February 2026

bdpatoday®





Cover photo: Students from Morgan State University showcase **ITS** and **V2X** transportation technologies during ***BEYA40*** — *photo ©2026 bdpatoday®*

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BEYA 2026:
40th ANNIVERSARY

CCG's BEYA STEM Conference marked 40 years in Baltimore with Ai, quantum and cyber at the center of the agenda.

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TECHNOLOGY:
AGENTIC Ai

NVIDIA's record $68.1B quarter, Samsung's Galaxy S26 and India's AI Impact Summit defined February.

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TECH & POLICY:
CONGRESS

A funding deal, a CISA 2015 renewal and new Ai, kids' safety and data center bills moved in February 2026.

#TheBDPAStory

A new business-technology paradigm shift was underway, shaking up the work place and forever changing how corporations large and small would operate. Corporate computer usage skyrocketed, demand for computer programmers, analysts, operators, and managers also skyrocketed. Inspired by these emerging societal opportunities in the mid 1970's, Earl A. Pace, Jr. and David Wimberly launched BDPA — Black Data Processing Associates — expanding new opportunities for African Americans to upskill far beyond data-entry positions. And this journey begins.







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- Participate in certification support groups
- Discounts on IT certifications and training courses

bdpatoday PTTV

BEYA 2026 | 40TH ANNIVERSARY | BALTIMORE, FEBRUARY 12–14

BEYA AT 40: FOUR DECADES OF "BECOMING EVERYTHING YOU ARE" IN STEM

Career Communications Group's BEYA STEM Conference came home to Baltimore for its 40th anniversary, pairing four decades of recognition with a sharper focus on artificial intelligence, quantum computing and cybersecurity.

40th	10K–12K	1987	3 Days
ANNUAL BEYA STEM CONFERENCE	TYPICAL ANNUAL ATTENDANCE	FIRST BLACK ENGINEER OF THE YEAR	IN PERSON + DIGITAL TWIN (DTX)

BALTIMORE: The Becoming Everything You Are (BEYA) STEM Conference marked 40 years from February 12 to 14 at the Baltimore Convention Center, its third straight year back in the city where the program began in 1986. Organized by Career Communications Group (CCG) and its *US Black Engineer & Information Technology* magazine with the Council of Engineering Deans of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Lockheed Martin, the milestone edition again ran as a hybrid "BEYA STEM DTX" event, so students and professionals could take part in person or through a digital twin platform.

Organizers framed the anniversary as both a celebration and a call to action: excellence, they said, comes with responsibility: to invest in institutions, mentor future leaders and champion inclusive innovation. BEYA typically draws 10,000 to 12,000 students, professionals, recruiters and employers each year.

"For 40 years, the BEYA STEM Conference has stood as both a mirror and a mandate."

DR. TYRONE D. TABORN, FOUNDER OF BEYA & CEO, CCG

Ai, QUANTUM AND CYBER TAKE THE STAGE

With workforce needs shifting fast, the 2026 agenda leaned into Ai, quantum computing and cybersecurity. Thursday opened with "An Evening with BEYA's Leading Voices," and Friday's lineup included a "Future of Ai" panel, an Ai prompt-generation workshop, workforce sessions and the HBCU Deans Roundtable. Other panels covered generative Ai and robotics in business, and a session examined how HBCUs and African institutions can help advance Ai for national security and global collaboration.

HONORING THE NEXT GENERATION

At Saturday's Engineering Deans Recognition event, the Council of Engineering Deans presented its Dean's Award to Dr. Kofi Nyarko, director of Morgan State University's Center for Equitable Ai and Machine Learning Systems, and gave its HBCU Engineering Impact Award to the National Society of Black Engineers. Future Leader awards went to students from eight HBCUs, including Hampton, Norfolk State, Tuskegee and Morgan State. Emcee Dr. Pamela McCauley, herself a Student Leadership Award winner 39 years earlier, watched the University of Houston's Nick Miller receive this year's honor. The Technology Recognition Luncheon and BEYA Awards Ceremony capped the week.

BEYOND THE BALLROOM

Outside the sessions, the BEYA World career fair, an HBCU Village and interview spaces connected job seekers with recruiters from employers such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Google, RTX and the U.S. Army. Online, CCG's STEM City USA metaverse platform hosted a new Workforce Development Alumni Committee, whose members include past honorees Dr. Colin Parris and Dr. Ken Washington, extending mentoring and networking beyond the convention center.

While BEYA spotlights Black excellence, Taborn has stressed that the gathering has always welcomed students and professionals of every background, a point reflected in the growing range of nominees in recent years.

A LEGACY BUILT SINCE 1987

The first Black Engineer of the Year Award went to Dr. John B. Slaughter in 1987. Since then, more than 10,000 people have been nominated, and the honor has recognized leaders across industry, academia and the military, most recently retired Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson of Georgia Tech, the 39th Black Engineer of the Year in 2025.

WHY IT MATTERS FOR BDPA

BDPA was part of BEYA40 on several fronts: BDPA Baltimore served as host chapter, BDPA exhibited at the BEYA40 Career Fair, and National BDPA held its Quarterly Reception and fireside chat on Ai and cybersecurity (see page 5). The overlap is natural: BEYA's focus areas are the same skills BDPA has championed since 1975. **bt**

SAVE THE DATE

BEYA's 41st conference is slated to return to Baltimore February 18–20, 2027.

Sources: USBE & Information Technology (blackengineer.com), "BEYA Conference Celebrates 40 Years of STEM Excellence in Baltimore" (Feb. 12, 2026) and "HBCU Engineering Deans Celebrate Excellence, Equity, and Innovation" (Feb. 14, 2026); CCG, ccgmag.com/mpage/beya-home; BEYA 2026 Schedule at a Glance; AFRO News; Black Creative, "2026 Black Professional Conferences Guide"; bdpatoday.com event listing. BEYA 2027 dates per published event listings.



BEYA 2026 | BDPA AT BEYA40

BDPA Brings "Resilient America" Fireside to BEYA's 40th, Announcing New S.I.T.E.S. Academies

BALTIMORE: BDPA turned out in force for the 40th BEYA STEM Conference. With BDPA Baltimore serving as host chapter, National BDPA supported its Quarterly Reception on Saturday, February 14, at the Baltimore Convention Center, built around the theme "Resilient America Forum: Cybersecurity and Workforce Strategies" and the launch of the newest National BDPA S.I.T.E.S. Academies.

A Cybersecurity & AgriTech Fireside Chat featured Dr. Willie Sanders of Towson University and its Cyber4All Center and Joyce Hunter, executive director of Mission Critical and a former federal CIO leader. The conversation ran from 10:45 a.m. to noon, with lunch and seating for up to 50 guests.

BDPA Baltimore Chapter's president welcomed members to the reception, which marked 40 years of BDPA's S.I.T.E.S. Academies and their role in developing future technologists. CCG's *US Black Engineer* highlighted the gathering in its BEYA40 coverage. BDPA also exhibited at the BEYA40 Career Fair and is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its National High School Computer Competition (HSCC) this year, a fitting echo of BEYA's own milestone. **bt**

Articles and graphics not submitted by local BDPA chapters or tech industry wire services may have been generated by Ai and were reviewed or approved by our editors in accordance with current Ai regulations and applicable policies.

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TECHNOLOGY | FEBRUARY 2026 | AGENTIC Ai

FEBRUARY 2026: Ai GETS AGENTIC, FROM DATA CENTERS TO PHONES TO GLOBAL POLICY

A record quarter at NVIDIA, Samsung's first "agentic Ai" phones and a 100-nation summit in New Delhi showed Ai moving from answering questions to taking action, the same shift BEYA's 40th-anniversary sessions urged students to prepare for.

BALTIMORE: As BEYA attendees debated the future of Ai in Baltimore, the rest of February delivered a steady stream of evidence that the technology is entering a new phase. The common thread: "agentic" systems that plan and complete multi-step tasks on a user's behalf, rather than simply generating text or images.

NVIDIA: A $68 BILLION QUARTER

On February 25, NVIDIA reported fourth-quarter fiscal 2026 revenue of $68.1 billion, up 73% from a year earlier, with $62.3 billion coming from its data center business. Revenue for the full fiscal year reached $215.9 billion, a 65% increase, and the company guided to about $78 billion for the current quarter, an outlook that assumes no data center compute sales to China.

> *"Computing demand is growing exponentially: the agentic Ai inflection point has arrived."*
>
> JENSEN HUANG, FOUNDER & CEO, NVIDIA

SAMSUNG: AGENTS IN YOUR POCKET

The same day, Samsung used Galaxy Unpacked at San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts to launch the Galaxy S26, S26+ and S26 Ultra. The company pitched a rebuilt Bixby that can finish tasks across several apps, and let users choose among Bixby, Google Gemini and Perplexity as their assistant. Proactive features summarize a user's day on the lock screen. Prices start at $899.99, with general availability set for March 11.

INDIA: A GLOBAL SOUTH Ai SUMMIT

From February 16 to 20, India hosted the Ai Impact Summit at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, the first global Ai summit of its scale convened by a Global South country, with representatives from more than 100 countries. By the close, 88 countries and international organizations had endorsed the New Delhi Declaration, a voluntary, non-binding framework organized around seven pillars, from democratizing Ai resources to building trusted systems and human capital. Organizers also launched shared initiatives on Ai diffusion and trusted Ai, plus workforce playbooks and principles for energy-efficient Ai infrastructure.

WHAT IT MEANS

February's headlines point the same way BEYA's agenda did: demand is shifting toward people who can deploy, secure and govern Ai agents, not just use chatbots. Skills in data engineering, cloud and edge infrastructure, cybersecurity, quantum-safe cryptography and responsible Ai policy are where the jobs are heading, and where HBCU programs and BDPA's S.I.T.E.S. Academies are already pointing students.

bt

FEBRUARY 2026 HEADLINES AT A GLANCE

NVIDIA
Q4 Fiscal 2026
$68.1B
Record quarterly revenue, up 73%; data center $62.3B
Reported Feb. 25, 2026

NVIDIA
Full Fiscal Year 2026
$215.9B
Revenue up 65%; ~$78B guided for next quarter
Company outlook

SAMSUNG
Galaxy S26 Series
$899.99
Starting price; agentic Bixby plus Gemini and Perplexity options
Unveiled Feb. 25; on sale Mar. 11

INDIA
Ai Impact Summit
88
Countries and organizations endorsing the New Delhi Declaration
New Delhi, Feb. 16–20, 2026

BEYA
40th Anniversary
Ai | Quantum | Cyber
Focus areas of BEYA's 2026 agenda in Baltimore
Feb. 12–14, 2026

Sources: NVIDIA, "NVIDIA Announces Financial Results for Fourth Quarter and Fiscal 2026," Form 8-K (Feb. 25, 2026); TechCabal, Samsung Galaxy Unpacked 2026 coverage (Feb. 25, 2026); Times of Oman / IANS on the New Delhi Declaration; Data Security Council of India, "Delhivering Ai"; Let's Data Science; AFRO News. Financial figures are company-reported; outlooks are company guidance.


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TECH & POLICY | CAPITOL HILL | 119TH CONGRESS, 2ND SESSION

CONGRESS IN FEBRUARY: A FUNDING DEAL, A CYBER-SHARING RENEWAL & NEW Ai BILLS

Lawmakers ended a brief shutdown, revived cyber threat-sharing protections through September and introduced a fresh slate of bills on Ai innovation, workforce training, copyright, data centers and kids' online safety.

WASHINGTON: February opened with the House voting 217–214 on February 3 to pass the fiscal year 2026 appropriations package already approved by the Senate, ending a partial government shutdown that began January 31. The president signed the bill the same day. The measure carried the science and technology funding *bdpatoday* reported in January, but funded the Department of Homeland Security only through February 13 under a short-term continuing resolution.

The spending law also renewed the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 through September 30, 2026, after the law's liability protections for private-sector threat sharing lapsed for several days during the shutdown. When the DHS stopgap expired with no agreement, the department's funding lapsed on February 14, leaving a DHS-only shutdown unresolved at month's end. Meanwhile, members introduced more than a dozen technology bills, many with bipartisan sponsors.

PASSED ONE CHAMBER OR COMMITTEE | FEBRUARY 2026

Small Business Ai Advancement Act (H.R. 3679)

PASSED HOUSE

Reps. Mike Collins (R-Ga.) and Haley Stevens (D-Mich.). Directs NIST to publish guidance that helps small businesses evaluate and adopt Ai. Now in the Senate.

National STEM Week Act (S. 1070)

PASSED SENATE

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa). Would designate a national week to celebrate and promote STEM education. Passed by unanimous consent.

Mathematical & Statistical Modeling Education Act (S. 1602)

REPORTED | SENATE HELP

Sens. Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) and Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.). Directs NSF awards to strengthen math and statistical modeling education in public schools.

NEW TECH BILLS INTRODUCED | FEBRUARY 2026

BILL	SPONSOR	WHAT IT WOULD DO
Ai Grand Challenges Act of 2026 (S. 3809 / H.R. 7434)	Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.); Rep. Ted Lieu (D-Calif.)	Let NSF name Ai "grand challenges" and award prizes for solving them
Future of Ai Innovation Act (S. 3952)	Sens. Todd Young (R-Ind.), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.)	Develop Ai standards, metrics and evaluation tools
Small Business Ai Training Act of 2026 (S. 3888)	Sens. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.)	Have Commerce create Ai training resources for small businesses
Ai Workforce Training Act (H.R. 7576)	Reps. Josh Gottheimer (D-N.J.), Mike Lawler (R-N.Y.)	Create a tax credit for employers that train workers in Ai
CLEAR Act (S. 3813)	Sens. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), John Curtis (R-Utah)	Require notice to the Register of Copyrights of works used to train generative Ai
GRID Act (S. 3852)	Sens. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.)	Require data centers to put residential electricity customers first
Kids Off Social Media Act (H.R. 7433)	Rep. Anna Paulina Luna (R-Fla.)	House companion to S. 278: bar under-13s from social media and limit feeds for teens
Ai Cyber-Physical Testbeds (H.R. 7696)	Res. Comm. Pablo José Hernández (D-P.R.)	Fund national-lab testbeds that simulate grid-scale cyberattacks

WHAT TO WATCH IN 2026

DHS funding & surveillance: The Homeland Security funding fight carried into March, and FISA Section 702 is set to expire in April; the administration asked for a clean 18-month extension, while the bipartisan SAFE Act (S. 3893, Sens. Durbin and Lee) would require warrants to search Americans' communications.

Ai preemption & cyber sharing: Thirty groups urged senators to reject federal preemption of state Ai laws, and CISA 2015's new September 30 deadline sets up another reauthorization debate this fall. **bt**

Sources: Tech Policy Press, "February 2026 US Tech Policy Roundup"; Congress.gov; American Hospital Association (Feb. 3, 2026 House vote); 9&10 News (Feb. 27, 2026); Davis Wright Tremaine, "Congress Extends CISA 2015 Through September" (Feb. 2026); NBC News and Brownstein on DHS appropriations. Status as of February 28, 2026.



▲ ***(Top Photo)*** Podcasters and attendees *share their "**BEYA Experience**" during BEYA40,* photo courtesy Eyimofe Okonedo

▼ ***(Bottom Photo)*** *Keith Scott, BDPA's Northeast Regional Vice President (standing) moderates an AgriTech and Cybersecurity fireside chat for HBCU students with (L-R) Dr. Willie Sanders and Ms. Joyce Hunter during **BEYA40** at the Baltimore Convention Center, photo ©2026 bdpatoday®*



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BEYA EXPERIENCE
2026 Conference

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RESILIENT AMERICA FORUM:
CYBERSECURITY AND WORKFORCE STRATEGIES

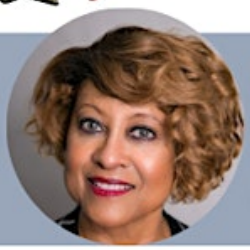
JOIN US for an engaging discussion in support of
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Sat. Feb. 14, 2026
Baltimore Convention Center (BCC), Room 301
Doors Open: 10AM – 1PM

CYBERSECURITY & AGRITECH FIRESIDE CHAT
Featured Speakers from 10:45AM - 12PM



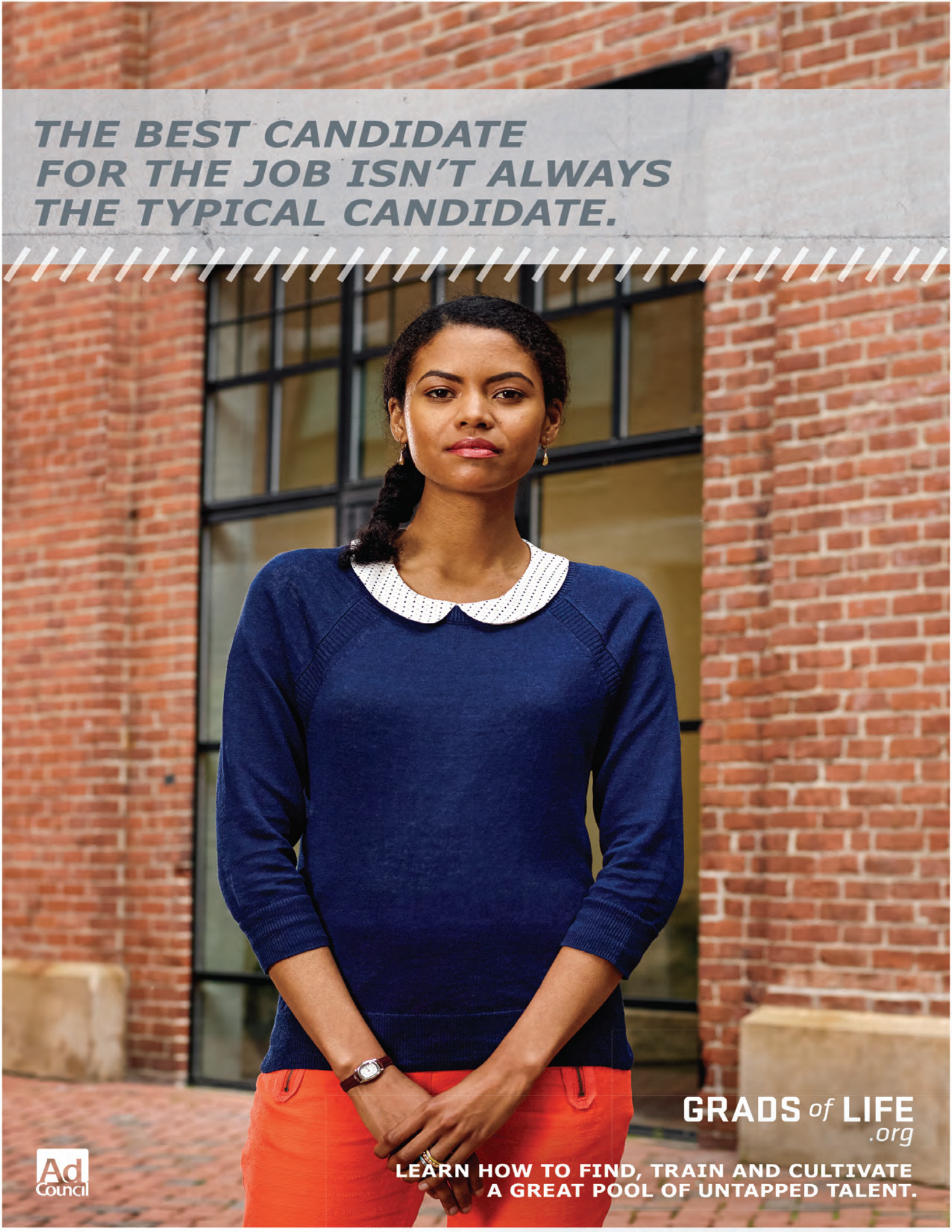
Dr. Willie Sanders, Towson University & Cyber4All Center



Joyce Hunter, Exec. Director, Mission Critical; former Federal CIO leader



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