

**C**harles Cole, III is an educator focused on the advancement of all youth of color, but more specifically black males. This passion comes from his experiences growing up without proper support, including being homeless and attending more than ten elementary schools across the country while his parents battled addiction and incarceration. Throughout that experience, no adult, no group, no organization ever asked him how he was achieving success nor how he was surviving. Schools were not a place where students in similar predicaments were learning.



As founder of Energy Convertors, Charles comes from the community and has shared many of the students' experiences. Previously Charles served as a social worker, a Director for Teach for America, the Vice Chair of the California Young Democrats, Black Caucus and at a director's level with various youth-focused nonprofits.

Charles is a national speaker and a writer, and he can be found in Oakland and around the country working with youth on how to equip themselves appropriately to lay the groundwork for a bright future. Charles is currently an Entrepreneur-in-Residence focusing on building student navigation skills and voice in education for his burgeoning organization, Energy Convertors.

Charles' life goal is to better the communities he grew up in, which include Chicago, Paducah, KY, and Oakland.