



DAVID LEE MORGAN, JR.

David Lee Morgan, Jr. earned his Bachelor's Degree in Professional Writing & Editing through the English Department at Youngstown State University and earned a minor in Journalism. He was a baseball and basketball player at Warren G. Harding High School in Warren, Ohio and was inducted into the Trumbull County African-American Achievers Hall of Fame.

Prior to creating and developing the M.V.P. (Most Valuable Person) Character Education & Literacy Program, Morgan was an accomplished sports journalist. He has written for numerous newspapers including the Warren Tribune-Chronicle, Youngstown Vindicator, Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin, Raleigh News & Observer and Akron Beacon Journal. Morgan also was a television reporter for WYTV-Channel 33 in Youngstown, an ABC affiliate.

While at the Akron Beacon Journal, Morgan covered the Cleveland Cavaliers, the University of Akron athletics and was the beat writer for the Akron Aeros, the Indians' Double-A affiliate, from 1997 to 2003. He also was part of the Beacon Journal's coverage during the Indians' 1997 playoff run, which included a World Series appearance against eventual champions the Florida Marlins.

Morgan has also written numerous books which were met with critical success including, "LeBron James: The Rise of a Star" (2003), Kelly 'The Ghost' Pavlik: The Pride of Youngstown (2009), High School Heroes: Athlete's Stories of Inspiration, Dedication and Hope (2009), More Than A Coach: What It Means To Play For Coach, Mentor and Friend Jim Tressel, A Ring For The King: King James, Shaq and the Quest for an NBA Championship (209), Game Changers: The Greatest Plays in Ohio State Football History (2010) and Broken Heroes and Enduring Hope: The Cleveland Diagnosis of Injured Title Dreams and Indestructible Fans (2012).

Morgan was named the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association Writer of the Year three times (2004, 2007 and 2009) and was the runner-up for Best Sports Feature Writer of the Year in Ohio in 2010 in the prestigious Associated Press Society of Ohio Newspapers competition.

An author and caring father, David Lee Morgan, Jr. engages students and leaves a lasting impression long after the program has ended. Morgan has helped thousands of young men and women build character and confidence.

BRIGHTWAY CENTER

Brightway Center's founder Kara Bright, had a vision to create "a place where youth could come together to learn, to think, to question, to develop Christian moral values, to have strength and courage to take a stand based upon Christian ideals and teamwork." As the board grew, they discovered they shared the belief that, in order to help foster strong Christian values, every aspect of a child's development must be addressed—from building strong relationships with family, friends, teachers and authority figures; to actively participating in thoughtful Bible study and discussion; to excelling in academic studies and athletics; to participating in the arts and other extracurricular activities; to developing life skills and learning how to become responsible, independent and generous members of society and giving back to their communities.

Brightway Center will be a premier ministry facility located on a 174 acre farm in Smithfield, Ohio. Knowing the powerful connection between sports and developing strong Christian morals, Kara's initial vision for the center was a place where youth could come together to learn, to think, to question, to develop Christian moral values, to have strength and courage to take a stand based upon Christian ideals and teamwork. As the board has grown, so has our mission: *To be a premier ministry facility that influences the world for Christ through athletics, academics and bible studies.*

The overall concept, which will accommodate all of the center's events, programs, administrative functions and operations, will include facilities which will be accessible both to the community and for corporate activities. "The Homestead," the heart of Brightway Center, will be the first project to be completed. This includes the Bright home or Welcome Center, which will house our administrative offices and will serve as a tribute to Kara Bright, as well as a pavilion which will be used as an auditorium/conference/classroom center, housing up to 350 guests. Existing funds have been used for the renovation of the house and will be used for the building costs of the pavilion. Funds for the development of our master plan and on-going operating costs will be procured through Capital Campaign efforts.

www.BrightwayCenter.org
Brightway Center,
PO Box 126
Smithfield, Ohio 43943
740-733-7480



M.V.P. Program MOST VALUABLE PERSON



CHARACTER EDUCATION AND LITERACY PROGRAM





IMPACTING THE FUTURE OF OUR YOUTH THE WRITE WAY!

The goal of the M.V.P. program is to get students to understand that being a winner in life doesn't always mean winning on the playing field. The M.V.P. program is about understanding that if you try to incorporate one or more of the "Fundamentals For Winners" everyday, you can become a winner in the game of life, every day of your life!

The program can be delivered in weekly 45-minute sessions per class for 9 weeks (a grading period), 18-weeks (a semester) or 36 weeks (full school year.) Morgan works with students from 4th- through 8th grades and is also available to work with high school students, as well.

"With my M.V.P. program, I use these fundamentals in middle schools and high schools to engage lively, fun and interesting discussions once a week," Morgan says.

Also, the goal of the M.V.P. Program is to motivate students to understand that being a winner in life doesn't always mean winning on the sports playing field. Through a series of lively, engaging, and educational discussions, along with reading and writing exercises, the program helps students understand:

"If you can improve your reading and writing skills while at the same time improving your character, you can become a winner in the game of life."

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE M.V.P PROGRAM:

"Each Friday, Mr. Morgan comes to CMS (Crestwood Middle School) and works with approximately 75 students on a different fundamental, like attitude. He shares with the students real life experiences that tie into the value being discussed. Mr. Morgan's dynamic personality engages the students week after week. The schedule is set up so that Mr. Morgan is able to speak with every student in the school over a four week period of time.

I thank Mr. Morgan for volunteering his time to work with our students at CMS. I also thank Mrs. Harris for making this connection that has been so valuable to our school and for working with Mr. Morgan to develop the program.

Our school is a better place because of the volunteer efforts of people like David Lee Morgan, Jr."

Andy Hill
Principal, CMS



"My students were able to really connect to Mr. Morgan and were challenged by what he said. I still have students almost a year later asking me about him and discussing some of the things he challenged them to do.

—Angela G., Reading Teacher, Chillicothe Middle School



IN HIS WORDS: WHY DAVID LEE MORGAN, JR. BECAME A WRITER

"The power of the pen and the power of the written word are what inspire me to write. I love to tell stories that move people and my hope is that the stories I write will stay with the reader in some way. As a writer, I try to use my God-given talents and strengths to enhance the training I received through my college education.

I'm privileged to know so many outstanding writers whom I admire and respect immensely. But I don't aspire to write like them. They have their own nuances and strengths that make them stand out. They have their own niche, and so do I.

I feel that my outgoing personality and genuine love for people opens up a level of trust from those who I am interviewing and as a result, I'm able to get personal, heart-felt stories from those people. And those stories are the compelling stories that make for good writing, good storytelling and good books, and most important, great memories forever."

For more information or to sign up your school to participate in the M.V.P. Program, please contact David Lee Morgan at DMorgan@BrightwayCenter.org or call (740) 733-7480.

