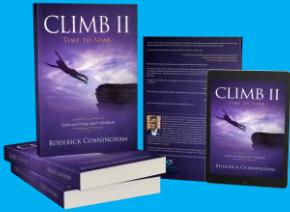
- *Thomas Shaneyfelt, Head Coach, Braden River High School*



## PRODUCTS



PRICE: USD \$29.50



PRICE: USD \$29.50

## Professional Life



- 29 years of service to our country (retired at top 1% of the USAF)
- Author, Prevention Speaker, and Youth/Parent Empowerment Expert
- Delivered over 400 speeches
  - College Graduations/High School Graduations and Assemblies
  - Drug Abuse/Mental Health Conferences and Forums
  - University/High School Staff and Corporate Off-Sites
  - Leadership Conferences and Fundraising Galas
  - Faith-Based Organizations
  - Summer and Year-Long Youth Programs
  - Prisons and Juvenile Detention Centers
- Authored three books on emotional wellness
- Former Dean of Students, Air Force Technical Training Schools
- Former VP of Community Relations, Pinellas County Urban League
- Contracted with Department of Justice - DEA 360
  - Educate youth/community leaders on dangers of opioid use/misuse
- Mentors 150+ youth each month
- Selection Board Member, 5 Military Service Academies
  - US Congressman Charlie Crist
- Former Board Chair, Pinellas County Job Corps
- Board of Directors for 9 Charter Schools / 9,000 students



## PRODUCT TESTIMONIALS



"As a teacher, I started reading CLIMB to be able to help my students who deal with severe emotional/behavioral disorders. As I read the book, try as I might to feel the words as a teacher, I kept coming back to myself as an individual and a mother. Thinking how I can apply these skills to myself first, and my children second?"

Trauma affects us all in one way or another. It creeps into our lives or it slaps us upside the head. And as much as we want to ignore and pretend it is not affecting our lives, it will not just go away quietly. We must address our trauma for the healing to begin. This book is an easy to read guide with step-by-step directions.

The author reminds us of the importance of always showing our children (whether biological, step-children, students, nieces/nephews, foster children, children we mentor, etc.), that we love them and are proud of them above all else. I highly encourage those who love, mentor, guide or teach children to read this book. The world needs more empathy in order to heal, and I believe this book is a great bridge towards us all having a more empathetic heart."

*- Mrs. Melanie A. - Teacher, Mentor, Advocate, Survivor*



Roderick Cunningham has a compelling message for educators and delivers it with panache. He gets to the heart of teacher/student relationships and offers solid information on how to create effective learning environments.

*- Deborah, Teacher, Academy Prep Center, St. Petersburg, FL*



"What a dynamic, readable model to address overall healthy activity. A great self-development tool for life and career. Over the past 2 years, PCUL has purchased over 450 CLIMB books for our youth programs."

*- Rev Watson L. Haynes, II, President/CEO, Pinellas County Urban League*



"In a time where racism, poverty, family disruption, and inauthentic spirituality permeate the communities within which the average teenager and young adult must survive, this book comes to refresh the reader with help for the mind, body, and spirit. It is an excellent read for any age, at any stage of the human journey to its higher self."

*- Dr. Katurah Jenkins-Hall, Ph.D, Retired Professor, USF-Tampa, Former Chair, FL Board of Psychology*



**CHIEF EMPOWERMENT**  
NETWORK

13099 Burns Drive | Odessa, FL 33556

## 2020 FEES

As of Mar 12, 2020

*Every event has different needs and goals. We strive to provide you with options for partnering together to help meet the objectives of your event and for your audience.*

### OPTION 1: SPEAKING/SEMINARS

**\$CALL for Quote**

**(8:00 am – 6:00 pm) – Includes Travel/Per Diem**

Choose up to 9 hours of services within the same day for EMOTIONAL WELLNESS conferences/seminars, parent empowerment seminars, staff retreats, etc.:

- 1-Hour Keynote Speech
- 2-Hour or 3-Hour Seminars (Youth and/or Adults)
- 4-Hour Seminars – Intense CLIMB Training (*Includes Suicide/Mental Health Stigma Training*)
- 8-Hour Seminars – Complete CLIMB Training Course
- 25% discount on regular priced copies of *CLIMB* and *CLIMB II*

### OPTION 2: CLIMB CURRICULUM & TRAINING

*Total Investment: **\$Call for Quote***

- Training is for organizations who are concerned about the mental and emotional wellness of our youth, college students, young adults, parents, and our community.*
- Participants will learn how to identify and care for their own emotional wellness, as well as the wellness of others*
- 300 (minimum) CLIMB Workbook Sets @ \$45.00 per set
- NO COST training for youth, parents, and staff (same day)
  - Additional training day is \$Call for Quote
- Available from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm

**Includes Travel/Per Diem**

Our goal is to serve you and do our part in making your event a success. If you have any questions or would like any additional information, contact us today at 813-380-8045.