

HISTORY

THE RITES OF PASSAGE ACADEMY

Founded in 1990, the award-winning South Metro Rites of Passage Academy (ROP) was modeled after the "Mentoring the 100 Way" mentor-training program of the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. The Academy started with ten high school seniors and steadily increased to 50 participants by 2008. Enrollment was increased over the years as an answer to our community's need for mentorship to its young boys of color, and our desire to have a greater impact on mentees at an earlier age. To accomplish this goal we expanded the program to students in 8th-12th grade. We currently have over 50 mentees in the Academy!

Our curriculum consists of seminars on interviewing/public speaking, dress for success, financial literacy, health and wellness, law and justice, college/career preparedness, and more! The curriculum contains components from the High School Financial Planning Program (HSFPP), the AT&T Leadership Program, and Wells Fargo Pathways to Success Program.

Graduates of the Rites of Passage Academy have continued the pursuit of excellence by attending colleges and universities such as the University of Georgia, Duke University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, Georgia Tech, the Air Force Academy, Grambling and Tennessee State Universities, just to name a few. We are the proud home of several Gates Millennium Scholars and Posse Scholars, and have had dozens of others to earn full academic and athletic scholarships as well!

Out of 110+ chapters in the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. network, the South Metro chapter is the only chapter to have (3) mentees win *Mentee of the Year* (2005, 2008, and 2018). In 2016 and 2017, the South Metro chapter was named the 100 Black Men of America, Inc.'s Chapter of the Year in *Education*. As well, in 2017 we were awarded Chapter of the Year in *Mentoring* and home to the 2017 Mentor of the Year, Mr. Paul Vaughn.

Over 200 mentees have graduated from the South Metro Rites of Passage Academy and, in conjunction with our loyal sponsors and donors, we have had mentees earn over \$3.5 million in scholarships.