

# Dr. Curtis Lewis

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Curtis L. Lewis, esteemed Founder and CEO of the Black Male Educators Alliance (BMEA), has devoted his career to advancing educational equity for Black, Brown, and economically disadvantaged communities across the nation; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** Originally from Chicago and now a proud Detroiter, Dr. Lewis has spent over 25 years in Michigan advocating for educational equity. His mission, influenced by personal experiences and family, is inspired by a charge from his late eldest brother, driving him to reimagine and transform education; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Lewis moved to Detroit to work with Teach for America, coaching teachers across Detroit Public Schools, motivated by proximity to his son and his dream to create a school aligned with his values. As Founding Principal of Henry Ford Academy Elementary, he achieved a 95% staff retention rate, 98% student attendance, and significant academic gains. Later, as Turnaround Principal, he led the school to become one of Detroit's top five based on SAT scores, achieving a 95% graduation rate and 100% post-secondary acceptance. Suspension rates fell by 75%, and staff retention reached 90%. As Chief Academic Officer for U Prep Schools, he developed a strategic plan prioritizing culturally responsive practices and equitable disciplinary processes; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** In 2017, Dr. Lewis founded BMEA, recruiting and mentoring over seventy-five Black male educators in Metro Detroit. Under his guidance, BMEA has impacted over 15,000 students, including 9,000 in Detroit, by providing high-quality training, fostering youth leadership, and advancing equitable learning across multiple cities; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Lewis has shared that his work is more than a profession; it is a calling shaped by the influence of “angels” who offered him love and hope. He dedicates himself to nurturing joy and the innate genius within Black youth, aiming to develop culturally responsive leaders who create liberatory educational spaces, empowering students to become changemakers; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Lewis currently serves as Assistant Professor of Teacher Education and Director of the Master of Arts in Teaching and Curriculum at Michigan State University. He has influenced education policy, serving on advisory committees for Launch Michigan and the Michigan Department of Education, and holds board positions with several educational organizations; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** After 15 years of service, Dr. Lewis remains committed to Detroit's revitalization and envisions schools where students' curiosity and cultural identity are celebrated. His global studies of school models continue to inform his vision for learning environments that foster self-discovery and critical thinking; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Lewis takes pride in his role as a father, guiding his children as future leaders; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** That on this day, Tuesday, November 12, 2024, President Pro Tempore James E. Tate, Jr., and the Detroit City Council honor Dr. Curtis L. Lewis for his commitment to educational equity and transformative impact on communities. His life's work is a testament to education as a path to empowerment and change; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED,** That this resolution stands as a lasting tribute to Dr. Lewis' dedication to building equitable, relationship-centered schools for future generations.