

Wekesa O. Madzimoyo



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Bio-Bullets:

- Born: 1954 in Fayetteville, NC
- Grew up traveling between Brooklyn, NY and Fay, NC
- Completed High School in Fay, NC (Terry Sanford, Sr. Hi)
- Completed BA @ UNC-Chapel Hill (Political Science, Speech-Communication)
- Masters Course Work: @UNC-Chapel Hill (Major: Speech-Communication | Minor: Education)
- Key advocate and co-creator of the degree granting program in African and African American Studies @ UNC-Chapel Hill
- Apprenticed with and collaborated with many to learn applied attitude development and behavioral change approaches
- AYA Educational Institute, which he founded and still co-directs, graduates students to major colleges and entrepreneurial programs in the US
- Today, he also trains professionals and community organizers in authentic communication and relationship-building processes
- Consults with businesses, organizations, and schools (i.e. Univ. Colorado at Boulder, Georgia Southern Univ., Armstrong Atlantic State Univ. (GA), UNC-Chapel Hill, Morris Brown College, Clark Atlanta Univ., Exeter Academy, Truely Living Well, Hebesha, and Georgia Organics)
- Is still in love with life, his life's work, his wife of 30 years!

Bio-Sketch:

Wekesa O. Madzimoyo is co-director of AYA EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE based in the Atlanta, GA Metro area. He is a widely known educator, public speaker, facilitator, equity trainer, consultant, and storyteller.

AYA Educational Institute provides quality educational alternatives, resources, workshops, and consultation.

Intra-Cultural

Since 1998 AYA's programs have immersed students, parents and other adults into an African-centered educational and social environment that is rich in our past and culture. These tools enable them to succeed in their current and future responsibilities to

themselves, their families, our community, our people and the world -- in that order. His school graduates students who are readily accepted in and supported to succeed in to colleges and business entrepreneurial apprenticeships.

AYA Educational Institute serves middle and high school students in various capacities full time, part time, homeschool support, weekends, tutoring etc. He has created many innovative teaching approaches, courses and seminars like: **Following Araminta (Harriet Tubman) US History 1820-1913**; **Critical Thinking-When it's Not Smart to Be Smart**; **Black-Body Bio-chemistry**; **From Kinematics to KMT**; **Where My Voice Begins: Teens Learning to Navigate Oppression**.

This youth-work compliments AYA's adult learning and training programs.

Wekesa serves as the lead trainer and originator of the national workshops: "**Warriors, Healers, and Builders**," "**Healing Oppression's Wounds**," and "**Sankofa Math**." Using an African-centered frame, African Americans support each other in healing the wounds created by external and injected oppression starting with ourselves and extending into our community and into our work lives. This has spawned the workshops - **Feel the Flow of Success (2009)**, and **Authenticity Because Love is Not a Game (2012)**. These seminars specifically addressing how to create healing relationships (work, family, and intimate) to facilitate success in spite of family wounds and historical and continued oppression.

Inter-Cultural:

Using what he calls "**Challenging, Healing, Creating (CHC)**." **CHC** stands for **challenging** oppression, **healing** from the wounds of oppression, and **creating equitable** spaces. Wekesa has over 30 years promoting between-cultures communication that accounts for both the conscious, and often unconscious **superior/inferior** dynamic which is the primary source of intractable conflicts. He teaches skills and models such as **Feelings as Messengers: A Re-introduction to "Intelligence of the Heart"** to help us use conflicts as portals for greater understanding and unity through power-equity and mutual respect. His **Flow of Recognition** has facilitated various client populations getting underneath and through the labels of racism, sexism, classism, ageism, etc. and **injected oppression** to create personal, interpersonal, institutional and cultural processes that promote authentic communication, creativity and successful collaboration.

He has provided consultation and training to: college and universities, fortune 50 companies, intermediate and small businesses, family guidance centers, youth programs, hospitals, recreational programs, children's service agencies, residential treatment programs for women and children, community mental health centers, human services agencies, schools: public and primary at all grade levels --including college and graduate- - public welfare programs, juvenile justice agencies and child care centers.

Agencies and organizations have used his services to create new strategies for:

- Personal and leadership development
 - Building skills for having the difficult conversations and conversions needed to dismantle Racism
 - Effective conflict resolution
 - Increasing education student performance on standardized exams in math and writing (Praxis) by using culturally sensitive and oppression-averse approaches
 - Re-tooling teacher training curricula to include culturally relevant programs, communication approaches, and teaching methods to more effectively serve people of different racial and cultural groups;
 - Accelerated learning among targeted populations
 - Using technology to create a student-centric educational approach (High-Tech and High Touch)
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- Storytelling and story-healing for leadership, management and personal development

Technology and Education:

Speaking of technology, Wekesa has been the prime developer of **AYA's web conferenced-based** campus offering live-interactive courses for students and adults national and internationally. This has facilitated his staying abreast of the latest in education technology as well as the evolving needs and expectations of learners born into the world of the internet, smart phone, tablets, texting and tweeting. It also has required that he learn how to re-train older teachers, who not only lag behind the students technologically, but who also struggle to define their new role as teachers in the face of Khan Academy, MIT Open University, etc.

Walking the Walk:

Wekesa's training and consultation effectiveness is enhanced because he actually uses what he teaches in a variety of his own businesses, organizations and educational initiatives.

For example, in 2009 Wekesa and his wife and partner - Afiya formed **JUSTICE AT HOME**, a growing movement of pro se litigants (representing themselves) and their supporters who are fighting fraudulent foreclosures, fraudulent debt collection, and the wealth transfer. As pro se litigants, they've led the way by actually suing and securing an 11th Circuit Court victory over GMAC, CHASE, and Mellon "banks" regarding their own home.

They are also working to educate, empower and restore psychic and emotional balance to our communities hardest hit by economic disparities and the social "blame the victim" labeling.



Wekesa and Afiya have four children: Ayinde Madzimoyo, Chinua Suma, Sarafina and Ife Madzimoyo and four grandchildren: Addae, Olaniyon, Anhur, and Gaiya. Afiya grows some and is determined to grow much of the family's food.