

The Trenton CHANGE coalition, a member of the OC/OS campaign, is building toward a "Parent Empowerment Summit" set for May 19.

On April 20, the group brought accomplished educator and author Baruti K. Kafele, currently the principal of Newark Tech High School, to speak about the importance and potential of positive parent action for educational improvement. "It begins with you," Kafele told parents at Joyce Kilmer Elementary School. He also stressed the importance of putting education in a larger, social context. "Telling them 'you need to go to school because you'll get a better job' isn't gonna cut it. They need to know education means power," he said

Dr. Alma Salter, a facilitator for CHANGE, says the upcoming summit seeks to promote parental involvement in the city and educate parents about the resources available to support them. The daylong event will be held at the War Memorial from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. May 19. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Guest speakers include Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund; Lenworth Gunther, author of *Black Image, Flaming Tongue, The Rise of Adam Clayton Powell Jr.*; and Eddie Glaude, a Tavis Smiley "disciple" and author of *Exodus! Religion, Race, and Nation in Early 19th Century Black America*.

The Summit is for the parents, guardians, teachers, relatives and friends of the children who attend the schools in Trenton, NJ. The scheduled workshops are:

1. *Understanding your rights and responsibilities as a parent.*
2. *All about Abbott: What it means to you and your children. (Offered in English & Spanish).*
3. *Gear Up: Advocating for your child's education.*
4. *Everything you want and need to know about the special needs child and "inclusion."*
5. *What does Parent and Community involvement really mean?*
6. *The importance of getting an early start.*
7. *What to do when your child won't listen: Behavior Management.*
8. *Building wealth through home ownership.*
9. *Why no child left behind (NCLB) is important to you and your child.*
10. *School Safety*
11. *Preparing for what's next after high school: College of Career.*
12. *The Man in the Mirror: Empowering our fathers and sons.*

Registration forms are available at all Trenton Public Schools, and in many places of worship. A light breakfast, box lunches and transportation (if needed) will be provided. There will also be activities for children. Please call 609-656-4900, ext. 5677 for additional information.