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## NATIONAL CONFERENCE – Big Brothers Big Sisters of America – June 2016



Hot off the presses from our Big Brothers Big Sisters of America National Conference in Florida! Such a great honor to have our agency's friend and NY Times best selling author, Wes Moore, keynote our conference. He brought the house down speaking about his life, the urgency for our Big Brothers Big Sisters mission and why #MentoringMatters. Our agency was doubly honored that he asked our CEO, Carlos Lejnieks, to introduce him. Wes even wore our agency's shirt while addressing the national crowd!

From Mr. Moore's speech:

"Family isn't just something that comes with DNA... (part of the national tragedy) has been the breakdown of the definition of family... the idea that simply because someone might not be your blood doesn't mean that we have no responsibility for them... It's this idea that just because it's that person's child, that it is that person's sole responsibility to help them and guide them. There is something fundamentally backwards about that ideology. **One of the beautiful things about BBBS is that you understand about family.** Family is not simply about who gave birth to you... **Family is about who loves you with everything in them, who is willing to fight for you, who is willing to advocate for you, who is willing to be there for you no matter what. That's family. And that's what you all fundamentally provide.**"