**INTRODUCTION *VERSION 1 (long)***

Dr. Tony Lamair Burks II is an award-winning educator, affectionately known as Doctor B the StoryWeaver, who first learned the art and craft of storytelling from his four grandparents in LA…Lower Alabama.

After earning a philosophy degree from Morehouse College, he began a career in education and eventually reconnected with his passion for words. His stories blend childhood experiences and educational issues and have appeared in newspapers in North Carolina and Tennessee and in books nationally.

He is the author of three books: The Tale of Imani the Bunny (2014), Bought Wisdom: Tales of Living, and Learning (slated for 2016), and Uncle Pigg: The People’s Tailor (slated for 2017). In 2012 he was profiled in Chapter 12 of Walking the Equity Talk: A Guide for Culturally Courageous Leadership in School Communities by John Robert Browne II.

In November 2014 Attorney Phaedra Parks (of the Real Housewives of Atlanta) and Save Our Sons presented Dr. Burks with an S.O.S. award for Empowerment and Service. In May 2015 the Governor of Georgia recognized him for a career of distinguished service to education. In September 2015 he was recognized by NU-tribe Magazine as one of "Six HBCU Grads You Should Know".

A graduate of Trevecca Nazarene University and the University of North Carolina Greensboro, he has been a featured storyteller,  workshop facilitator, keynote panelist, and commencement speaker at dozens of public, private, and independent schools, public school districts, universities, conferences, and symposia in the United States and abroad.

An avid reader and master whistler; he desires to become a chef and open a “bed and brunch” when he retires to share his love of good food and great stories.

Please join me in welcoming our guest speaker, Dr. Tony Lamair Burks II.