



## 2008 ANNUAL BDPA Technology Conference

*Developing and Promoting IT Professionals...From the Classroom to the Boardroom*



Greetings! For those of you who had the pleasure of attending our 2008 National Conference, I am sure you will agree that our time in Atlanta was amazing! I hope you found your way back to Raleigh safe and soundly. From the technical sessions, career development seminars, to the opening and closing ceremonies, and the networking opportunities, the conference had something to offer everyone in attendance. If you take a moment to read the highlights from this year's conference you will see why I am excited and pleased to announce that the **2009 National Conference will be held in Raleigh, NC!!!!**

### **Opening Ceremony – Ephren Taylor**

Our corporation of the year, Johnson and Johnson sponsored the opening ceremonies featuring the humorous [Mario Armstrong](#) as master of ceremonies. Our founder [Earl Pace Jr.](#), told us that in order to advance our careers and move our community forward, we simply need to “Cast Down Our Buckets Where We Are” in the BDPA to gain the resources needed to propel us forward. We also had the honor of hearing [Ephren Taylor](#) inspire and motivate the crowd as the key note speaker. Ephren, known as the “Wealth Engineer,” shared with us his amazing journey to becoming the youngest black CEO in history. Ephren, who created his first video game at the age of 12 and a millionaire by 17, told the 1500 in attendance that perseverance and hard work are the keys to success and to always seize opportunities when they are presented, no matter your age or situation.

### **Career Development & Technical Seminars**

This year, the BDPA national conference offered over 50 career development and technical sessions were offered to help members advance their careers and enhance their technical

capabilities. Also a 2 day PMP Certification exam preparation series was conducted. Many of the sessions at the national conference were eligible for continuing education credits needed to maintain professional certifications such as PMP, CISA, and CISSP. The conference offered topics from technical, leadership, project management and professional development.

### **High School Computer Competition**

Several HSCC teams assembled in Atlanta to participate in the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of this esteemed competition. Students from around the nation participated in a 2 day competition where they were quizzed on several technical topics. They were also given 7 hours on Friday to build an online banking program from the ground up using ASP.NET. Congratulations to the winners of the National BDPA HSCC “**Southern Minnesota**” **HSCC Team for winning their 2nd Consecutive Title**. Each student on the team received a \$2500 scholarship courtesy of the BETF.

### **Youth Technology Conference**

In conjunction with HSCC, there was a Youth Technology Conference. Students received took offered students career, technical and scholarship workshops and seminars. At the end of the week, the YTC along with the HSCC team enjoyed a day at Dave and Busters where they played video games, a game of billiards, shooting zombies and racing cars.

### **Technology Career Fair**

Top employers from around the country assembled in Atlanta to recruit top IT talent at this year's national conference. Several companies were pleased with quality of candidates attending the career fair. It is obvious that members such as yourselves should be among those advancing their career at such a wonderful event. Let's be sure to take advantage of this in Raleigh during 2009 at the [Raleigh Convention Center](#).

### **Closing Ceremony – Dr. Randal Pinkett**

The week's activities were closed on Saturday evening with our annual gala and awards ceremony. During the evening's events, we honored top achievements in the field of Information Technology. Our keynote speaker was the winner of NBC's Apprentice, [Dr. Randal Pinkett](#). His topic for the evening was “Is Success Your Objective, or is Greatness Your Goal?” This excellent speech reminded us all of the differences between success and greatness and that while completing a task is the definition of success; greatness comes from going above and beyond the call of duty. Success is quickly forgotten, but Greatness endures the test of time.

Dr. Pinkett and Ephren Taylor became 2 of the BDPA's newest members. They see the value in belonging to this esteemed organization.

### **Delegates Meeting - Voting machine**

Dr Juan E. Gilbert, Ph.D, received the 2008 BDPA Epsilon Award for his work in the electronic voting and affirmative action. Dr. Gilbert and his research team are the creators of Prime III, a secure, multimodal electronic voting system. Delegates at the 2008 BDPA Conference had the opportunity to test the new electronic voting system as we voted for changes to the BDPA National By-Laws.

*Other events during the conference are the 2008 BDPA IT Golf Classic at the Chateau Elan Golf Club, IT Showcase, ITSMF Workshop, Internet Ciber Café, a plenary lunch hosted by Monsatto, a host of receptions by corporate sponsors such as Johnson and Johnson, Compuware, JP Morgan Chase, State Farm, and Wellpoint .*