

## Michael Eure Show – Episode 42: Afro-American/Latino Cultural Mixer

INTRODUCTION: Hello, this is Michael Eure, and I'd like to invite you to the Michael Eure Show, featuring student hosts and very special guests talking about a variety of interesting topics. You can find us on the Eagle Stream YouTube channel.

MICHAEL EURE: OK, good, good afternoon. This is to the livestream audience. We just wanna thank you for joining us virtually for the African American and Latino Cultural Mixer. We're gonna have a whole lot of good, good music entertainment, and we're gonna get some good information. And at this point, I want Emilio to come back here, not go far, and I want you to tell us a little bit about your program because the audience may not know exactly what you do. And it can be brief. Thank you.

EMILIO GONZALEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Emilio Gonzalez, the coordinator and instructor for the Early Childhood bilingual program. In that program, we've got three certificates, Infant and Toddler, Preschool and School Age, and all the classes are in Spanish. We teach in Spanish, the tests are in Spanish, but the book and the curriculum are in English. And we got the opportunity to improve the student, to learn more English, and then we got the opportunity to improve the tools they use in the classroom in the real world because we got a different curriculum in, in our program. And then we improve the abilities they got from, from the country to bring here, and that is a good opportunity for them and for us. We learn from them, and we improve our education in in our country. Thank you.

EURE: Emilio was offering to translate for me in Spanish. But I'm glad most of the Spanish-speaking people here know how to speak English because our translator is not here yet. So, so we're good.

We're gonna start the program off with a traditional welcome. And by the way, that student back there that you can't see, that's Jerry Greene. He's also a success coach outreach ambassador. He's a Cybersecurity major, so he's running our technology today, that part. And then Sarah Rothan over there is livestreaming for us. And because the band set up, and we didn't know they were going to be there, we, we're kind of moving out this way so people can see you and she can record you.

So, the first performer is gonna do what I call a true African welcome, which is Chris O'Riordan-Adjah. And he is going to play the djembe drums, and he's gonna use

Buju Banton as the overlay music. So, we're going to set him up a little bit further. Is this good?

[background noise]

CHRIS O'RIORDAN-ADJAH: Good evening. This is the first time, by the way, I'm playing this for a general audience. I play this with my son at home. I never really played it for anyone, so I think I'm setting myself up here. Michael saw this in my, my office, and he said "Oooh." It's, it's unique in the sense that I'm originally from Ghana, but, and I claim that this is where this originated in the early 1800s. But then, if you google it, it is probably going to tell you that Mali actually invented this instrument. So, it's a back-and-forth between who actually created this drum.

It's also very unique in the sense that it is self-taught. Right? When I was growing up, nobody that I know was taught how to play on the djembe, which I think is also very unique in that sense. You just watch people play it, and you just have to listen very carefully to the tune that is being played, and you just play. So, I hope you enjoy this. I'm actually playing an overlay of Buju Banton, one of my, I like the him in, in the sense of the instruments that he uses for his music is always kind of djembe drum in the background. So, that's kind of what I'm gonna do today. All right.

[music playing]

[applause]

EURE: OK, let's get him another round of applause. Don't let people tell you that engineers don't have talent and like music. They like music. So, now, Emilio, I'll turn it over to you so you can introduce your student.

GONZALEZ: OK, now I have the pleasure to have one of my students. She is from Venezuela, and she is an artist. She plays violin, and she is the artist on the University of Art in Venezuela. Her name is Genesis Escobar. You ready? Just let me know.

GENESIS ESCOBAR: Good evening. Hello everyone. It's a pleasure for me to play here and sharing my talent with all of you.

[music playing]

[applause]

[indecipherable]

[music playing]

[applause]

EURE: For those of you who were here earlier, playing a famous Stevie Wonder song that was from the 1970s, and I think she's gonna play it. It was, the first half was sung in complete Spanish. And if you don't know who Stevie Wonder is, he's African American. He knew Spanish way back then, and then he sang the second half in English, and we played it earlier. We'll play it again later.

And following her will be Obelia Exum from the North Carolina Museum of History, and she's gonna do a gospel selection. And then it's gonna be time for y'all to get your food. And the band is gonna be playing, and you can walk around to the booths. Take your time. We're not gonna run out of food. OK, go ahead.

[music playing]

[applause]

EURE: We, we, we just have talented students. So, I know you wanna do one more, probably, but you can't. We've run out of time.

ESCOBAR: We're finished? [indecipherable] OK. Thank you so much. I have an honor to play [indecipherable], which is a very popular song from my country. I think so, I, I think and you will, you will really like it. Sorry, not perfect my English.

EURE: That's OK. You get a pass.

[music playing]

[applause]

EURE: All right. Thank you. All right, it's good to showcase all, all of our talented students. And thank all of the students for coming, as well as our special guests and staff and faculty. And I hope you enjoy it, and in the fall, we hope to do something like this, much bigger, probably outside. And we'll try to get feedback from you.

Coming up next. I think my student is going to bring up Laura Bethea. Laura Bethea is gonna talk via Teams on screens, and she is our, I don't know if wanna get her title wrong, I'll let her do it, but she works with diversity and inclusion, and she always, also works in our office of Career and Employment Resources. For all the students, you need to use this office, not when you graduate, but from the first day of school. They will help you with resumes. They will help you practice interviews. They will help you get internships. They will help you get full-time jobs, part-time jobs – awesome office.

It doesn't work? I don't know why. It's coming. And while she's coming, Obelia, if you want to come up and kind of get ready, because, when she stops, it'll be time for you. And I don't know if Achmed is coming with you, or are you able to do that? Because I can bring a chair up there for him.

[background noise]

EURE: OK. OK. Oh, there she is.

LAURA BETHEA: Hello.

EURE: Thank you for coming. Please introduce yourself the audience here.

BETHEA: Hello everyone. Hello. What an exciting moment we have in store. I can't see any of you right in there, but I can feel your energy. I can feel your energy.

Who am I? That's a great question. I am Laura Bethea. If we have not met already in some capacity, we will. Believe me, we will meet along your academic journey. We will connect with one of the many roles that I play here at the college. So, let me first start off saying that I work hand-in-hand with students, with faculty, with our staff in Career and Employment Resources. So, think about this, if you are undecided about your major, if you need support in career planning, if you are in need of that job-searching support or a resume review, know that Career and Employment Resources is here for you. So, we're here from this point, as you are a student, to Infinity. When you are in the workforce, have transferred to a university, whatever the case is, we are here to support you. So, you may hear us termed as CER, Career and Employment Resources.

Secondly, I work and oversee a team of Title IX investigators here at the college. So, what does that all mean? We deal with cases stemming from issues of sex or gender-based discrimination. So, that could be anything from harassment to

pregnancy accommodations to academic accommodations, stalking concerns, domestic violence supports. Whatever the case is, if it's dealing with sex or gender-based issues or concerns, my department, Title IX, can support you.

Lastly, I work with a number of equity initiatives with some dynamic colleagues, and some are there present with you. I know working with the Summer Bridge program we have, who's there with you, Michael?

EURE: Richard

BETHEA: ... from Summer Bridge?

EURE: Richard Redding, like Otis Redding.

BETHEA: Otis Redding's brother, right? He is right there. So, we work on a number of different initiatives to meet the needs of our students. And with that being said, we look forward to making a connection further with you in this African American/Latino mixer, this cultural mixer. We're all about bridging and building bridges for those gaps to be filled. So, know that we're here to support you. We look at a number of opportunities coming down the pike, and you will be invited as our students, our student leaders, as our community to help support and engage.

So, thank you again, congratulations on today's event. This is a great experience. I hate that I can't sit there with you and enjoy the festivities, but I know I'll get a good recap later on. So, thank you. Welcome aboard. We look forward to working with you in the future. Have a good one.

EURE: Thank you, Laura.

BETHEA: See you soon. Yay! I hear the claps. Thank you so much.

EURE: That's why we like students that are Cybersecurity majors. They know what to do with technology.

BETHEA: You know what to do. Thank you. Have a wonderful evening.

EURE: OK. And now we're gonna have Ms. Obelia Exum, who is the creative director and she supervises the graphic designers at the North Carolina Museum of History. But also she sings. So, she's gonna do a gospel selection. Go ahead.

OBELIA EXUM: Yeah, I'm, go ahead over here, bringing my little computer. Me and my son just kind of set it up at home sometimes, and we'll just simply do it the way we do it at home. But I'll praise y'all this evening, and I say that because I'm here to sing gospel. I am the creative director there, but I enjoy singing, and I, I really believe that the spirit just comes from within when we sing. And when we're singing, you know, we're just pulling heart to heart from each other. So, some of you may know this song, "Lord, I Worship You Because of Who You Are." Bear with me and my voice and my roots.

Yes, get the volume up.

Those of you that just know and understand gospel, and I find in, I'm, I'm always looking for the spirit in all of the songs, and I find in all of the songs and in, in the instruments, I hear it, and, and I'm saying that just because, as I was sitting there listening, I thought to myself, it was so striking music to hear. And so, I had to put that out there. This is the praise to God.

Go back.

Now, the thing with me, if that does not work, I still, I sing a capella. I sound perfect with a capella.

Yeah, try that first one. OK, so there are technical difficulties. So, I'll sing a capella. So, I'm gonna sing some songs. I was gonna sing that song. I still think I can sing this song and [indecipherable]. OK, we're giving up on that. All right, we're gonna sing.

[singing]

[applause]

EURE: OK. OK, now we're gonna have a highlight, two highlights, three at the same time. First, you're gonna get to eat, and you know the food is ready. And, if you got your token, you can get your food. Somebody's out there to serve you. You can stay for a while because the Freddie Green trio is getting ready to play, and they're going to play throughout the meal. And then we're going to come back with some more live entertainment from some other students. And then, in the end, we are going to do some dancing and play some games, and we're going to let Freddie Green do a jazz, well, we call them jam sessions, with all of the people who bought instruments today and played.

So, right now, Freddy, it's your turn. And all of you who want to, I'll, I will come to your tables, but you can come out that door if you want. And don't forget, Student Money Management is in that corner, and the Latino exhibit is here. And, in the end, you are going to get great, great prizes.

Thank you to Student Activities for co-sponsoring this with us, with the Michael Eure Show and with the Bilingual Early Childhood Education program. Thank you all for coming. Give yourself a round of applause.

[music playing]

[applause]

[music playing]

[applause]

EURE: Freddie Green. He's not finished, so stay right here, and he's gonna come back. This is just his break time. So, Emilio, it's time for you to come up and introduce your two students and what they're gonna do. But talk about your program a little bit also. Thank you.

GONZALEZ: Thank you. I got the pleasure to get my, a present from my students. They picked these two artists from Venezuela, and they play today for us, and I hope you enjoy. But before that, I got the, my representation from my group here, and they wanna show us the dress they use, we use in our country. They play, and they, I got my mothers in front of us. OK. And are you ready, guys? Enjoy.

[music playing]

[applause]

EURE: Thank you. Now, now we're moving really fast, and you got a lot of stuff to do. And Emilio's gonna come in a little bit, and, and they want to teach you some dances. And we're gonna do it all in this space. So, all of you get ready to be taught some dances from Latin America. So, right now, I'm going to introduce you to Doctor Arwin Smallwood, who was a guest on my show. He is the chair of the Department of History and Political Science at North Carolina A&T State University. So, he's going to just have one minute, and, and I really appreciate him coming all the way

down from Greensboro after working with his students. And, you know, when you work with students, those of us who work with students, you work until you finish with them. So, come on forward, sir.

ARWIN SMALLWOOD: Thank you, my, Michael. Just a quick second, Michael was saying I could basically do a shout-out to any of you all who might be interested in history or political science. Again, the two-year program and come into our university. As he mentioned, I'm late because I was registering students for the fall. This is a record semester for us, the largest enrollment in history, and we've had that for the last five years.

[applause]

SMALLWOOD: But let's, yeah, a massive class. And so, just to pitch to everyone here, we do have, of course, African American history and politics, and we also have Latin American studies as well and a professor on the faculty who teaches Latin American studies. And so, I would encourage you to check us out on the web, and if you have any interest in working on a degree in history or politics, we would be happy to have you as a part of our student body. And it's a very diverse and a very exciting student body. So, that's basically all I'm here to say. Thank you, Michael. Again, nice to be here.

EURE: And he's quite the scholar. On my show, he did a talk about the tri-racial identity of Native Americans in, particularly, North Carolina and of Virginia. He's got a lot of history. Talk to the man. He'll, he knows lots of stuff. Now, Emilio is going to come up. I don't know where he went. Come on, and, and, and "Mr. Cybersecurity" is going to cue up your music. And we're gonna let this be the dance floor. And when all this is over, then Freddie Green will come back and do the closing, and all the musicians can play with them. And y'all, thank you all for coming. Give yourself a round of applause. Thank you.

GONZALEZ: OK, that's the rules One of my students picks one of you, and they teach you dancing in three minutes. And now, good luck. When you're ready.

[music playing]

EURE: Wow. Y'all look good on the dance floor.

[music playing]



[applause]

[background noise]

EURE: Well, we are almost over. The, at this point, I want you to just quickly go to that booth, if you haven't been there – Student Money Management. Just get information, particularly students, and go to that booth and check out some of the Latin American countries. And on your way out, you want to get something in the back. Student Activities has something for all of you. And on your tickets, look on the back of your tickets, and if there is a red mark on the back of your ticket, you are able to take the centerpiece plant home with you. So, and there should be one at every table. Is it a star? Whatever it, as long as there's something back there, they know. Just go back there to that table.

[music playing]

[applause]

[music playing]