

Social Science Research and Instructional Council
Keynote Guest Speaker – Hardy Brown II
at the
45th ANNUAL SOCIAL SCIENCE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM
May 7, 2020

The luncheon keynote address is a time-honored tradition of the Social Science Research and Instructional Council. The keynote speaker for this year will be Hardy Brown II.

Hardy has over 22 years of experience in Social Impact, Research, Fundraising, and College Career Development as well as in the solicitation of major gifts for multiple national and regional organizations.

He is the Chairman of the Black Voice Foundation and is a second-term school board member of the San Bernardino County Board of Education, where he is currently its President. He represents 33 school districts and over 400,000 students in the county. Hardy has volunteered his time as a board member for the Girl Scouts and United Way, and serves on the Board of Advisors for Executive Education at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He has also been a diversity columnist for the National Association of Colleges and Employers and the Black Voice Newspaper.

An alumnus of the nation's first HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities), Wilberforce University (Ohio), Hardy recently returned to school after 24 years to completed his Masters of Arts degree from Claremont Lincoln University (California). He studied the effects that touring the Underground Railroad had on a teacher's ability to teach empathy and citizenship in the classroom. One of his goals is to teach young scholars that it is okay to become a lifelong learner.

He is a collector of historical artifacts as well as the curator and storyteller of the "Gore Collection of Rare African-American Artifacts". As a traveling exhibit, the collection has been viewed by over 75,000 people at the California African American Museum (Los Angeles), University of California Riverside, and the San Bernardino County museum along with multiple schools in the region. Hardy's presentations and lectures have helped people to understand and explore the institution of slavery with a focus on building historical empathy by immersing visitors in a world where people were considered objects - a prejudice that was entirely based on the color of one's skin.

His research highlights many valuable skills necessary for students to become productive leaders. These skills include critical thinking, communication, flexibility, initiative, the ability to work on a team and a strong work ethic. Hardy's expertise blends into his engaging conversation on culture, creativity, empathy, and history whereby learners gain knowledge and power of Freedom Movements. Partnered with a strong educational curriculum, exposure to opportunities and high expectations, students can gain the confidence and inspiration to reach beyond themselves to build the critical thinking skills needed to be successful in their careers.

Hardy challenges students and lifelong learners to ask themselves, "In 100 years, what will history say about you?"

Hardy has been married to his beautiful wife Sonietta Brown for 22 years and together they have two daughters, Peyton, 11 year old dancer and scholar, and Jordan, 21, Alumna from Spelman College and a PhD student at The University of California, Riverside.