

**AJHA Local Panel - *The Teen Appeal*: How the *Commercial Appeal*, the University of Memphis, and Memphis City Schools Partnered to Publish a Citywide High School Newspaper**

*Moderator*: Dianne Bragg, University of Alabama, former *Teen Appeal* coordinator

*Panelists*: Otis Sanford, University of Memphis, *Daily Memphian* columnist; April Thompson, Grizzlies Prep Charter School, former *Teen Appeal* student staff member; Tyrone (Tony) Reed, podcast host, producer, and author, former *Teen Appeal* student staff member; Marcus Matthews, Memphis City Schools, former *Teen Appeal* student staff member; Caleb Calhoun, *USA Today* and *FanSided*, former *Teen Appeal* student staff member

In 1997, University of Memphis Professor Elinor Grusin's dream of a citywide high school newspaper was realized with *The Teen Appeal*. With support from the Scripps Howard Foundation, the University of Memphis, the *Commercial Appeal*, and Memphis City Schools, the first group of students from across the city came to the U of M for a summer journalism camp and kicked off the monthly publication. This panel features several people who were involved in this extraordinary effort to ensure that every Memphis City high school had access to a local school newspaper. Fun Fact: AJHA's current president, Aimee Edmondson, was one of the first to work on this project while she pursued her master's degree in journalism.