

Julius was born on the south side of Chicago to a young mother. His father was a military man who also played professional football. Primarily mentored by his maternal grandfather, Reverend Emanuel Hoskins, a Baptist minister, Julius expressed from a young age a fervent love for the social Gospel of Jesus and a strong sense of community responsibility. Educated primarily in Catholic schools, he professed an interest in becoming a priest and, eventually, "the first Black Pope from the hood." Heavily influenced by Catholic Priests, (the late) Fr. John Collins and Fr. Michael Pflieger, PhD, with some support from John Callicut and Michael Ivers, the priesthood, under these Maverick Chicago Archdiocesan priests, was anything but routine. With its inspiring, fiery sermons, its social protests and its unwavering love for the education and uplifting of black children, the priesthood seemed to be the natural home for this lauded altar-boy from the south side of Chicago.

However, Gia Byers, a Chicago-Public-School beauty, was to change all of this. It was she who first changed his mind about entering the priesthood. His life was forever changed on the 79th-street bus. His life, and the impact of women in his decision making, would never be the same. Expelled from Quigley Seminary (South) and again by a Franciscan Order Brother Rice High School for (non-felonious) disciplinary reasons, After a rocky high-school career, he graduated from Thornwood High School. Using his academic and athletic prowess, he decided after watching a Ms. Black Chicago Pageant in 1988, where he saw the beautiful winner, Melanie Martin, take the crown, that he wanted to go to Howard University. The winner of the pageant was reason enough for him to forgo Big Ten Higher Education and travel to Washington D.C. and attend this prestigious, historically-Black College.

While at Howard, he was quickly brought into the next level of social activism. He participated in the famed H.U. protest of 1989. As a seventeen-year-old freshman, he was influenced by the awesome presence of Ras Baraka (son of poet Imiri Baraka) and April Silver, both of whom served as political mentors to this sponge-like student activist. After serving Congressional Internships and receiving a Fulbright fellowship to study abroad, in 1991 he went to serve 12 months in the House of Commons, London, England, in the Office of Bernie Grant (the then-senior black member of the British Parliament). Upon his return to D.C., Julius worked for Jesse Jackson's newly established Rainbow Coalition and became more actively involved in campus politics. His public speaking acumen was birthed under the training of fellow student, now Cultural Ambassador, Toni Blackman. As a lauded graduate of the Alain Locke Dept. of Philosophy at Howard, this esteemed university offered Julius a full-time contract to teach while he applied to Harvard. Accepted in the Spring semester of 1995, Julius was closer than ever to achieving his ivy-league dream. The draw of home proved too strong to ignore, though. He enrolled at the University of Illinois in the Foundations of Education program under Historian James D. Anderson, Julius was inspired by a new dream: to become a teacher and education policy theorist. But, as fate would have it, Cornel West and James Anderson, who later formed Julius's dissertation team, coordinated an opportunity for him to go to Harvard as a graduate student and a teaching assistant under Cornel West. Initially, as a teaching fellow, under Dr. West's Head Teaching Fellows, Andre C. Willis and later David Kim, Professor West soon entrusted Julius to follow as a Head Teaching Fellow within the W.E.B. Dubois Institute of African American Studies at Harvard. He would later graduate from the University of Illinois with his PhD in 1999 in Philosophy and Education.

It was 1999 that would place Dr. Bailey on the national scene as he served as Education Spokesperson and Central Illinois Liaison for the Rainbow Push Coalition. Heavily involved in the ground-breaking "Decatur-Seven" case (where 7 boys were expelled under the newly instituted zero tolerance rule in schools) this twenty-seven year old would never be the same. Removed from his teaching position due to social and political pressure from that Central Illinois town, his life, he admits, spiraled, for a time, out of control". Julius took a short stint away from teaching to foster a non-profit agency, which he did while he worked as a Church Administrator and Educational Director at a popular central-Illinois ministry. Unfortunately, the relationship in this new ministerial position, soured professional relationships, death of a much-loved grandfather, and a divorce all brought you to new emotional lows. brought Dr. Bailey to an existential crisis. December of 2006 was the turning point: a Cincinnati, Ohio meeting with his mentor, Dr. Cornel West, and the news of the upcoming birth of his daughter helped Julius to turn the page. The confluence of these events felt providential, and the new year was one of renewed purpose and hope for the future.

From Fall 2008-Fall 2010, Dr. Bailey was privileged to have served as Lead Professor of Philosophy as a member of the Humanities Department at Central State. Re-birthing by the soul of an Historically Black College he launched an exciting array of fresh courses, programs and activities on the historic university's campus. Julius had been wooed to the campus by a former mentor and administrator at Howard University, (the late) Dr. Toi Caldwell-Colbert, who was serving as Provost at Central State. Her untimely death in 2008 altered not only the academic direction of the campus but the role in which Dr. Bailey would play at the school. Despite support from students and growing appreciation from colleagues, Dr. Bailey was unable to grab a footing into the ethos of the campus. He often felt the stranger in a strange land. He felt his style of teaching was misunderstood. In the Fall of 2010, he was sought out by Wittenberg for his academic acumen and unconventional pedagogical approaches in the classroom. Wittenberg, heralded by the Princeton Review as a nationally ranked Liberal Arts University, gave him the forum in which his unique approach to pedagogy could be more fully explored than ever before. They invested in him, and since then, he has served within Wittenberg's Department of Philosophy, opening minds and touching hearts among students and faculty members alike. As a self-affirmed Christian Existentialist, Dr. Bailey realizes and teaches that, "to seek excellence is to abide by a determination to BE... I just wanna BE; and my being is what gives voice to those who are weakened but not surrendered to life's circumstances"