



The DC Office Of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment (OCTFME) in partnership with The Congressional Award Foundation and Eliot- Hine Middle School launch new radio podcast series to air on DC RADIO.

The Podcast Series will be produced by OCTFME in collaboration with Eliot-Hine Middle School students.

The Office of Cable Television Film, Music and Entertainment (OCTFME) DC Radio platform presents Café Radio Podcast, a collaboration between The Congressional Award Foundation (CAF) and Eliot-Hine Middle School.

The podcast series will give listeners and the students at Eliot-Hine Middle School, direct access to members of the CAF Board of Directors, staff and alumni, who will serve as speakers in this special podcast series. These programs are intended to help guide DC students through the opportunities the Congressional Award Foundation program offers and provide information on how to explore CAF’s pathways to successfully obtain career goals.

The 30-minute podcast will air on Saturday mornings at 11:30 AM beginning August 21, 2021 on DC Radio 96.3HD4, DCRADIO.GOV, on the DC Radio app for iPhone and Android, Tunein.com and Alexa. The podcasts will also be available on-demand at DC Café Radio on SoundCloud and all major on-demand platforms. Seven podcast episodes were developed in the initial series including a pilot episode.

The Café Radio Podcast series will be moderated and produced by OCTFME in collaboration with students from Eliot-Hine Middle School’s Eliot-Hine Network. The podcast series is facilitated by Mandrell Birks, video production instructor and creator of the Eliot-Hine Network, an in-school television and radio program run exclusively by students.

Each program will feature a guest who earned a Congressional Award and one student host who participates in the Eliot-Hine media program which provides select students the opportunity to gain hosting skills and producing experience. The host for the series will be Dr. MarTeze Hammonds, Congressional Award Advisor. Dr. Hammonds currently serves as the Chief Diversity Officer at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

The program’s discussions, led by CAF Alumni, share knowledge with middle school students about how participating in the Congressional Award Foundation program, the only charity of the U.S Congress, changed their lives. The program also discusses how CAF can be an invaluable tool for supporting them in educational and career building resources to catapult professional growth and careers.





In addition, students will be encouraged to enroll in the Congressional Award program which consists of setting personally challenging goals in four program areas: Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness and Explorations. Upon completion of these goals, the students will earn Congressional Award Certificates and Medals to be presented by DC Congressional Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton.

The DC Radio podcast program is a part of the CAF Board's initiative to reach more students of color and make an impact in the DC community. Eliot-Hine Middle School and Network will serve as a pilot program plan for additional communities including Detroit, Baltimore, and Houston.

Café Radio Podcast Series:

Pilot – Intro to the Congressional Award: **Guest - Paxton Baker**
Chairman, The Congressional Award Foundation

Podcast 1 – Communications & Storytelling: **Joshua Nelson, CAF Gold Medalist**
Nashville, TN, Reporter at Fox News

Podcast 2 – Leadership: **Guest - Fernando Miranda-Fred**
CAF Gold Medalist, San Antonio, Texas
Embark Intern at KPMG

Podcast 3 – STEM Pathway to Career, Internships & Education: **Guest - Swati Bhageria**
CAF Gold Medalist, Cincinnati, OH
Incoming SWE Intern @ Facebook | CS & Business @ UMich, Founded and led four Girls Who Code chapters, Current College Student

Podcast 4 – Technology and How It Shapes Culture: **Guest – Victoria Willingham,**
CAF Gold Medalist, Washington, D.C. Attorney - Regulatory Compliance at Lyft

Podcast 5 – Overcoming Challenges: **Guest - Nicole Brown**
CAF Bronze Medalist, Los Angeles, CA
Senior Manager, Chapter Administrative Operations The Recording Academy

Podcast 6 – Advocacy & Community Service: **Guest - Zenani D. Johnson**
CAF Gold Medalist, Pensacola, Florida
Special Projects & Governmental Affairs, Escambia County, Florida

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About The Congressional Award Foundation

The Congressional Award is the United States Congress' only charity and the highest honor bestowed upon a youth civilian through the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Established by Congress as a public-private partnership in 1979 under Public Law 96-114, the program recognizes initiative, service, and achievement in youth ages 13 ½ – 23. To learn more about The Congressional Award please visit www.congressionalaward.org.

About Eliot-Hine Network

Eliot-Hine Middle School's curriculum is constructed around the concept of "community as a classroom." Through experimental learning, the school engages students' imaginations, develops critical thinking skills, and encourages active participation in local and global communities as well as the natural world. Eliot-Hine Middle School classes emphasize writing skills and integrate math, technology, world languages, arts, and humanities into the curriculum. The Eliot-Hine Network produces TV/Radio programming created solely by middle school students. The students create unique talk shows and genres of music and are continuing to build "The Eliot-Hine Network" by investigating, planning, creating, and evaluating the entire structure of this unique broadcast media initiative. The students embrace technology with an eye their career goals. Anyone witnessing the student mastery of broadcast media equipment will be astonished at how the students utilize their technical skills at such a young age.

About the Office of Cable TV, Film, Music and Entertainment

The Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment (OCTFME) produces and broadcasts programming for the District of Columbia's public, educational, and government access (PEG) cable television channels and digital radio station; regulates the District of Columbia's cable television service providers; provides customer service for cable subscribers; and supports a sustainable film, music, and entertainment creative economy and labor market in the District of Columbia.

OCTFME operates and manages the District's government television access channels: the District Council Channel (DCC), the District of Columbia Network (DCN), and the District Knowledge Network (DKN). OCTFME's award-winning content provides resourceful information on government activity, education, current events, history, music, arts, and entertainment. OCTFME manages and programs DC Radio 96.3 HD4 digital radio station, the District of Columbia's first government radio station in partnership with Howard University's WHUR. It is one of only two full-power, city-owned and managed radio stations in the country.

OCTFME provides production support services that advance film, television, video, entertainment, interactive, multimedia, and digital media content creators. These services include permitting, location scouting, production support, job placement assistance, workforce development, and the DC Film, Television and Entertainment Rebate Fund. OCTFME supports the creative economy through Mayor Muriel Bowser Presents: 202Creates initiative. 202Creates supports the creative economy by amplifying the creative community, providing resources to support creative workers and creative businesses, and building the creative community in all 8 Wards.

OCTFME provides additional support to the creative community through the Creative Affairs Office (CAO). CAO showcases and preserves the District of Columbia's rich creative communities throughout all 8 Wards. CAO builds sustainability in the creative community through policy, programming, and education which further expands the pathway to the middle class for the creative workforce. CAO coordinates public, private, and community partners to accomplish all goals and create equitable and inclusive opportunities for the District's creatives. For more information, contact the Office of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment at (202) 671-0066, visit us online at: entertainment.dc.gov, and follow us on [Facebook.com/entertaindc](https://www.facebook.com/entertaindc), [Instagram.com/entertain_dc](https://www.instagram.com/entertain_dc) and [Twitter.com/entertain_dc](https://www.twitter.com/entertain_dc).

