

# Speaker urges young blacks to invest time in improving selves

Urging young African-American students to study and be mindful of their future, Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu charged an audience of about 375 in JCC's Potter Center in April to focus on solutions when it comes to educating African-American males, not just the problems.

Kunjufu is an educational consultant who has written approximately 30 books, including "Critical Issues in Educating African American Youth." While most people have heard the statistics about black males being incarcerated and the limited

number who graduate high school, Kunjufu suggested solutions.

Young people need to increase the amount of time studying and "on task" — using their time to develop their talent. Kunjufu urged them to be careful of their peers and who they run with, to develop goals for themselves and to have a positive attitude. Improving school curriculum, especially in critical subjects like reading and algebra, will help. Young black males need to be shown that education needs to be a priority over basketball, rap music and drugs.



**April 2009**