

A bold call to action, a passionate plea for justice, a discerning document of wise witness, *The Black Sonrise* tells the inspirational story of African-American men and boys building a community of trust, respect, and accountability that nourishes self-esteem, human agency, relationship building, and student achievement. Educators will find compelling insights, challenging truths, practical lessons, and reasons for hope in this work.

-Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot
Emily Hargroves Fisher Professor of Education
Harvard University
Author of *The Good High School*, *of I've Known Rivers*, and
Respect

After generations of systematically punishing and failing Black males, Oakland Unified has implemented a program aimed at addressing its egregious practices. The Black Sonrise shows us the specific strategies that make a difference in the lives of young men who have been marginalized. While there is much work to be done to eliminate racism in Oakland Unified and in other school districts across the country, this report shows us some of the best practices for coming a step closer to creating dignity-enhancing practices for all students.

-Victor M. Rios
Associate Professor of Sociology
UC Santa Barbara
Author of *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys*

This groundbreaking report demonstrates what is possible when a system intentionally engineers the conditions for Black males to thrive in today's urban educational context. While other systems have attempted to change the so-called structures, the work in Oakland makes a compelling argument that we MUST fundamentally focus on the practices that facilitate engagement, achievement, and excitement among students. This is a must-read for urban school leaders and policymakers across the U.S.

-Louie F. Rodriguez, Associate Professor and Co-Director,
Doctorate in Educational Leadership at CSU, San Bernardino

Author of *The Time Is Now: Understanding and Responding to the Black and Latina/o Dropout Crisis in the U.S.*

At a time when there is much *discussion* about how to address institutionalized racism and the education of Black Males, here we see a shining example of a culturally caring commitment that is *doing* something for young men that is literally changing their lives. Kudos to the Oakland Unified School District and all the change agents on the ground in schools and classrooms for having the vision and the courage to do something different for young Black males.

- Tyrone C. Howard

Professor and Faculty Director, Center X

Director, UCLA Black Male Institute

UC Los Angeles

Author of *Black Male(d): Peril and promise in the education of African American males*