

National Center on African American Marriages and Parenting

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The mission of the National Center on African American Marriages and Parenting is to strengthen families in the African American community by helping African Americans gain essential knowledge, skills and other resources required for building and sustaining healthy marriages and practicing effective parenting; and Increasing public awareness of the status and value of healthy African American marriages and parent-child relationships and of the importance of effective cultural and societal supports for these families.

The objectives of the National Center on African American Marriages and Parenting is to conduct, archive, synthesize and disseminate scholarly research on African American marriages, parenting and families; do training to significantly increase the number of African Americans with graduate training in marriage and family; provide resources to provide African Americans and those serving African American populations with current information about what it takes to have a healthy marriage and family and access to resources that might help them to have healthy marriages and families. In regards to youth, the center works to promote values and behaviors that increase healthy personal development (including character and personal and civic responsibility) among African American youth and young adults, while providing them with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions about healthy relationships (including skills and knowledge that can help them eventually form and sustain healthy marriages and families).

The National Center on African American Marriages and Parenting is a part of the Department of Psychology at Hampton University. The Department of Psychology consistently graduates the largest number of students at Hampton each year and the largest number of African American students in Psychology in the U.S.

The first major research project for the National Center on African American Marriages and Parenting will be a comprehensive study on the quality of African American marriages. The purpose of the Quality of African American Marriages (QAAM) Research Project is to help determine factors that weaken and strengthen African American marital relationships through a qualitative and quantitative study of African American married couples. This research project and its findings could be the inaugural evidence-based data and analysis that launches the Center and brings it national attention and respect.

The National Center on African American Marriages and Parenting aims to serve as an information resource on Black marriages and families for black churches, the general public, practitioners and the academic community. To accomplish these goals, the National Center on African American Marriages and Parenting will execute the following: 1) Outreach to and collaboration with faith-based communities; 2) Outreach to and collaborations with Historically Black Colleges and Universities; 3) provide a National Marriage and Family Summit of influential individuals and marriage and family leaders across the political, regional, cultural and race/ethnicity spectrum; and 4) sponsor a Media Campaign on African American Marriages and Families.

