



**BEYOND CAPES AND  
MASKS: TRANSFORMING  
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT  
WITH COMPASSION**

COLE WILLIAMS

# Lived Experience

01

## Executive Director

The **Delta Project** exists to break the generational cycle of incarceration by reconnecting youth of color and their families to community relationships through mentorship, coaching and storytelling.

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02

## Keynote Speaker | Facilitator | Trainer

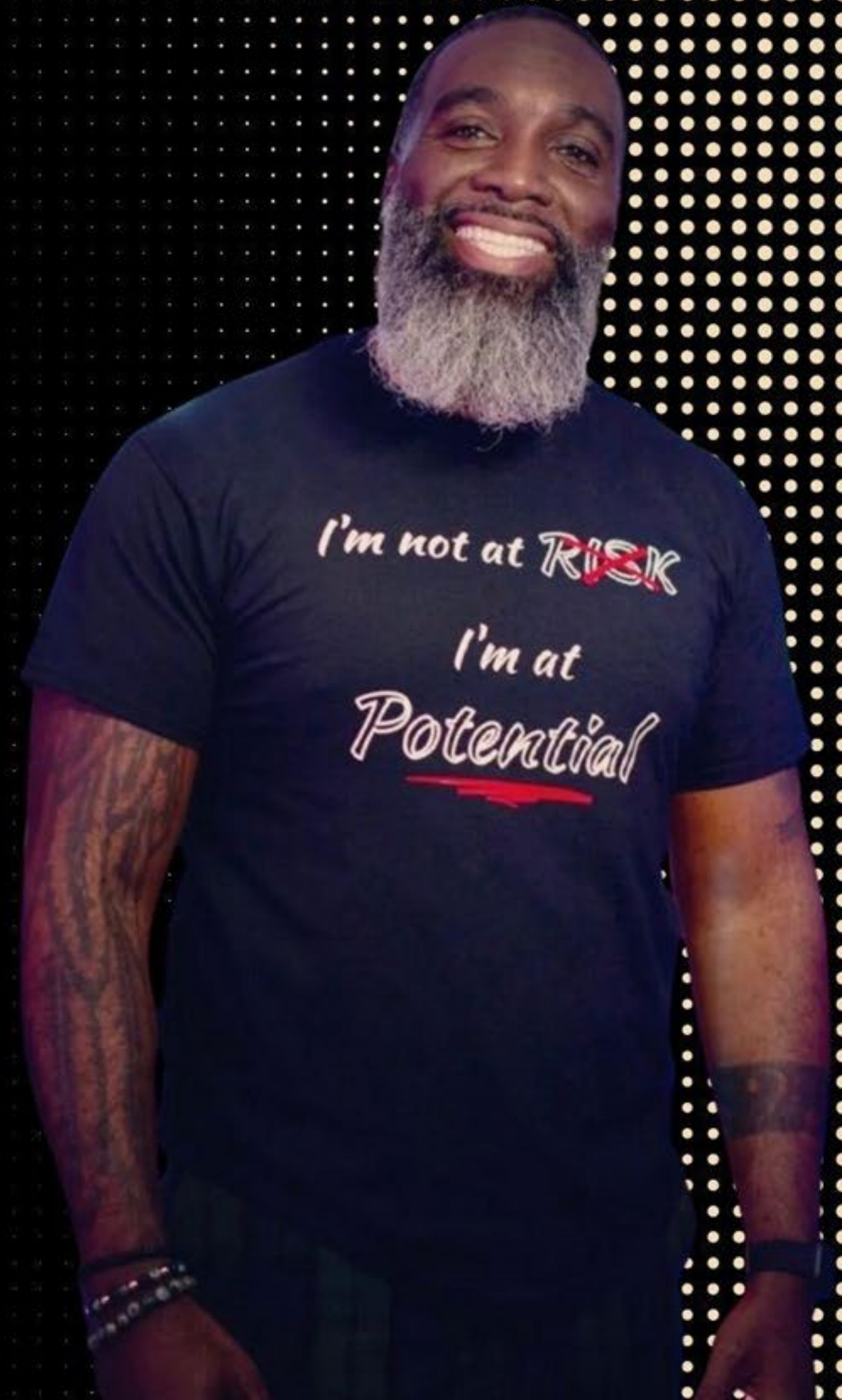
Provides **Keynotes and Trainings** for organizations and agencies in the Child Welfare System & Juvenile Justice System that support and empower underserved communities and families

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03

## Fatherhood & Engagement Consultant

Provides group and individual coaching to foster care staff to **Support Fathers** who have **Children in Care**.



# AGREEMENTS

CENTER THE  
IMPACT OF YOUR  
WORDS, NOT  
YOUR INTENT

DISAGREE

RESPECT THE  
GROWTH AND  
THE PROCESS

ASSUME GOOD  
INTENT

THERE IS NO  
QUICK FIX

STAT AT  
THE  
TABLE



# AGREEMENTS

BRAVE SPACE

LEAD WITH  
EMPATHY

AVOID LABELS

SPEAK FROM  
YOUR  
EXPERIENCE

EMBRACE  
"BOTH/AND"  
THINKING

BE OKAY  
WITH  
DISCOMFORT



TIME  
KEEPER



BREATH  
WORKER



DIRECTIONS  
OPERATOR



VOLUNTEERS FOR TODAY

**20,000**



**WHAT COMES  
TO MIND WHEN  
YOU SEE THIS  
NUMBER?**





**On Average, We Take  
roughly 20,000 breaths  
per day.**



**600 million in a lifetime**



HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?

A large crowd of African children, many wearing school uniforms and backpacks, looking towards the camera. The children are of various ages and are smiling or looking directly at the viewer. The background is filled with more children, some in traditional headwraps and beaded jewelry. The overall atmosphere is one of a busy, vibrant community.

**Children Who Are Not Embraced By The Village Will Burn It Down To Feel Its Warmth.**

If you want to know the **SIZE** of a child's hurt  
Just look at the intensity of  
their behavior.

# OBJECTIVES:

**HAVE FUN**

**LAUGH**

**SHARE**

**BE FRIENDLY**

**HOPEFUL**

**BE OPEN**

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**UNVEILING THE  
SUPERHEROES  
AMONG US!**



**EVERY ONE OF US HAS THE  
POTENTIAL TO BE A SUPERHERO  
IN SOMEONE'S LIFE.**

**YOUR EVERYDAY ACTIONS  
HAVE THE POWER TO  
TRANSFORM LIVES IN  
EXTRAORDINARY WAYS.**





**WHAT MOMENT  
MADE YOU FIRST  
REALIZE THE HERO  
WITHIN YOU?"**

Give yourself a pat on the back if you've noticed your **'impact vision'** improving, seeing the long-term effects of your work more clearly.

**(Pat on back)**





**"I DARE YOU"  
UNsung HERO  
SPOTLIGHT**



**"I DARE SOMEONE TO COME UP  
AND SPOTLIGHT A PERSON IN  
THE ROOM WHO QUIETLY GOES  
ABOVE AND BEYOND, MAKING A  
BIG DIFFERENCE WITHOUT  
SEEKING THE LIMELIGHT."**



**YOUR ORIGIN  
STORY  
MATTERS**



**YOUR JOURNEY INTO THIS FIELD IS  
UNIQUE AND VALUABLE.  
UNDERSTANDING YOUR 'WHY' CAN  
REIGNITE YOUR PASSION DURING  
CHALLENGING TIMES.**





**HOW HAS YOUR ORIGIN STORY SHAPED  
THE HERO YOU ARE TODAY?**





**"I DARE YOU"  
UNsung HERO  
SPOTLIGHT**



**I DARE YOU TO RECOGNIZE A  
COLLEAGUE WHO'S BEEN A  
'SIDEKICK EXTRAORDINAIRE' -  
SOMEONE WHO ALWAYS HAS  
YOUR BACK AND SUPPORTS  
OTHERS TIRELESSLY.**



# **SUPERPOWERS IN DISGUISE**

**YOUR EVERYDAY SKILLS ARE  
EXTRAORDINARY IN THE LIVES OF THE  
FAMILIES WE SERVE.  
RECOGNIZING YOUR 'SUPERPOWERS'  
CAN BOOST YOUR CONFIDENCE AND  
EFFECTIVENESS.**





**TING!**

**WHAT ORDINARY  
SKILL OF YOURS  
HAS HAD AN  
EXTRAORDINARY  
IMPACT?**



**Stand up, give your self a hug, and turn to the person next you and give them four high fives.** If you've ever used your superhuman strength to lift not just others, but yourself up, practicing **self-compassion** when you face setbacks.





**"I DARE YOU"  
UNsung HERO  
SPOTLIGHT**



**I DARE SOMEONE TO COME UP AND APPRECIATE THE 'DATA DYNAMO' - THE PERSON WHO WORKS BEHIND THE SCENES BUT WHOSE EFFORTS IN TRACKING AND REPORTING MAKE ALL THE WORK MORE EFFECTIVE.**



# **THE INVISIBLE IMPACT**



**YOUR ACTIONS CREATE RIPPLES THAT  
EXTEND FAR BEYOND WHAT YOU CAN  
SEE. TRUST THAT YOUR EFFORTS  
MATTER, EVEN WHEN THE IMPACT  
ISN'T IMMEDIATELY VISIBLE.**





**HOW MIGHT YOUR  
WORK BE POSITIVELY  
AFFECTING FAMILIES  
IN WAYS YOU HAVEN'T  
CONSIDERED?**



**Close your eyes and take a deep breath** if you've ever used your 'time-freezing ability' to pause and practice mindfulness during a hectic day. (**Eyes closed, deep breath**)





**"I DARE YOU"  
UNsung HERO  
SPOTLIGHT**



**I DARE SOMEONE TO SHARE  
ABOUT A PERSON HERE WHO'S  
BEEN A 'FAMILY WHISPERER' -  
CONSISTENTLY CONNECTING  
WITH AND HELPING FAMILIES IN  
REMARKABLE WAYS.**



**ASSEMBLING  
YOUR  
ALLIES**



**YOU ARE STRONGER TOGETHER, EACH  
BRINGING UNIQUE STRENGTHS TO YOUR  
COLLECTIVE MISSION.  
RECOGNIZING AND VALUING YOUR  
COLLEAGUES' CONTRIBUTIONS ENHANCES  
THE OVERALL IMPACT.**





**HOW CAN YOU  
BETTER LEVERAGE  
YOUR TEAM'S DIVERSE  
SUPERPOWERS?**



Give **5 big High Fives** to **5 different** people in the room that **you don't know**, if you've ever joined forces with a colleague to tackle a challenge too big for one hero alone. (**5 High five**)





**"I DARE YOU"  
UNsung HERO  
SPOTLIGHT**



**I DARE YOU TO RECOGNIZE THE  
'BRIDGE BUILDER' AMONG US -  
SOMEONE WHO EXCELS AT  
CREATING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN  
DIFFERENT PROGRAMS OR  
COMMUNITIES.**



**KRYPTONITE IS  
REAL (BUT SO IS  
YOUR RESILIENCE**



**CHALLENGES ARE PART OF THE  
HERO'S JOURNEY, NOT  
OBSTACLES TO IT.**

**YOUR RESILIENCE GROWS  
STRONGER WITH EACH  
CHALLENGE YOU OVERCOME.**





**WHAT'S ONE  
CHALLENGE YOU'VE  
OVERCOME THAT'S  
MADE YOU  
STRONGER?**



**Clap three times** if you've ever felt like you're trying to leap tall buildings in a single bound when connecting families to seemingly unreachable resources.





**"I DARE YOU"  
UNsung HERO  
SPOTLIGHT**



**I DARE SOMEONE IN THE AUDIENCE TO SHARE AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THEY'VE WITNESSED RESILIENCE IN ACTION WITHIN YOUR ORGANIZATION.**

**DESCRIBE A SITUATION WHERE YOUR TEAM FACED A SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE BUT FOUND AN INNOVATIVE WAY TO OVERCOME IT. HOW DID THIS EXPERIENCE SHOWCASE THE 'SUPERPOWER' OF COLLECTIVE RESILIENCE?**



**OUR COLLECTIVE  
SUPERPOWER: HOPE**





**HOPE IS THE FOUNDATION THAT MAKES  
ALL OUR OTHER EFFORTS POSSIBLE.  
TOGETHER, WE CREATE A BEACON OF  
HOPE THAT CAN GUIDE FAMILIES  
THROUGH THEIR DARKEST TIMES.**





**HOW CAN WE  
AMPLIFY HOPE IN OUR  
WORK AND IN THE  
LIVES OF THE  
FAMILIES WE SERVE?**



Make a **joyful noise** if you've ever remembered that even superheroes need to **recharge** their powers and take in a much-needed day off to **care for themselves.**



**Blink your eyes four times**, and take **3 Big deep breaths**, if you've ever assembled your own personal '**Avengers team**' – a support network of friends, family, or colleagues who help you **feel seen, heard, valued and loved**.





**"I DARE YOU"**

**A ALL TO**

**ACTION**



**I DARE SOMEONE TO BECOME A 'SUPERHERO STORYTELLER' WHEN YOU RETURN TO YOUR ORGANIZATION. IN THE NEXT TEAM MEETING, SHARE ONE 'ORIGIN STORY' OF A COLLEAGUE OR A FAMILY YOU'VE WORKED WITH, HIGHLIGHTING THEIR RESILIENCE AND STRENGTH. THEN, CHALLENGE YOUR TEAM TO LOOK FOR AND SHARE THESE EVERYDAY HERO STORIES REGULARLY. LET'S CREATE A RIPPLE EFFECT OF RECOGNITION, INSPIRATION AND HOPE IN OUR WORKPLACES!**

# COLE WILLIAMS

Foster & Adoptive Father

Storyteller | Narrative Change Agent | Trainer



Visit My Website  
[www.colespeaks.com](http://www.colespeaks.com)

