



Dear BESR Members and Supporters,

We are delighted and pleased with the outcome of our 4th Quarterly meeting and sincerely thank you for your contribution to its success. The attendance was great even with the challenging weather. As usual, we had an ambitious agenda that sought to inform, educate, interact, fellowship, socialize, and engage. Based on your evaluation comments, all of those goals were accomplished.

Washington State's 2016 Teacher of the Year, Nathan Gibbs-Bowling, joined us as our featured speaker. This young Black man delivered comments that were seasoned beyond his years and caused us to reflect on our mission and vision for Black students. He was outstanding and is so deserving of the recognition this honor bestows on him.

A major focus of the meeting was to share an update on the status of our strategic planning process and to engage you in the next level of data gathering as we move toward completion. With the use of electronic polling technology provided by Elway Research, we were able to add to the treasure trove of information already gathered from the online survey.

Many of you participated in this survey and **the winner of the drawing for the**

\$100.00 gift card is Yalonda Gill Masundire. Congratulations Yalonda!

The compilation of themes and topics that resulted from the survey is attached for your information. [Survey Themes and Topics](#)

We will be sharing the tabulated results from the electronic polling as soon as we have it in a more compacted format. We also acquired a graphic recording of the entire meeting with the use of a Graphic Recording Artist. The final product is also attached.

[Graphic Recording](#)

Another key focus of the meeting was on parental engagement. Attendees were treated to an outstanding panel presentation by 3 very knowledgeable, competent, and qualified professionals who provided us with a "taste" of what will be coming in a larger dose at the next quarterly meeting in February. In addition to parental engagement, the voices of our youth will be featured in a significant way.

Please mark your calendars with a tentative date of February 20, 2016 for the next quarterly meeting. More information will be forthcoming.

The Education Forum on December 1st has been postponed until early Spring due to complications for David Johns, the Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans. New information will be provided.

We wish you a joyous holiday season that is fast approaching. Thanks again for all your participation and support. Together, we expect to make a difference in the lives of our students.

**Black Education Strategy Roundtable
Board of Directors and Staff**

Black Education Strategy Roundtable (BESR).
| www.besrwa.org | info@besrwa.org

