Michael Eure Show Podcast – Episode 32: Men of Color on Ethnic Relations

INTRODUCTION: Hello, this is Michael Eure and I'd like to invite you to the Michael Eure Show featuring student hosts and very special guests talking about a variety of interesting topics. You can find us on the Eagle Stream YouTube channel.

MICHAEL EURE: Welcome to the Michael Eure Show and this is Part 2 of the discussion that we had before Thanksgiving with men of color. And they're talking about global solutions, to ethnic relations.

But right now, I'm gonna have each of them briefly just introduce themselves, and then we're gonna get right into some other things.

So, I'll start with Richard and then Akeem and then José.

RICHARD REDDING: Good afternoon, all, I'm Richard Redding, I am a success coach with the Pathway Success College program for minority male mentoring at Wake Tech Community College. I am a graduate of Florida A&M University. A bachelor's degree and a master's degree in conflict resolution from Kennesaw State University.

I'm glad to be here. Thanks, Michael, for having me.

AKEEM MCALLISTER: Hello, my name is Akeem McAllister, and definitely some things have changed since the last recording. I am now an infection preventionist at a healthcare center where I live in North Carolina. And I am a graduate of Elizabeth City State University because you all can see my little [inaudble]. I probably have them somewhere everywhere, umm and I also attended North Carolina Central University for Graduate School, and I met Mr. Eure as I had time at Wake Tech teaching ACA, which was a glorious time. And I'm glad to be here. Thank you.

JOSÉ FABRE, JR.: Awesome. Hey everyone, my name is José Fabre, Jr.

I am a Wake Tech graduate going to NC State for structural engineering in the Fall of this year and I was really looking forward to this after the last discussion that we had.

I work for Wake Tech now under admissions and recruitment department in case anybody need anything, and I'm really looking forward to everything that we will discuss today. Michael.

EURE: Thank you.

And Sarah, what we're gonna do now, if you don't mind bringing up the link and we're gonna just go through the schedule for this year's African American Cultural Celebration at the North Carolina Museum of History.

Of course, because of the pandemic, it would be virtual this year. But I'm glad that to say that Akeem has been and José has been, and Wake Tech has had a booth and José has worked at the booth and Richard has been.

So, if y'all wouldn't mind Sarah, can you just scroll down?

I'm just kind of talking because I am on the advisory board for this. So, it's open to the public and it's free. And, as you can see, they have many different workshops We have celebrate music and movement and all of these things and it's all free.

Some of it is just broadcast live and some of it you need to be registered for.

So, I'm just kind of going through celebrate and y'all can jump right in and tell us what you felt when you participated last year.

What do you think, Akeem?

MCALLISTER: So, I was gonna say I'll start.

I probably learned so much. I kind of went in as like a sponge and just try to like I said, soak up as much as I could.

I did see that there was some a representative from my alma mater and my undergrad alma mater, and they were talking about some of the history that was in North Carolina.

And they were also talking about how veterans of this state and I believe just all overall African Americans veterans, how they're treated.

And then also just the overall of how those people are medically treated and medically assessed, because sometimes those they're mental state is not treated as the same as others.

And then also I was able to meet a PA, who is an African American PA and she was talking about skin health and how that could be, uh our skin is treated differently than other people, and how there isn't as much research into that.

So, we have to, you know, see people who are more well advanced in treating our skin and we have to treat our skin differently versus some of the more widespread information out there.

So, I definitely think if you go to this or like you said, this year's online.

So, if you go to it and attend it, I'm pretty sure you'll learn something. Like so right now I see the Black Maternal Health and History of Eugenics and North Carolina, with Dr. Kimberly Harper.

So, that's something I probably attend, but I learned a lot on when I went there and also very entertaining.

EURE: What did you think José from your experience?

FABRE: It was amazing. It was amazing and as you were speaking, I recalled also that I met, over there, remember that a violin player that you guys had?

EURE: Yeah, the young guy, I can't remember his name.

FABRE: Yeah, so he actually made it to America's Got Talent after that.

I don't know if you knew, but yeah.

EURE: I mean, I just can't think of his name.

FABRE: Yeah, but he is, man he was amazing.

And so, I met a lot of people that day and it was just it was just a great time to, to just enjoy and then look at the culture and meet new people. And it was great.

You know, I'm. I'm really looking forward to this one as well, Michael.

EURE: Alright.

And what about you, Richard?

I'm thinking you had just moved here when you went right?

REDDING: Exactly. Yeah.

So, I was a transplant from Florida by way of Georgia.

When I first initially went to the event and I was amazed at the amount of history that North Carolina has contributed to African American history to American history. From no-names to great names that have been a part of North Carolina's history. And it just really was amazing.

And I had a chance to not only learn about that history, but with the veterans that were served. Also met some people that were involved in bringing some young people there from mentor programs that were. I met other people doing those things.

So, just an amazing time of learning and just continue to pique my curiosity and read more, more on the history of North Carolina. I've always been, you know, partial to Florida because of my hometown.

But just what I learned that I can't be it, it cannot be erased from the history books. And the contributions people are going to have made to American history and African American history and Indian history for that matter as well. Not Indian, but the indigenous people's history as well.

EURE: Well, they did think they were in India, didn't they?

But at any rate, our own guest, our previous guest talked about the triracial identity of native Americans and I… well, it's true throughout all the continents, but it's very interesting.

So, if anybody's interested in getting more information about this, you can just email me and we'll put our email address up there later and I will send you the link. And also Richard, I'm just gonna ask you to remind me to mention it at the pathways meeting private.

Alright. So, now we're ready to get into our conversation, and we're gonna start with where we ended up as best I can remember.

And one thing I know that José talking about and we talked about your trip to Mexico, which I thought was fabulous.

And you started talking about the role of financial literacy and how that would be a very big help to bring… and in particular you were talking about Hispanics.

But you talk about all of the different segments of society being on a financial equal keep, so with this pandemic, how do you think that might have accelerated since then or is it really the same, José?

FABRE: Ohh that's that's a great question, Michael.

I think it's definitely much more needed now than it was back then, of course. You know with everything that's going on right now because you know many, many different people have lost their jobs.

And so, you know, having the [inaudible], you know, to have different type of help it's much appreciated you know and definitely much needed.

So, I think it's definitely worse right now than it was back then, Michael, to answer your question.

EURE: Akeem, you talked about the medical disparities at the last time we talked.

And you talked about your trip when you went to South Africa and how things were somewhat different.

And now you're working in a clinical environment.

How do you feel the Pandemic is impacting and what can we do to make sure that people of color are properly diagnosed and treated with the Pandemic?

MCALLISTER: Ohh wow, that is a very loaded question.

So definitely in America, if you look at just right now and it's interesting.

Like I said, I'm very fortunate and thankful to have this position, so the official title is infection preventionist and when you talk about something as massive as COVID, if you look at the numbers that are reported, you see that a lot of minorities, especially African Americans, Hispanics, and even the other races that are considered the minority in this country.

I know, I believe last time I checked for African Americans, we are at least two or three times more likely to be hospitalized and same thing with the deaths surrounding COVID. More so, I think it comes down to equity and we talk about health and I believe even just recently, I try to keep up with all these things as much as possible because every day there's like a new story. One of my favorite congresswomen is Ayanna Presley.

And she was just talking about how her area is very well known for health, but whenever it comes down to equity for diverse cultures and diverse people of color, we aren't treated the same.

So, I think that's the main thing and that is one thing that is that the forefront of this new administration you see sometimes now it seems like science is important again.

So, that data I think should be shared and taken seriously and then also just trying to have and I would say equitable rollout. When I say that I'm more so mean like you know there isn't one person over another that is more important to get any type of vaccine or data or information.

And of course, you know, like I I'm working in healthcare right now. There is a push for those people in healthcare to get it because we're faced with it more.

But then when you start talking about even people after that, you know you have the age and then you also have, like I said, different people of color that are disproportionately affected.

So, I think that is what it comes down to. You have to have some people who are honest about the numbers and the data and just really trying to make it fair and I, you know, we don't think about that as we get older because it's just like you know, some people are like I

have money. So, I should be in the front of the line or they look at other points of privilege and they want to be in the front of the line.

But when you're talking about a global society, it really should be about what's fair and open and honest to everyone, because we all contribute to this global society.

EURE: Okay. Thank you.

And Richard, we're gonna probably be a little bit more complicated with your question.

So, before I ask you a question, do any of you, well, really Richard or a Akeen or José, do you have any comments of what both what José and Akeem just said or questions or shall we move on to the heavy stuff with Richard?

Okay, we're gonna move on to the heavy stuff with Richard.

Okay, the last time we walked something that I thought was very interesting and that was that… in what's going on in the world, not just in the United States with all of the unrest and upheavals and governments and the conflicts.

You talked about a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and then that was something that the United States never had that other countries did.

After what happened on January 6th, do you think that something like at the US Capitol that could be considered an important thing to do, even more so now.

And if so, how could we do it?

REDDING: I think it has to be considered and conceived.

Uh, it is something that I think the United States has never really, truly addressed in the historical context of what slavery has done to a percentage or portion of the people here in United States. And it has divided us along class lines, it's divided us along financial lines, it has divided us on color lines. And even now you can see its divided us a long political lines.

So, it's something that has to be considered has to be conceived if we're ever gonna really get to the table and sit down.

Where does it start at?

As much as I'd like to say, it starts with education, obviously, and educators, it needs to happen in that capacity. It has to start in our corporate boardrooms. I believe it has to start there as well. And flow down to our employment force.

Obviously with the government, it has to have a place there as well.

So, it has to be if we're saying America is this great place that is a melting pot or a salad bowl or [inaudible.] How do we get to the place to say this is what we truly are? This is who we are as a country as people, versus saying I'm on the right, you know, I'm on the left.

Not realizing that the right and the left hand are all part of the same body. Do we cut one or the other off despite of just because one doesn't get along another?

So, we have truly find a way to reconcile what has happened in this country for years and years and years, and how it has impacted so many, uh, lives, you know, not just today, but in the past.

So, I know people say forget about the past, it half as long ago, but there is a great impact on what has happened and that's when we begin to learn and sit down and discuss how we could move forward.

It's going to be very difficult to do so and cause we'll continue with what's happening right now, just as many hated the policies or were against the policies that President Trump has signed.

Now you have the same thing happening on, you know, and do administration right now, Biden is signing executive orders and there's still a side of people that are saying I don't like what he's doing.

How do we come to, how do we get to a middle? How do we get to a place, where we're not all fringed up against one another when this happens?

EURE: Great. Thanks, Richard.

And we have a question in the chat, and this is for Akeem.

What do you think about black and brown communities that do not trust the vaccine? Is your area doing anything to address this issue and that comes from Wake Tech ILC tutoring.

MCALLISTER: Thank you, ILC, one of my favorite entities at Wake Tech, as I used to teach there. I was [inaudible] the ACA instructor, so I would like try to push my students to ILC.

Great question.

For the first part, you said, what do I think about black and brown communities that do not trust the vaccine?

I'll honestly start off with saying and I say this in reference to history I and I believe we have a history major, that's on the, you know, Mr. Eure on the recording.

But you know, I just I think rightfully so there is reservation. You know, when it comes down to healthcare community as a whole, you know, we can go back as far as I believe you know and I don't think people just forget where things are just passed down.

So, you kind of think about like the days of like the body snatchers. If you've never heard of that, you may want to Google it. But it was a time like, you know, when medical schools with, you know, literally someone you don't be outside at this certain hour, cause you know, if you are outside the next thing you know, you may be a body that is being reviewed in a medical class or something like that.

Also, we go back and we think about if you know the story of Henrietta Lags or, and I know this is not the proper term, but a lot of people know it as a Tuskegee studies on which is not Tuskegee studies, it's actually the United States Public Health Studies on Syphilis.

So, saying the Tuskegee Studies is like a misnomer, and I say that because I did research there as well. So, I learned and I was corrected by all that.

But I just say again, what do I think about the black and brown community not trusting the vaccine?

Like I said, I think there's reservations for reason and for purpose, but I'll also say as from a science standpoint, umm just things that I know and learn and study.

I would say that we all have to realize that COVID is not new. It just kind of got out of control. It is a variant of the SARS virus. So, it's not necessarily anything new.

And then also looking at our administration how it was mismanaged by the previous administration, and you see the new administration coming in and saying we're kind of starting from scratch or starting from Ground Zero.

But I would hope that you know you can like consider the source. Something else I would say in my ACA courses, you know, think about where the information is coming from and where you're taking it from.

You don't just wanna take what you hear from Facebook and run with it. You know, they're like I mentioned about the CDC earlier, there are two websites and it really escapes my mind right now.

They break down what are in these vaccines and the reason I say this is not new because research had been done on these vaccines before, about just trying to address them.

It's just it seemed like this vaccine came from nowhere and ohh I wanna, you know, put it in somebody but the science and research has been there. They just kind of took the new stuff and put it with the old stuff and kind of created, for the lack of a better word ,vaccine.

And then the second part of that question was, is my area doing anything to address this issue?

So, I work with actually one affiliate company and more so you know, I'm just kind of in the area of compliance and just making sure that everyone is safe where I work at.

I think for the most part, I'm glad to say where I work, currently it's COVID free. You know my job is to make sure that we stay that way and we before I got on I, you know, took off my mask and have a face shield.

So, there's things that we do every day, just to make sure this area and this location is safe. You know, we take Covid tests twice a week just from where we work at and we are also offered the vaccine like I said, just from a health care standpoint.

But we're more so just trying to make sure our circle as far as like the people that we serve are safe. And then hopefully that trickle into the community, and I know they're doing a whole lot more.

And sorry this ran over, but about the vaccine and just issuing it and trying to get it out to the greater American people or population.

Thank you for the question again.

EURE: Alright, and thank you.

And audience, if anyone else has any questions please put them, ask them in the chat because we have less than ten minutes and then we're gonna be winding it down.

And put the ILC, I'm glad that they reminded me this. The impact coaches that Wake Tech will be having a workshop that is being conducted by the ILC and it's on time management and study skills.

One is from 12:30 to 1 and one is from 5:30 to 6. So, any students that are interested in that, you can email me. And we're gonna put everybody's email up before we close out.

But now I want, oh see there it is, and the impact coaches present time management and study skills. So thank you Sarah. Sarah is really working out in the background.

And for the students, what I'll do is I'll send you this flyer. All you have to do is click on the time and it will take you directly into the Teams meeting.

Thank you, Sarah.

Now Richard, at this point I'm I might come back to you because José, Jose's been so very patient with me today, but because of what you do and I've recently… Friday had a meeting

with early childhood education at Wake Tech, and they… or elementary education… I'm not sure, I said, whichever you want. But they teach the whole curriculum in Spanish, which I thought was very good, and I was telling them about you.

So, tell us about any upcoming programs that maybe some Hispanic people could tap into through you, that or initiatives that are following up with your trip from Mexico?

FABRE: Yeah, definitely, Michael, yeah. I was definitely glad to hear, you know, that they could actually get the curriculum, the whole curriculum, as you mentioned in Spanish. Which is really good because a lot of you know Spanish speaking students come to me and they're like, hey, listen, what can I do?

And they just have a lot of questions, you know, regarding the programs that they could do at Wake Tech that could be potentially in Spanish.

And so I was speaking to Michael about it and it's something that that we could, in the future is you know just at classes that have, you know, Hispanic professors perhaps, right?

I mean, that's just a conversation that I had with Michael, but I think that's definitely a great idea.

You know, as far as coming back from Mexico, an initiative that we have is we've met a couple of times, you know, with the President of Wake Tech, Dr. Ralls.

The executive vice president with met with a with a couple of more vice presidents just to speak about the matters and see how, how we could, you know, bring more Hispanic students to Wake Tech and what could we do, you know, to help out the community.

So, one of those things was actually, you know, to hire me. I actually worked very closely with very closely with the Hispanic students because I do speak fluent Spanish, so I'm able to, you know, understand whatever questions they might have.

And so whenever they have somebody that has a question, I could definitely come in and help, if it's needed.

But we are definitely working on it, we're working very hard actually, you know, to have an area of, you know, comfort if you would for Hispanics because when they come in we want them to feel like they are being helped like they're being listened to.

And so we're working on those things, Michael. That's definitely something that's on the radar as of right now.

EURE: Okay. Thank you.

And Richard, and Richard works with the Pathways program and one of the things I like about is it works to give a sense of belonging, which is what Jose's talking about, particularly of male students of color.

So, tell us a little bit about that. I went to two workshops that you've done, spectacular.

One was on grooming, and one was on etiquette. Tell us about some upcoming things and how can students get in touch with you if they want to participate in Pathways?

REDDING: Of course. Thank you.

Uh, Pathways mentoring program. You know you can always go to our web page or email us at pathways mentoring. pathwaysmentoring@waketech.edu.

Umm, but things we do with our student are our goal is to work with minority students. Minority male students, should I say from orientation to graduation?

The goal is to for student development for their personal development, for the academic development. That's what we want to do. So things we've done like you've shared, we just did a couple things on etiquette, another one on grooming.

So, it's about the whole person we'll look at talking about talking students, about their career vision on this coming Friday. So, we meet every Friday.

Virtually but be able to find the virtually at noon for about an hour or so for like 15 minutes to an hour just to engage young men of color to give them a sense of engagement. A sense of understanding and we work closely with the impact coaches as well through some maybe case management or just trying to make sure students have all the needs and all the resources they have to be successful here at Wake Tech.

You know one thing we recognize is talk about truth and reconciliation. The truth of the matter is our minority male students are coming up short when it comes to graduation percentages. That goes from high school through to community college through our higher institutions and college.

So, the truth of the matter is we have to find unique and creative ways to get, have them, engage and understand they're part of the collegiate… they're part of being at the college whether it's on campus, or whether it's virtually, they are part of the system. And that they know that they're appreciated and loved and they can be engaged in the system to be successful.

EURE: Alright, and thank you.

Next month is Black History Month, so I want you to know that on the 2nd Thursday we will probably bring some of the participants from the African American Cultural Center Celebration as guests.

And on the last Thursday, we have a guest that's an author and he also was the first public relations director for the CIAA, which is the oldest athletic conference for HBCUs in the country.

So, that's gonna be very interesting.

His name is Shedrick Byrd, so he has written a book called The Mississippi Byrd because he's originally from Mississippi. But he wound up being in the Navy, and that's how he wound up in Norfolk. And he graduated from Norfolk State.

And he also, while he was in the military, because he worked in human resources and had a good communication background, that is why the CIAA asked him to do that.

But because I'm, it's Black History Month, of course Wake Tech does wonderful. And Richard has agreed to host two book discussions on the last Tuesday and last Wednesday of February

REDDING: Cohosted with you, Mike.

EURE: You're gonna be the main host. I'm gonna be, I'm gonna be as reading questions to Richard from the chat.

But on the Tuesday the book is called Dear Martin and it will be both days from 12 to 1 and 5 to 6 so that we can work with all of the student populations. And it will be done through teams I believe, but Student Activities can give you more information or you can contact Richard or I and we'll be able to give you more information.

Uh, I think that the students will enjoy and they have some more activities. I'm just telling you, these are the ones we happen to be participating in.

So, now we're ready to close it out, and I'm gonna let each of you have your 30-second goodbyes.

And while they're doing that, Sarah, could you make sure you put their emails with their name. And we'll start with the José.

FABRE: Well, well, well. It was definitely a great to be here today.

I'm actually had a question for Richard. So, I think we're gonna, we're gonna have to do a part three Michael.

EURE: Wow.

FABRE: Speaking about balance, you know and what he was speaking about as far as like administration and I think that we could definitely have some, some you know, good, good talks about that.

But anyways, it's been great today and I appreciate you inviting me once again, Michael.

There's my contact information for any student that's watching this. If you need anything as far as admissions and the admissions process, please feel free to reach out.

All right, you have a great day and enjoy the snow. Everyone. Bye bye.

EURE: And I would add, uh, potential students or faculty and staff, any of you, contact him.

Akeem?

MCCALLISTER: Umm again, thank you all for the opportunity.

I guess coming from a health care standpoint, I'm going to echo what our new Vice President has said. Please wash your hands. Make sure you watch your distance from people and you know also I know it's wash watch your distance and I can't think… Ohh, keep your mask on.

Ohh, and that's pretty much it.

You know, and I guess the last thing I'll add about the vaccine, even when you become vaccinated, you know that is not your ticket to be liberated from your mask. Keep your mask on.

Still, we've seen a decrease and decline in the flu because of masks and you know that's causing people to think about other ways to prevent things.

But yeah, just watch your distance and wash your hands and keep your mask on people.

And thank you for the opportunity again.

EURE: Thank you.

And if anybody wants to get those websites, he couldn't remember… email him.

Richard?

REDDING: I'll just say I concur. Thank you so much for being part of this.

Our distinguished panel of young man and I really enjoyed being a part of this and I just hope that were able to share something with somebody that would inspire them to make

their own contribution in their own way toward, you know, racial reconciliation and health and finance and everything that they can contribute to, because everybody has a part to play.

EURE: Thank you, Richard.

REDDING: Thanks for hosting this.

EURE: No problem and we might get y'all to come back again.

Like José said, it sounds like a part three is in the making.

And anybody who's interested in contacting me is, and I guess Sarah can put my email up there.

It's MEUREI at waketech.edu and I think all of you will see you next month on the 2nd Thursday and I'm not trying to rush, but I gotta go to this ILC workshop and the good thing about technology is I can just move from this one to that one.

And thank you all, and we'll see you next time.