

## An Interview with Wes Moore

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Photo by Jason Kempin/Getty Images

Youth advocate and bestselling author Wes Moore comes to Philadelphia on Oct. 25 to keynote a benefit party organized by the Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia (CSFP), showcasing educational innovation in the Philadelphia region. The author's book "The Other Wes Moore" quickly landed on the New York Times and Wall Street Journal bestseller lists soon after publication, earning Moore national acclaim. He is a Rhodes Scholar, a veteran and a White House Fellow. He currently works toward helping parents, teachers, mentors and advocates serving the country's youth. For more information, visit his website at [www.theotherwesmoore.com](http://www.theotherwesmoore.com). Below, an excerpt of my interview with him.

**Q: Do you think our country's public education system is getting the job done?**

WM: I think if you look at the statistics you see increasing levels of success. The resources are there. So much of our future success as a country depends on educating our kids today.

**Q: There is a direct correlation between a lack of education and crime rates among boys and men of color. What can our country do to better serve at-risk children, or does the responsibility lie with the communities and families?**

WM: It's definitely both. Everyone in this country has a responsibility.

**Q: What is the difference between you and the other Wes Moore?**

WM: There isn't really a simple answer to that.

**Q: Would you say that education played a role?**

WM: Definitely. We have to be serious about aspects of education and developing employable skills. Education was still shaping our lives a generation ago and today it plays an important role for African American boys.

**Q: What are your goals going forward? Where are you looking to focus your efforts?**

WM: A big focus for me is college completion. We're doing a better job with it, but the college dropout rate is heartbreaking. The drivers are both economic and social, and I think the social aspect is the leading indicator.

**Q: What advice do you give to today's young African American students?**

WM: We cannot be simply a product of our environment. The world is bigger than what is important to us alone.

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**Catherine Nessa**  
Philadelphia Education Reform Examiner

