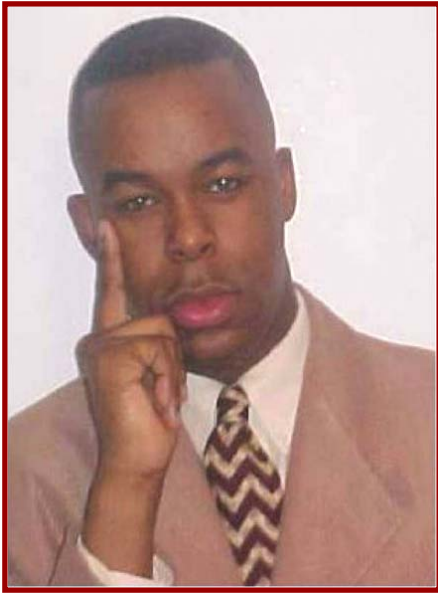


- Educator • Consultant
- Motivational Speaker

Clayton A. Muhammad

**Chief Spokesman, East Aurora Schools
Founder/Director, Boys II Men**



The Chicago Tribune named him as one of Chicago's 50 Notable Black Chicagoans and the Aurora Beacon News called him the Prince of Aurora. A committed educator, motivational speaker, writer, and consultant, Clayton Muhammad is widely recognized as one of the most articulate and eloquent young voices in his field.

Raised by a single mother in the same housing projects where he would later establish an award-

winning youth center, Muhammad serves as the Chief Spokesman of nearly 14,000 students and 1,400 staff members in his alma mater school district, East Aurora School District 131. Following in the footsteps of his mentor, Dr. Charles Ponquinette, the famed former East Aurora Superintendent of Schools, he works tirelessly to strengthen the school-community.

After studying the fields of education and leadership at the University of Illinois and Lewis University, Muhammad began his teaching career as a middle school teacher at Waldo Middle School where he received the Rookie Teacher of the Year Award in his first year. After just three years in the classroom, he took over the helm as Director of the Aurora Middle School Academy operated by the Quad County Urban League in conjunction with East Aurora Schools and West Aurora Schools. After witnessing the success of the school and other educational initiatives, the Quad County Urban League Board of Directors approved Muhammad's promotion to oversee all programs of the organization as Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer, making him the youngest person to serve in this position in the Urban League's nearly 30-year history in Aurora.

Muhammad led the expansion of the Urban League's Education Department that included its signature college prep program, after-school tutoring, and state-of-the-art computer labs. He established new ventures that met the needs of the community such as a pre-apprenticeship program that collaborated with the local trade unions to provide employment to young adults, a citywide council to address the Academic Achievement Gap, which prompted other initiatives in surrounding cities; and a pre-college fraternity, Boys II Men. Today, eight years later, Boys II Men is its own award-winning community organization with multiple chapters, and Muhammad serves as its Executive Director.

After a four-year tenure at the Quad County Urban League, Muhammad was appointed by the East Aurora Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools as the spokesman of East Aurora School District 131, the first person to hold this post since the

district was established in 1847. In his capacity as Chief Spokesman, Muhammad is the voice of East Aurora Schools for all print and video media and is the first point of media contact in times of celebration and crisis. In his capacity as Director of Community Relations, Muhammad oversees the district's community relations policies, publishes the district's marketing materials and new releases, manages the district's website, fosters relationships with over 100 business partners, and stands as a trusted advisor to the Superintendent of Schools. In 2008, Muhammad organized a student-led information campaign that, after 15 years and two previous failed attempts, led to the successful passage of a \$32 million dollar referendum campaign, which was needed to continue the day-to-day operations of the school district.

Clayton Muhammad is a highly recommended motivational speaker who has delivered addresses and workshops throughout the nation. As a lecturer and researcher in the fields of education, empowerment, youth development, he has spoken at annual conferences and regional meetings for the National Association of School Boards, the National Urban League, the United States Department of Justice, the National Weed and Seed Strategy, the Illinois Association of School Boards, the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation, the NAACP, the Chicago Crime Commission, Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club and hundreds of colleges, churches, high schools, fraternities, sororities, non-profits, and community functions.

Clayton is a single father of two amazing sons, Cordell and Jared. Cordell attends Illinois State University and is majoring in Education. Jared, who was valedictorian of East Aurora High School, attends the University of Illinois and is majoring in Accounting. His organization, Boys II Men, has graduated over 50 young men who are either attending colleges throughout the country or have graduated college and are now productive citizens in their own communities. Boys II Men has received such honors as The Chicago Crime Commission's Program of the Year Award, the Quad County Urban League's Dr. Charles Ponquinette Leadership Award, and a Mayoral Proclamation from the City of Aurora designated November 27 at Boys II Men Day in the City of Aurora.

Muhammad's personal honors include: Distinguished Service Award – National School Public Relations Association-Illinois Chapter Friend of Children Award – Aurora Exchange Club, Outstanding Educator Award – Quad County Urban League, Outstanding Loyalty Award-East Aurora Weed and Seed, Paul Harris Fellow Award – Rotary International, Education Leadership Award – Lewis University, Outstanding Volunteer Award – Communities in Schools, The Spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Award – Agape Connection, Inc./St. John AME Church, Distinguished Service Award – Kane County State's Attorney's Office, Distinguished Educator Award – Kane County Regional Office of Education, Service to the Community Award – Citizens for Neighborhood Improvement, Phenomenal Man Achievement Award – B2M Parents Association.

**Clayton Muhammad lives by the creed,
"To Whom Much is Given, Much is Required".**