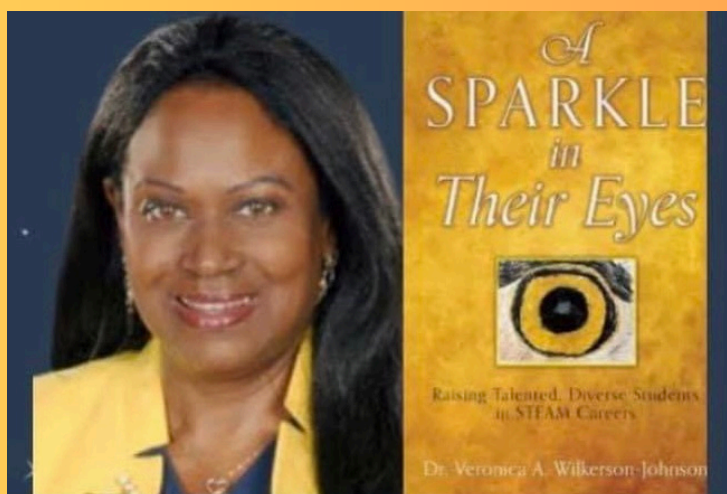


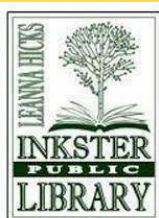


A Sparkle In Their Eyes: Celebrating Inkster's Past and Quests for the Future!

**Friday, July 12, 2024
5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**



**Leanna Hicks Public Library
2500 Hamlin Drive
Inkster, MI 48141
Free Parking**



AGENDA

5:00 PM Doors open - Registration

5:30-7:00 PM Welcome and Program Presentations

7:00-8:00 PM Strolling Reception, Hors d'oeuvres, Musical serenade, Student and Robotic Exhibits, and Author Book Signing

Program Highlights

Welcome - Minister Karen S. Williams, Master of Ceremonies

Former Public Relations Director, City of Inkster; Public Health Professional, and Pushcart Press, Nominated Author

Opening Prayer - Minister Zachary Pope, Greater Lansing Church of Christ, East Lansing, MI

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement – Dichondra R. Johnson, Director of Economic Development, City of Ecorse, MI

Words of Greeting – Honorable Byron H. Nolen, Mayor, City of Inkster

Our Journey - Celebrating Inkster's Past – Minister Karen S. Williams

Musical Interlude ~ Kyro' - Special Guest, R&B and House Artist, Atlanta, GA,

"Colors of the Wind" – Pocahontas Movie Theme Song

Poem of Tribute- Jonell Henry Johnson, Poet, Community Health Advocate, Chicago, IL

Author's Insight and Quest in STEAM - Dr. Veronica A. Wilkerson Johnson, Author of "A Sparkle in Their Eyes: Raising Talented, Diverse Students in STEAM Careers"

Musical Interlude ~ Kyro' ~ "Hero" (by Mariah Carey)

Advancing Robotics and Technology in STEAM, featuring **Leon Pryor, Coach 8280, K9.0** Robotics Team, School at Marygrove. Detroit, MI

Closing Remarks and Prayer Blessing – Rev. John C. Clemons, Pastor, Womack Temple C.M.E. Church, Inkster, MI

Strolling Reception ~ Robotics Team Engagement and Demonstration

We thank this evening's distinguished presenters for their many contributions to the promotion of STEAM (**Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics**) education, the Inkster community and the empowerment of students! And to our inspiring artists, Recording Artist **Kyro'**, , Lyricist, Dichondra R. Johnson, Poet **Jonell Henry Johnson**, Graphic artist **Fredrick Johnson** and Student artist **Miles Michael Geiger!**

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Inspiring in STEAM

Kyro' Smith, born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, graduated from Alabama A&M University with a degree in Social Science and Secondary Education. Also, a talented musician, he began his career as a singer and songwriter, specializing in House, Disco, and R&B music. Kyro' has released three albums to date: "Cosmic Energy," "Lejama," and "Night Out." He has also made appearances in films and performed on stage with various artists. Additionally, Kyro' has worked as a radio personality for Audilous and I-95 Radio Stations in Atlanta, GA, and recorded radio jingles. He has hosted and produced two music shows for unsigned artists, namely "A Night With The Stars" and "A Night With The Stars Remixed."

Thank you for all that you do, bringing wonderful contributions to the world of music!



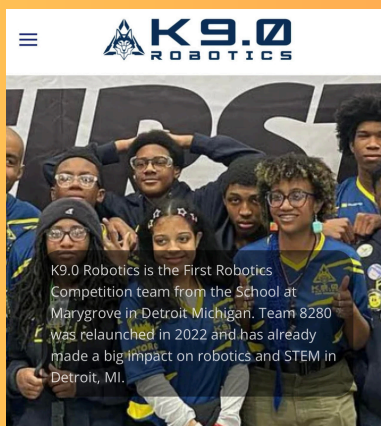
Student K9.0 Robotics Team - Building Robots and a future in STEAM

Leon Pryor, Coach of the 8280 K9.0 Robotics Team at School at Marygrove, Detroit, Michigan, is a University of Michigan alum and a senior game producer at Meta. He became involved in robotics competitions in 2018 when his son was an elementary school student in the Detroit Schools and competed in a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition. Pryor went on to develop and lead two youth robotics teams to success, and the Motor City Alliance, a 501c3 organization that works among over 100 metro Detroit elementary and middle school teams, furthering their robotics creativity, coding language skills and team dynamics. FIRST Robotics school teams design and build robots to compete in an annual contest.

Of his 8280 K9.0 Team, Pryor stated: "We are one of the most successful Robotics Teams from Detroit ever. Despite being a young team, we have moved quickly to set the bar for Detroit high school robotics, and this year we have won awards that no other Detroit team has achieved in 35 years of competition. This includes the Impact Award (formerly Chairman's) for social activation and spreading the message of STEM. Also, we were recently spotlighted during Juneteenth 2024 demonstrating our Robot on the local NBC News - [K9 Juneteenth \(youtube.com\)](#)".

Pryor said exposing kids early to STEM/STEAM and problem solving will help them fit into the future economy and jobs landscape. Michigan will see more than 16,000 job openings in STEAM fields annually through 2028, according to a recent report on long-term employment projections from the Michigan Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives.

Thank you to Coach Leon Pryor and the 8280 K9.0 Robotics Team for all that you do in inspiring and enlightening everyone about the fascinating world of Robotics.



Acknowledgements

We extend heartfelt gratitude to the outstanding **Presenters and Student Exhibitors** this evening, and the opportunity to celebrate their academic and artistic achievements!

Much appreciation to the gracious administrators and staff of the **Leanna Hicks Public Library! Akindede Akinyemi**, Library Board Chair; **Amisha Harizan**, Library Director; Library Staff and Board Members. Thank you for this homecoming opportunity to celebrate Inkster! It is truly an honor to meet in this edifice named for **Mrs. Leanna Hicks**, an outstanding mentor, friend and inspiration to all!

The Author immensely thanks her family (**'Team Johnson'**), Presenters: **Dichondra R. Johnson**, the Author's daughter, and **Jonell Henry Johnson**, Author's son. Also, Son **Christopher Johnson**, Grandson, book Artist **Miles Michael Geiger**, Nephew, book artist **Fredrick Johnson**, Husband, **Melvin L. Johnson**, fellow educator **Dr. Nettavia Curry**, friends, family and colleagues.

Also, to the parents, families, and many dedicated individuals in Inkster, Michigan and beyond who help to inspire this journey.

Author and Minister Karen Williams - Whose community and literary contributions inspire and enlighten us all.

Heartfelt thanks to **Mayor Byron H. Nolen**, and state and local elected leaders.

Educators Emeriti and great mentors, **Wilbie and Willie Cobb**.

Also, **Rev. John C. Clemons**, **Barbara Hardison**, and **Members** of the wonderful Womack Temple C.M.E. Church, and

Minister Zachary Pope and Patricia Pope, Greater Lansing Church of Christ, East Lansing, MI, for their amazing support!

And to all who support and foster excellence and diversity in STEAM and student and community engagement.

A special thank you to our dedicated STEAM and media professionals who ensured this evening's success:

Angela J. Keys, Event Coordinator; Jahton H. Bishop, Videographer; **Darrett Pullins**, Photographer; **Gina Steward and staff**, Telegram Newspaper, and **Kimberly Calhoun**, Chief Director, Intimate Settings Catering.

