2012 Youth Leadership Summit
Educate | Employ | Empower
National Urban League
2012 State of Black America®

Occupy the Vote

To Educate, Employ & Empower

Contributors include: Marc H. Morial, John Legend, Kevin Powell, Reverend Lennox Yearwood, Jr., Steve Stoute, Dr. Steve Perry, Senator Kristen Gillibrand, Mayor Michael A. Nutter, Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott & many more.
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Welcome to my hometown of New Orleans!

Here is where opportunity, challenge and change converge. This is a time of hope and new beginnings for America, yet it also seems to be the most troubling for young people as you struggle to attain post secondary education, jobs and establish home and career.

As the nation’s longtime leader in job training and education programs, the National Urban League understands that it is imperative for youth to receive a sound education. With the introduction of our 8 Point Plan: Educate, Employ and Empower, we urgently call on our nation’s leaders for immediate action on the education and job-training initiatives necessary to achieve these goals, and to raise this most critical conversation to the top of our national news headlines. **The time to act is now!**

What we know is that we cannot accomplish any of our goals without empowering you to invest in your future. That is why dynamic convenings such as this Youth Leadership Summit are so imperative. It is here that you are able to gather with your peers, to learn about new opportunities, to secure your future and prepare yourselves for the work of rebuilding our communities. I encourage you to take advantage of every single moment of your five days here to arm yourself with information so that you are equipped and empowered to achieve your goals!

In this election year, no issue is more important than galvanizing Black voter participation and turning back the current assault on voting rights that threatens to disenfranchise as many as 5 million Americans this year. As young people you can inform yourself about the issues and encourage voter registration, for you, too, have a stake in our nation’s future!

It is my sincere hope that this year’s Youth Leadership Summit will inspire you to Occupy the Vote, and to Educate, Employ and Empower.

Sincerely,

Marc H. Morial
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Urban League
The National Urban League employs a five-point approach to provide economic empowerment, educational opportunities and the guarantee of civil rights for African Americans and underserved communities.

- **Education and Youth Empowerment** ensures the education of all children by providing access to early childhood literacy, out-of-school time programs, an emphasis on post-secondary success and resources that support parents as their children’s first teacher.

- **Economic Empowerment** invests in the financial literacy and employability of adults through job training, homeownership and entrepreneurship.

- **Health and Quality of Life Empowerment** promotes community wellness through a focus on prevention, including fitness, healthy eating and access to affordable healthcare.

- **Civic Engagement and Leadership Empowerment** encourages all people to take an active role to improve quality of life through participation in community service projects and public policy initiatives.

- **Civil Rights and Racial Justice Empowerment** guarantees equal participation in all facets of American society through proactive public policies and community-based programs.

Now, in its second century of providing direct service to historically underserved communities, the National Urban League is committed to achieving the following four empowerment goals by 2025:

- Every American child is ready for college, work and life;

- Every American has access to jobs with a living wage and good benefits;

- Every American lives in safe, decent, affordable and energy efficient housing on fair terms;

- Every American has access to quality and affordable health care solutions.

With the help of a vast and robust affiliate movement and a host of volunteers, such as the National Urban League Young Professionals and the National Council of Urban League Guilds, the National Urban League remains at the forefront of the struggle for Civil Rights and equality. While celebrating a rich legacy and past, the Urban League Movement acknowledges and embraces the formidable challenges that lay in its path in the century ahead.
Hello and welcome to New Orleans!

It is my honor and privilege to welcome you to this year’s Youth Leadership Summit. Over five days, you will have the opportunity to get a taste of college life, while interacting with adults and youth from every part of our country. This will certainly be an experience that you will not soon forget.

In these times, it is apparent that the future of this country and our world depends on you – our leaders of tomorrow. During the many years that I have been part of the Urban League Movement, I have witnessed the tremendous leadership potential in the young people that I have encountered. I know that you have what it takes to succeed.

In this year’s Youth Summit, you will be coming in contact with inspirational leaders from many different fields – you will also be able to network and mingle with equally inspirational young men and women your age that will help you on your path to success. Seize this moment. Be prepared to learn, listen, and speak up.

Take full advantage of all that you have before you at this year’s Youth Leadership Summit, and have fun as you experience the events we have scheduled for you!

Sincerely,

Donald E. Bowen

Senior Vice President, Programs
Chief Program Officer
National Urban League
The National Urban League’s Program Department is the primary vehicle through which the granting of funds, training and technical assistance is provided to local Urban League affiliates. Our purpose is to assess and understand the economic and social factors that negatively impact Urban League constituents and to design, pilot and implement, through our affiliate network, innovative solutions to address these problems. We propose “theories of change, then we test these theories by designing innovative models for social service delivery, funding them, and evaluating the results.

The Program Department is led by Don Bowen, Senior Vice President and Chief Program Officer, and is divided into five divisions:

- **Education and Youth Development** Hal Smith, Ed.D., Vice President
- **Health and Quality of Life** Hal Smith, Ed.D., Vice President
- **Entrepreneurship and Business Development** Terry Clark, Vice President
- **Housing and Community Development** Cy Richardson, Ph.D., Vice President
- **Workforce Development** Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez, Vice President

As a social service intermediary, one of our primary roles is to connect the philanthropic community with our affiliates and to build the affiliates’ capacity to positively impact their communities. We provide our affiliates, who deliver direct services to the local community, with assistance primarily consisting of granting of funds, training, technical assistance, organizational assessments, knowledge sharing, and networking. This allows the National Urban League to offer a flexible service-delivery model that can quickly achieve scale and depth in communities across the country, combining the strength of localized services and supports with an accountable, standardized, centralized, national management structure.

**SIGNATURE PROGRAMS:**

Our signature programs, designated by the National Urban League, embody the mission and vision of the organization. These programs are scalable, evidence-based and have demonstrably enhanced our constituents’ economic or educational status. Our current signature programs are:

- **Asset Building and Financial Capability**: Provides youth and adults with information and education about the vital importance of financial empowerment. Specific emphasis is placed on basic banking, money management, saving and investing and the proper role and use of credit.

- **Comprehensive Housing Counseling**: Supports the delivery of a wide spectrum of housing counseling services to prospective homebuyers, homeowners, low-to moderate-income renters, and the homeless.

- **Entrepreneurship Center Program**: Provides management counseling and training services geared toward the development of managerial skills, enabling minority entrepreneurs to take advantage of new business opportunities and leading to a high level of personal and professional growth.

- **Foreclosure Prevention (aka “Restore our Homes”)**: Functions to forestall mortgage default, delinquency and foreclosure, and to educate constituents about better decision-making with regard to home purchase, financing and home maintenance, mortgage re-finance, and loan modification.

- **Project Ready**: Prepares adolescents for the critical transitions from middle school to high school to higher education and/or the world of work.

- **Project Wellness**: Promotes healthy living, the development of health assets and the elimination of health disparities and deficiencies in underserved communities through the use of Community Health Workers who serve as health coaches and help participants to access quality healthcare services.

- **Read and Rise**: Engages parents in early literacy development by providing them with hands-on experience and skills to work with their children to build and encourage reading.

- **Urban Youth Empowerment Program**: Engages at risk and adjudicated youth and prepares them for entry into the workforce through a comprehensive set of services, including case management, service learning, restorative justice, education, mentoring, internships, and on-the-job training. The program historically targets youth 18-24 year olds but the model has also been effectively applied to 14-17 year olds.

- **Youth Development**: Provides young people with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to be successful in school, their communities and in the world at large.
Sanibonani (Good Day – in isiZulu)

Welcome to the 23rd convening of the National Urban League’s Youth Leadership Summit, hosted this year at Tulane University. Please accept our sincere congratulations on all that you have achieved this far and our well wishes for all that you hope to accomplish in the future.

The Youth Leadership Summit is designed to give you a different and wider sense of what is possible for you, what is necessary to improve our communities and the kinds of investments you can make in yourself in order to be “Ready for College, Work and Life.”

Each year we work with caring adults from across the country to create an environment at our Summit where you can explore your interests, meet other young people from across the country and learn more about how to realize your dreams.

This year is no exception and we hope you take full advantage of the numerous plenaries, town halls, workshops, and hands-on learning experiences developed for you in New Orleans. As you come across members of the Youth Leadership Summit team, our sponsors, the staff of Tulane University, and the affiliate staff and volunteers who accompanied you to the Summit, please take a moment to thank them for all that they do on behalf of youth.

Learn, enjoy and grow at this year’s Youth Leadership Summit and beyond!

Yours in the movement,

Hal Smith
Vice President
Education & Youth Development
Health & Quality of Life
National Urban League
PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE, WORK, LIFE

For more than 50 years, the National Urban League’s Education & Youth Development division has worked to improve educational opportunities for African-American students by developing innovative programs to support their academic achievement, encourage their civic involvement, and contribute to their healthy physical and emotional development.

In addition to a focus on the successful transition from high school to college or work, the Education and Youth Development division focuses on early literacy development, quality early childhood education, and building the “social capital” of young people. Because young people develop in the context of their families and communities, the National Urban League also has a strong parent education and engagement component.

Our keystone programs in education and youth development are designed to help us reach the goal that every American child will be ready for college, work and life by 2025.

PROJECT READY

Project Ready is designed to develop an individual student’s knowledge and attitude toward, and capacity for, post secondary success. Our framework brings together research and promising practices in youth development, adolescent literacy, out-of-school time learning and student success, within the tradition and legacy of the Urban League movement.

In the 2011-2012 program year, 28 affiliates implemented Project Ready across the country, with additional affiliates expressing interest in the program. The more than 1,200 students currently enrolled in Project Ready nationally are expected to make academic progress, benefit from cultural enrichment opportunities, and develop critical skills, attitudes and aptitudes necessary for post-secondary success.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

In 2011, the National Urban League continued its policy, advocacy and engagement effort to build more effective grassroots advocacy in local and state venues through its Equity and Excellence Project with our affiliates in Pennsylvania and Tennessee, and expanded to two additional affiliates. In this next three-year phase of the Equity and Excellence Project, the National Urban League is working to build the Urban League’s collective capacity to convene and participate in national and state level policy and reform discussions and enhance the advocacy skills of the local community leaders throughout the Urban League movement.

We continue to expand on our advocacy and policy efforts, working on a national level with education reform organizations, legislators and policymakers on a broad range of issues, including educational reform, post secondary success, the innovative use of learning time, college completion, and early childhood education.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The National Urban League Youth Development Framework and Guide (YDFG) is a research-based youth development / out-of-school time resource designed to provide participants with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to be successful in school, in their communities and in the world at large.

Using the YDFG as a baseline, our intent is to develop fully prepared and engaged young people by promoting and supporting meaningful professional development / capacity building and robust program development throughout the affiliate movement. As such, the Guide provides a comprehensive foundation upon which an affiliate youth development / out-of-school time / afterschool program can be built or enhanced.

THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Now in its 23rd year, the National Urban League Youth Leadership Summit will engage nearly 500 high school students from over 25 Urban League affiliates and, over five days, immerse them in a unique educational and developmental experience.

The Summit functions as the annual culminating event for all of the National Urban League’s local and national Education and Youth Development programs and provides access to national presenters and content that further develops important skills and capacities in our youth participants and in our youth-worker staff.
programs
Project Ready is a signature program of the National Urban League. The original Project Ready design integrated academic support along with life skills development and college awareness into existing college preparation / college access programs in local Urban League affiliates. In order to achieve this successful integration of academic and life skill-building, the curriculum comprised three major components: 1) Academic Development, 2) Social Development and 3) College Culture and Awareness. More importantly, for each component there were a set of explicit student outcomes which are guided by the Individual College Development Plan (ICDP).

Since creating the Project Ready model in 2006, the NUL has learned that a key strength of the approach is its focus on building the diverse academic and social assets of urban youth, an inherent flexibility that encourages local innovation and customization, and its ability to serve an affiliate’s larger goals of positive impacts on family and community. Affiliates that have successfully adopted Project Ready have implemented one of the following models:

**Magnet Model:** an organizational model supporting students during out-of-school time at a site other than a school.

**School-Based Model:** an organizational model supporting students during out-of-school time at a single school or school campus.

**Expanded Day or Year Model:** an organizational model featuring additional learning and developmental time added to a school day.

While many college preparation programs place great emphasis on academic skill building for college, often at the expense of other equally important concerns such as students’ personal and social maturity for college, as a post-secondary success program Project Ready specifically integrates academic preparation along with life-skills development, personal, global and cultural awareness.

Given the Urban League’s historical focus and the critical importance of the issues, there are three targeted groups for *Project Ready*:

The primary group is African American and other children and youth in urban communities. Urban youth in historically underserved and under-resourced communities can be particularly vulnerable to an educational system that does not adequately prepare, or send clear signals to, them about their preparation and readiness for academic success.

The secondary group is parents and families of urban children and youth. The National Urban League is very clear that parents can be effective “first teachers” of their children and can be similarly effective in maintaining educational growth with the proper resources and engagement. Engaging parents in a meaningful and systemic manner allows for them to support and even accelerate children’s learning both before children enter formal settings and throughout the P-16 school years.

The tertiary group consists of community leaders, elementary school teachers, youth serving organizations, child care providers, policymakers, advocates, corporations, and foundations that support African American and urban student success. These entities are most fully invested in, and
informed about, the issue, and will incorporate information and perspective into their practice, policy, advocacy and community-building work. Improved student literacy skills, capacities, aptitudes and competencies will hopefully result in additional investments in children and the institutions that serve them, both locally and nationally.

Project Ready posits a number of inputs as critical to meaningful out-of-school time learning and developmental time, including hiring and supporting a professional staff of out-of-school time educators, providing high-quality content, ongoing capacity building, clear accountability and established programs standards.

**PROJECT READY STEM**

With the support of BP, and the Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, Inc., in 2011, the National Urban League expanded Project Ready to include an enhanced STEM pilot. Three Urban League affiliates that have successfully operated effective college access or preparation programs, or have successfully operated STEM programs for middle or high school-age youth have been funded for this program. The goals of this expansion are to ensure that urban students have the necessary supports and opportunities available to them to succeed in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) related class work, and to expose students to STEM related careers.

**PROJECT READY SERVICE LEARNING**

State Farm supports the National Urban League Project Ready service learning component. These programs provide meaningful service activities that benefit both participants and their communities, fostering life skills, critical thinking, a sense of efficacy and self-worth, and responsible attitudes and behaviors. Service learning is one of several approaches to civic engagement of youth distinguished by its curriculum-base and explicit educational goals. It has been described as “a teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.” The National Urban League views this as an important addition to our post-secondary success agenda, as it allows youth to develop additional skills, build youth leadership and voice, exposes youth to important social, political and community issues, and better prepares them to be more active and thoughtful citizens.

**PROJECT READY LITERACY COACHES**

Viewed as a whole, the statistics relating to adolescent literacy are disturbing and should serve as a “call to action” for educators in all capacities who work with adolescents. The Project Ready curriculum, with its focus on college readiness, serves as a valuable weapon in the fight to improve adolescent literacy. With the support of the Pitney Bowes Corporation, the National Urban League has completed the launch of the Project Ready Literacy Coach pilot. Every Urban League affiliate interested in integrating literacy into their out-of-school time and youth development practices has access to the Project Ready Literacy Coaches Tool Kit. The Tool Kit features resources, activities and strategies that have been researched, developed, and tested by the National Urban League’s adolescent literacy specialist.

In too many college preparation programs in the nation, greater emphasis is placed on academic skill building for college, often times at the expense of other equally important concerns such as students’ personal and social maturity and preparedness for college and career. The current iteration of our curriculum, Project Ready 2.0, builds upon a typical college access approach through the integration of academic preparation for college, work and life, the development of 21st Century and other critical social skills, and the fostering of personal, global and cultural awareness.

The Urban League movement currently hosts more than 50 affiliates operating college information, preparation and access programs. Our intention is to replicate Project Ready standards and approaches in all such Urban League post-secondary success programs in order to build more effective and impactful high-quality programs throughout the affiliate movement.
Youth success is often chiefly attributed to school-based factors, when in fact it is exposure to an array of educational and developmental opportunities that promotes differentiated achievement. As experts such as Karen Pittman of the Forum for Youth Investment rightly suggest, “problem-free” does not mean “fully prepared” youth, nor does it equate to being “fully engaged.”

The National Urban League Youth Development Framework and Guide (YDFG) creates additional learning spaces in which young people can experience success and substantive development. While there are many resources available to those who know about them, can access them, and can advocate for their provision, this kind of knowledge, time and skill is unevenly distributed across families and communities. The National Urban League YDFG seeks to bring equity and excellence at scale into youth development practice and policy.

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND GUIDE**

The National Urban League Youth Development Framework and Guide is a research-based youth development / out-of-school time resource designed to provide participants with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to be successful in school, in their communities and in the world at large. As a tool, it is similarly designed to assist affiliates in the design and implementation of “leading edge” youth development / out-of-school time/afterschool programs.

Our intent is to develop fully prepared and engaged young people by providing the Framework’s meaningful professional development/capacitybuilding/robustprogramdevelopment throughout the affiliate movement. As such, the YDFG is not a program in and of itself. Instead, the YDFG is a comprehensive foundation upon which an affiliate youth development / out-of-school time / afterschool program can be built or enhanced.

The YDFG is broken down across three content areas:

**INTELLECTUAL**
- Early & Sustained Literacy
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)
- Postsecondary Success (Project Ready)
- Artistic Expression & Literacy
- Entrepreneurship
- Media Literacy

**SOCIAL AND COMMUNAL**
- Social & Cultural Identity
- Service Learning

**PHYSICAL & RELATIONAL**
- Health & Wellness
- Fitness & Recreation

Each content area of the guide explicitly connects across the childhood, adolescent and young adult age-spans (asset- and skill-building focused and developmentally appropriate) toward fostering fully engaged, fully prepared youth. For example, the Media Literacy content area has a K-5th grade component, a 6th-8th grade component and a 9th-12th grade component that can link together to form a 13-year pathway should affiliates decide to implement it in that way.

The National Urban League believes that providing multiple opportunities for learning, success and achievement in sufficient breadth, depth and variety allows for alternate pathways to excellence and equity for children, youth and communities. The YDFG allows for a range of different approaches and focus areas, because we believe affiliates work best when allowed and encouraged to develop their work in relation to local opportunities, assets and resources.
As a partner in the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program, the National Urban League received funding from the Department of Commerce to launch a number of broadband related activities, including the Digital Connector program. This program was developed by one of the leads in our partnership, One Economy.

The Digital Connectors Program has partners in rural and urban areas across the country. Thousands of Digital Connectors have provided tens of thousands of service hours in communities from New York to San Francisco. Youth projects have included: developing faith-based computer labs; creating documentaries; training community members on computers and the Internet; using digital media to create interactive tutorials; and the mapping of community assets.

Digital Connectors prepares students, aged 14 to 21, for success in the 21st Century workplace through a robust 156-hour Digital Connector’s curriculum that includes 12 Core Competency areas, 56 hours of community service per participant, a Cisco I.T. Essentials certificate upon completion, and a comprehensive ‘train the trainer’ professional development approach.

From 2010-2012, the National Urban League and One Economy have brought together Project Ready and Digital Connectors in 16 Urban League affiliates: Akron Urban League (OH); Columbia Urban League (SC); Chattanooga Urban League (TN); Indianapolis Urban League (IN); Louisville Urban League (KY); Milwaukee Urban League (WI); Northern Virginia Urban League (VA); Urban League of Greater Cleveland (OH); Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc. (OK); Urban League of Hudson County (NJ); Urban League of Pittsburgh (PA); Urban League of Rochester (NY); Urban League of San Diego County (CA); Urban League of Springfield (MA); Tacoma Urban League (WA); and Urban League of Central Carolinas (NC).

Over the course of the Project Ready: Digital Connectors program, nearly 480 Urban League students participated. Utilizing aspects of the Project Ready model, affiliates completed an Individual College Development Plan (ICDP) for each student, and took the students on two field trips to local colleges, universities and corporations. The students, in turn, trained youth and adults in their communities in digital literacy.

As a result of partnership, nearly 35,000 Digital Literacy trainings were conducted in urban communities by Urban League Digital Connectors youth participants, realizing the goal of increasing digital literacy across the nation.
In 2011, the National Urban League successfully launched its next three-year cycle of the Education and Excellence Project (EEP). The EEP explicitly supports national and state advocacy, engagement and education reform efforts throughout the Urban League Affiliate movement and with our partners in the Campaign for High School Equity (CHSE). The three year initiative will enable the Urban League to deepen the work of our existing consortia in Pennsylvania and Tennessee, and expanded to two additional individual affiliates, by focusing intently on the implementation of education reforms.

In the next phase of the Equity and Excellence Project, the National Urban League is working to build the Urban League’s collective capacity to convene and participate in national and state level policy and reform discussions and enhance the advocacy skills of the local community leaders throughout the Urban League movement. While ultimately we seek to improve outcomes for underserved students, our more immediate intent – through our partnership with the CHSE – is to build the capacity of the civil rights community to lead more substantively the community engagement, analyses and planning and policy across the five EEP focus areas in a more intentional and meaningful fashion.

- Common Core State Standards
- Improved access to high-quality curricula and effective teachers
- Comprehensive, aligned and transparent education & employment data systems
- Equity and Excellence at scale
- Out-of-school time learning (emphasis on expanded day and summer learning)

These focus areas are highly and tightly related to our historic mission. A local, statewide and national approach allows the National Urban League to best leverage its greatest asset – the Urban League affiliate movement.

As such, support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is allowing the National Urban League to implement a four pronged approach to the Equity and Excellence Project including 1) Urban League affiliates and partners engagement in local, state and national education reform efforts; 2) Integration with our Post-secondary/Workforce Development and College Completion agendas; 3) Convenings; and 4) Building the capacity of the National Urban League and National Urban League Policy Institute to work more effectively and comprehensively with CHSE partners and the national education reform / innovation community.

Working in close collaboration with our National Urban League Policy Institute in Washington D.C., the Education and Youth Development Division continues to build on our legacy of advocacy and policy development, working on a national level with legislators and policymakers on a broad range of issues, including education reform, career and college readiness, post-secondary success, college completion, the innovative use of learning time, effective supports for youth in foster care, literacy and early childhood education.
This year, the National Urban League was awarded a grant through the Department of Justice to establish a Project Ready program innovation – Project Ready: Mentor.

Project Ready: Mentor is a mentoring program that specifically targets African-American and other urban youth ages 11-18 that are particularly vulnerable to disengagement from school, community and the world of work. Through the program at least 440 young people (55 in each city) will each receive at least 182 hours per year of individual, group and virtual mentoring.

Eight Urban League Affiliates around the country are participating, providing additional mentoring services to the young people who already served in one of their existing education and youth development programs for the next three years.

The participating Urban League affiliates are located in:

Dallas, TX / Atlanta, GA / Knoxville, TN / Alexandria, VA / Greenville, SC / Columbia, SC / Chicago, IL / Oklahoma City, OK

Project Ready: Mentor is based upon three primary cornerstones:

1. a mentor/youth relationship building model

2. core work readiness and academic activities leveraged from NUL’s existing programs (Project Ready and the Youth Development Framework and Guide)

3. wraparound activities such as community service learning and financial literacy that further engage the youth and demonstrate meaningful connections to society and the economy

This post-secondary success and mentoring program model involves youth and caring adults in a litany of activities that include but are not limited to: college and career tours, academic enrichment, and service learning activities. Each mentee will receive an Individualized College Development Plan (ICDP) as a part of their enrollment that will monitor their experience and set goals for participation. At minimum, a successful graduate of the program will have been paired with a mentor, completed an ICDP, maintained academic progress, and participated in service learning activities, academic support and assessments as well as career and work readiness activities.

The grant awarded by the Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) also provides funding for affiliates to send teams of 4 youth, 1 staff member and 1 mentor to the 2012 and 2013 Youth Leadership Summits, and Professional Development opportunities for affiliates to send at least one staff member to the 2012 and 2013 National Urban League Whitney M. Young, Jr. Leadership Institute.
The National Urban League’s Education and Youth Development (EYD) division promotes effective and sustained literacy practice for all children and youth. The National Urban League is particularly invested in improving reading comprehension beyond the basic level. Success depends on the ability to master reading, writing, speaking, listening and thinking, both critically and completely. We recognize that the weakness in academic literacy habits and skills that urban students often demonstrate are inextricably linked to their future success in schools, college and the workplace.

To further those efforts, we have developed three interventions: Read and Rise, the Community Mobilization for Adolescent Literacy “Tool Box,” and Literacy Coaches.

**READ AND RISE (EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION)**

Two-thirds of African-American children are currently reading at or below grade level. To address early literacy gaps, the National Urban League has developed Read and Rise, a parent mobilization effort around early literacy support and development in urban areas. The National Urban League recognizes that parents are their children’s first and most important teachers.

The Read and Rise curriculum is designed to be implemented by National Urban League staff or volunteer program facilitators and to promote positive interactions with families that are respectful of the families’ learning levels and culture. Included in the materials are a variety of on-going assessments that are used to provide facilitators with the information needed to revise and/or improve the program.

Read and Rise materials have been developed for use in helping parents increase their knowledge and skills related to early literacy development. By increasing the quality and quantity of informal literacy experiences in the home, it is expected that children’s literacy skills will be strengthened and support life-long learning and positive achievement in schools. Read and Rise helps parents instill a love of reading in their children through the use of how-to guides, magazines, workshops and other supporting materials.

**COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION FOR ADOLESCENT LITERACY “TOOL BOX”**

The “Tool Box” is an innovative, multi-tiered and practical resource to assist in enhancing literacy among young people, families, and communities of color. The “Tool Box” provides community-sensitive strategies that can be implemented through local Urban League affiliates. The ultimate goal of the “Tool Box” is to bolster adolescent literacy in African American families, schools and communities, in targeted response to the literacy crisis.

The “Tool Box” has three primary components:

1. “Organizations Mobilizing for Adolescent Literacy”
2. “Parental/Guardian Engagement in Adolescent Literacy”
3. “Youth/Adolescent Growth in Literacy”

As with other National Urban League products, the “Tool Box” is informed by the latest research and provides useful, field-tested approaches to: directly support youth/adolescent literacy; facilitate parental/guardian engagement with literacy enhancement; and to encourage effective organizational / community collaboration that promote youth/peer literacy and academic achievement.
youth leadership summit
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<th><strong>TUESDAY JULY 24</strong></th>
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<td>9:00 – 5:00 Check In at Tulane University</td>
<td>7:00 – 7:45 Wake Up &amp; Work Out</td>
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<td>9:30 – 2:30 Campus Tours</td>
<td>7:30 – 8:45 BREAKFAST</td>
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<td>12:00 – 2:00 LUNCH</td>
<td>9:15 – 10:30 “Post Secondary Success” Plenary Session presented by HYATT</td>
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<td>3:00 – 4:30 Youth Summit Orientation &amp; Welcome Event presented by</td>
<td>10:45 – 1:00 4th Annual Project Ready Student Case Competition presented by StateFarm</td>
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<td>5:00 – 6:00 Plenary Session – “Ready for Success” presented by</td>
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<td>6:30 – 8:00 DINNER</td>
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<td>8:00 – 9:30 Project Ready Case Competition Finalist Practice</td>
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<td>“Urban Voices SPEAKOUT“</td>
<td>4:00 – 5:00 DINNER</td>
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<td>7:30 – 9:30 President Obama Addresses the NUL Conference Ernest N. Morial Convention Center</td>
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<td>“State of the Urban League”</td>
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<td>Ernest N. Morial</td>
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<td>12:45 – 1:45</td>
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<td>2:00 – 3:30</td>
<td>“Urban Debate”</td>
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<td>4:00 – 6:30</td>
<td>“The Power of Exchange”</td>
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<td>Financial Literacy featuring Youth and Chaperone</td>
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<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<td>Georgia-Pacific</td>
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<td>8:15 – 9:45</td>
<td>ThinkFast Challenge</td>
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<td>8:15 – 9:45</td>
<td>“Sounds of New Orleans: The New Orleans Experience”</td>
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<td>8:00 – 12:00</td>
<td>Youth Leadership Summit Celebration</td>
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program highlights
The 2012 Youth Leadership Summit will be held at Tulane University and is the annual culminating event for all National Urban League Education and Youth Development programs to reinforce the goals and practices of the affiliates’ work with middle and high school-aged youth from across the country. Our five-day event immerses young people in a college setting that provides them with a unique educational and development experience, focused on important skills for success in college, work and life. While youth participants learn to navigate the college experience, affiliate program staff and leadership are provided with structured professional development and capacity building workshops.

The Youth Leadership Summit coincides with the National Urban League Annual Conference to further provide young people with access to Urban League leadership.

Our Youth Leadership Summit Program highlights include:

- the 4th Annual Project Ready Case Competition
- the Urban Debate League
- the Youth Leadership Summit Town Hall
- the 3rd Annual Project Ready Invitational College Fair
- the Legacy of Success Luncheon

Exposing youth to college and real world learning opportunities early in life ignites their interest in going to college and pursuing diverse careers. A signature event at this year’s summit will be the 2012 Project Ready “Inspiring the Next Generation of Innovators” Real World STEM: Connections, Education & Opportunity, which will create hands-on learning experiences utilizing New Orleans as a living STEM laboratory. Engaging in this inspiring event will increase participants’ understanding of real world applications of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) by learning more about the geography of New Orleans and the region, and engaging in service-learning activities in settings that were affected by Hurricane Katrina.
READY FOR SUCCESS

At the 2012 Youth Leadership Summit, we will host Youth Summit participants in a facilitated interactive session designed to present a range of perspectives on how students can best prepare themselves for success during and after high school. During the session, our panelists – that will include Education & Youth Development’s college interns – will share the challenges, opportunities and successes that they have experienced as they have pursued and supported the achievement of their post-secondary aspiration. Our goal is for attendees to walk away with a clearer sense of the opportunities that await them and approaches they can take as they prepare themselves for leadership, service and successful, meaningful lives.

POST-SECONDARY SUCCESS

Extending our focus on career and college readiness and post-secondary success, and in preparation for the 3rd Annual Project Ready College Fair, the National Urban League is joining with American Honda Motor Company to host a conversation with representatives from college access and support organizations, scholarship programs and colleges. The panelists will identify the kinds of investments young people need to make in themselves and the ways in which adults in their lives can assist in their positive development and ultimately, their success.
This year marks the 4th Annual National Urban League Project Ready Case Competition. The Case Competition challenges students from across the affiliate movement to create a proposal and marketing materials to promote and advocate for their approach based on the National Urban League 8 Point Plan: Educate, Employ & Empower, which lists practical and actionable approaches to solve America’s crisis in education.

Education & Youth Development staff thought it important to hear from the nation’s youth – most importantly, Project Ready students – as they addressed the following questions: What do they believe the issues are that are plaguing their schools? What kinds of things are working? How do the supports and services they receive from programs like Project Ready address those issues and present new opportunities for student growth and development? And, perhaps, what additional program supports are needed to fully prepare students for success after high school?

A record twenty proposals were received from Urban League affiliates. As a result, the finalist pool was expanded to include a fifth finalist team, and on Wednesday, July 25th, each team will present its plan to Educate, Employ and Empower youth in their communities. A panel of judges will determine the winning team. The Urban League of Rochester will also be vying to remain the reigning champion of the Case Competition.

The 2012 Case Competition finalists are:

**Columbus Urban League (CUL) Columbus, Ohio**

**PEER TO PEER EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT (P2E2) PROGRAM**

“…providing employment and academic support/resources to students in need”

Team members: Aja Bolden, Tamiya Lamarr, Jazmine Kee, and Marie Morgan

Access to resources is the central focus of CUL Ohio’s Peer to Peer Educational Empowerment Program. Acknowledging the educational discrepancies within underserved communities, this team has identified academic support services, much like Project Ready, as an effective remedy to the current state of our educational system.

As they understand it, “it is evident that one of the many stumbling blocks facing today’s youth is financial inequality,” which parallels academic inequality. Students without access to tutors, mentorship programs, and internships lack the support needed to become academically, professionally, and personally, empowered. With an emphasis on consistent tutoring/mentoring programs that will enhance academic success, CUL Ohio’s P2E2 program will create opportunities for students to excel both inside and outside of the classroom.

**Houston Area Urban League (HAUL) Houston, Texas**

**LEGACY**

“…a program built around leadership and character”

Team Members: Andre Burrell, Tanisha Manning, Damesha Roy, and Willie Williams

Expanding on the National Urban League’s Eight Point Plan, the Houston Area Urban League team has proposed ten additional approaches to “strengthening high schools and re-engaging students to prevent dropouts.” Team Legacy has designed a program structure, which spans across four years of high school, outlining academic strategies (i.e. professional development, parental involvement, and wellness) for each grade level.
By suggesting partnerships with a variety of service organizations, colleges/universities, and mentoring programs, this proposal encourages students (and their parents/guardians) to hold themselves accountable to their educational experiences. The proposal is predicated on a need to strengthen the transitions from middle school to high school, from high school to college, and from college to the workforce, developing students into well-rounded and successful young adults.

**Urban League of Greater New Orleans (ULGN) / New Orleans, Louisiana**

**CRADLE TO COLLEGE (UL C2C)**

“...we must take a long-term approach to preparing youth.”

Cultivating young men into young leaders is ULK’s primary objective. With the lack of “programs and institutional policies that enable young men to overcome barriers,” this team has devised a set of strategies to empower male students to succeed in their academic pursuits, and by extension, their professional careers. By examining the various factors that sustain low retention rates amongst teenage boys in high school, the Urban League of Kansas’ Project Ready team has focused their efforts toward creating opportunities for young men to excel.

In keeping in line with the adage: “It takes a village to raise a child,” the Around My Way Male Development program necessitates a communal investment in the future successes of its young men. The goal of the program is to expose students to “internships, special projects, field trips, and other engaging activities” that will enhance their development and reduce high school dropout rates.

**Urban League of Kansas (ULK) Wichita, Kansas**

**AROUND MY WAY**

“...enabling young men to overcome barriers”

Team Members: Tierra Nolan, Adrian Ponds, Jonathan Shirley, and Aaron Simpson

While aware of how academic restraints contribute to larger high school dropout rates, ULR’s Bullying Prevention Squad has identified bullying as another important variable, citing that “despite the focus on the academic reasons for dropouts, an unsettling number of these students, both in and around [their] community, are caused not by disinterest, but rather the everyday threat of bullying.”

Their approach to the National Urban League’s 8 Point Plan is to dismantle the culture of bullying, which has pervaded many high school environments. By evaluating the negative effects of bullying on a student’s academic performance, ULR’s Project Ready team has proposed a re-imagination of school-wide programming that pre-emptively discourages unsafe behavior amongst and between all students.
ALLSTATE PRESENTS: URBAN DEBATE

One of the cornerstones of the National Urban League Project Ready program is a commitment to career and college readiness and to post-secondary success. It has been shown that involvement in debate has a direct impact on improving educational performance, college-going rates, goal setting and achievement in young people.

For this year’s Summit, the National Urban League, once again, has partnered with Allstate and The National Association for Urban Debate Leagues, the national leadership organization for urban debate, to introduce the value and opportunities of debating to our youth. During the session, Urban League youth will witness a mock debate by students in the Dallas Urban Debate League and hear about the positive impact that debate has had on their lives.

The mission of the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues (NAUDL) is to bring the power of competitive debate to disadvantaged urban students. Debate is a competitive academic activity that builds reading, research, communication and critical thinking skills. Debate levels the playing field for urban students and provides these students with access to the same type of academically rigorous communication and debate skills training available to suburban students. Today, urban debate can be found in 24 of the nation’s largest cities, including Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Nashville, New York City, Newark, and the Oakland/Bay Area, with more than 50,000 students participating nationwide.

THE POWER OF EXCHANGE:
HOW FREE MARKETS PROMOTE PROSPERITY

A Free Market Economy is an economic system built around the belief that supply and demand, competition, and a free play of market forces best serve the interests of society and the common good.

To show Youth Leadership Summit participants how to empower themselves using their entrepreneurial spirit, Georgia Pacific will take the youth through its Power of Exchange activity. Youth will be provided an item which they will set a value to and then go through a “market place,” trading and exchanging with their peers. At the end of the market place session, Georgia Pacific representatives will wrap up the events with a discussion and question and answer period.
HEALTHY BODIES, HEALTHY MINDS, HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

This year, the National Urban League is launching its Project Wellness: Teen – Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds, Healthy Relationships with a half-day session at the Youth Leadership Summit. Focused on enlightening youth on how thoughts, behaviors, diet, exercise, experiences, and relationships all contribute to their development and overall well-being.

Project Wellness: Teen is built upon five principles: a shared responsibility and accountability for teen health and wellness; an asset based approach to changing behavior and attitude via effective instruction and high-quality content; diverse, innovative and effective partnerships; robust, durable and meaningful youth and parent engagement; and the innovative use of peer-led content and dialogue.

In all of our work, including the Youth Leadership Summit, the National Urban League believes positive outcomes for urban youth are best achieved when the program design is based on the assets and interests of stakeholders rather than a sole focus on existing deficiencies. This is reflected in the design of these sessions, as Project Wellness: Teen works to build on the connections – existing and specific strategies, high-quality curricula and content and practical approaches that can sustain a participant’s interest, positively alter behavior and attitude and affect the trajectory of the lives of children and youth – in an enriching and supportive developmental environment with the explicit goal of preparing for success after high school.

Sponsored by Cenpatico, our inaugural Project Wellness: Teen at the Youth Leadership Summit will begin with a comprehensive hour-long panel focused on the overall promotion of teen health and wellness, followed by breakout sessions (organized by age and gender) that will focus on specific wellness strategies and issues that confront today’s urban youth.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS FOR THE YOUTH WILL BE:

- Healthy Relationships
- Healthy Minds
- Healthy Bodies
- Healthy Living
- Health Images

To provide room for conversations, the sessions will be held in a small group setting. This will be an opportunity to address and challenge myths and misconceptions regarding identity, relationships, self-worth, self-presentation, and introduce to youth a new way of interpreting their everyday experiences. While the students are in breakout sessions, chaperones will attend a Professional Development session on Stress & Resource Management, and best practices when working with children and youth.

The National Urban League is excited to offer this opportunity to youth from our affiliate movement. We believe that providing urban youth with additional productive exposure to an array of developmental opportunities, knowledgeable adults outside their families, and motivated peers can accelerate positive emotional, behavioral and attitudinal development and lead to success in college, career and life.
YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT TOWN HALL

The National Urban League will host its Annual Youth Leadership Summit Town Hall. Sponsored by Best Buy, this year’s town hall is entitled, “Educate, Employ, Empower: The Triple E’s of Success.” The Town Hall will be held on Friday, July 27th at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The event will engage youth and youth advocates and leaders in a dialogue about the opportunities, challenges and possibilities that can be had when one pursues the “Triple E’s of Success.” This is an opportunity to gain the insight and commentary from the youth on the roadblocks they anticipate in preparing for college, work and life, and to discuss effective approaches to success. The Town Hall will culminate with questions and reactions from the audience, which will be comprised of our 2012 Youth Leadership Summit participants and youth from the New Orleans area.

FUN & FITNESS CHALLENGE

As part of its commitment to youth and healthy choices, the National Urban League is partnering with Coca-Cola to host the Fun & Fitness Challenge. This fun, interactive event provides Summit participants with the opportunity to be physically and mentally engaged while competing with one another in a series of challenges. Activities are designed to reinforce the message that mental skills and physical activity contribute to good leadership development, and to promote fitness and deepen youth people’s commitment to health. Teams will play against each other to win points and prizes, and celebrate their health and well-being.
The National Urban League is proud to host its 3rd Annual Project Ready College Fair during the Youth Leadership Summit.

Our Project Ready Invitational College Fair is designed to provide New Orleans area scholarship organizations, college access organizations and colleges and universities with the opportunity to meet with more than 500 youth and adults from across the country.

**PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS INCLUDE:**

Alabama A&M University  
Allen University  
American University  
Auburn University  
Benedict College  
Bentley University  
Carleton College  
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania  
City Year  
Colby College  
Colgate University  
College Board  
College of Charleston  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Davidson College  
Delgado Community College  
Dickinson College  
Dillard University  
Educational Testing Service  
Emory University  
Fisk University  
Florida A&M University  
Gates Millennium Scholars Program  
Jackson State University  
LeMoyne-Owen College  
Louisiana State University  
Loyola University New Orleans  
Miles College  
Mount Holyoke College  
Navy ROTC  
Paul Quinn College  
Rice University  
South Carolina State University  
Southern Methodist University  
Spelman College  
Stanford University  
Stillman College  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Tulane University  
Tuskegee University  
UNCF  
United States Marine Corps  
University of Missouri  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Rochester  
University of South Florida  
Urban League College Track Program  
US Department of Education  
Vanderbilt University  
Wesleyan University  
Xavier University of LA
The National Urban League is proud to be hosting its 3rd Annual Legacy of Success Luncheon.

This luncheon is one of the highlights of the Youth Leadership Summit. Created in response to a former student participant’s excitement in meeting an actual Ph.D. recipient, the Legacy of Success Luncheon has been designed to provide Youth Leadership Summit participants with an opportunity to meet and interact with successful women and men of color across various professional fields.

In keeping with our Youth Leadership Summit theme, “*Educate, Employ, Empower: The Triple E’s of Success,*” our youth will meet and dine with professionals who are asked to share their personal, educational and professional journeys, and answer questions pertaining to college access, readiness and leadership. In addition to their time with youth, volunteers will be provided with an opportunity to network with other professionals from various fields of expertise. Through this afternoon event, Urban League youth will gain access to important information and perspectives that will help them to further develop critical life-skills and goals.
The 2012 Youth Leadership Awards Ceremony honors the outstanding youth and adults who exemplify the ideals of our mission and work in their everyday lives. The National Urban League recognizes excellence in academic achievement and a dedication to mentoring, both of which are integral parts of ensuring success and prosperity of our youth.

EDDIE L. MOORE
CARING ADULT OF THE YEAR

The National Urban League Youth Leadership Summit Caring Adult of the Year Award was established in honor of Columbia, South Carolina Urban Leaguer and NULITES Team Member, Eddie L. Moore, who died unexpectedly of a massive stroke at the age of 32 on April 7, 2009. President/CEO James T. McLawhorn once observed, “To see that level of enthusiasm about serving young people was inspiring, especially from such a young man. You didn’t have to question Eddie’s level of commitment to his job.”

The Caring Adult of the Year award recognizes staff workers and volunteers who work tirelessly to empower and assist in the development of young people in the Affiliate Movement.

“EMPOWER OUR CHILDREN” OUTSTANDING AFFILIATE AWARD

Formerly known as the NULITES Chapter of the Year Award, the “Empower Our Children” Outstanding Affiliate Award recognizes the work of one youth-serving affiliate that demonstrates (through its youth programs, members served, parental involvement and community partnership) its dedication to empowering our children and commitment to the I AM EMPOWERED goal that Every American Child is Ready for College, Work & Life by 2025.

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE YOUTH VANGUARD AWARD

For nearly 25 years, the National Urban League has focused on serving young people through innovative youth initiatives such as the Merrill Lynch Scholarship Builders, Campaign for African American Achievement, National Achievers Society, and most recently, the National Urban League Incentives To Excel & Succeed (NULITES). This award recognizes innovative leadership among our youth who have graduated from these initiatives.

“I AM EMPOWERED” YOUTH OF THE YEAR AWARD

Formerly known as the “NULITER of the Year” Award, the “I Am Empowered” Youth of the Year is an award shared with the entire movement. The recipient exemplifies a positive outlook and character, participates in extracurricular activities, has improved grades, exhibits exemplary involvement with community service, and effectively demonstrates the impact of the Urban League programs in his or her personal development and empowerment.

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE PROJECT READY CASE COMPETITION AWARD

This year marks 4th Annual National Urban League Project Ready Case Competition! The Case Competition is the annual opportunity for National Urban League Project Ready sites to empower their youth participants to compete for awards and prizes. The theme this year is: Educate the Youth, Empower the Nation.

The 2012 case is based on the National Urban League 8 Point Plan: Educate, Employ & Empower, which lists practical and actionable approaches to solve America’s crisis in education. Five student teams from across the affiliate movement will
address questions such as: What do they believe the issues are that are plaguing their schools? What kinds of things are working? How do the supports and services they receive from programs like Project Ready address those issues and present new opportunities for student growth and development? And, perhaps, what additional program supports are needed to fully prepare students for success after high school?

The 2012 Case Competition finalists are: Columbus Urban League, Houston Area Urban League, Urban League of Greater New Orleans, Urban League of Kansas, and Urban League of Rochester. The winning team will be announced at the Legacy of Success Luncheon & Awards Ceremony.

ETS YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT SCHOLARSHIPS

For the past three years, the Education Testing Service (ETS) has generously provided scholarships to Urban League affiliates and youth who would otherwise not have been able to participate in the Youth Leadership Summit.

“I AM EMPOWERED” MARATHON OIL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY SCHOLARSHIP

The “I Am Empowered” Marathon Oil Social Responsibility Scholarship is awarded to high school seniors who can demonstrate how they have been empowered and will empower others in the future. The winning applicants must be active participants of an Urban League Youth Development Program and demonstrate how they have been empowered by the Urban League through their academic studies, community service and other demonstrations of empowerment. A total of fifteen $1,000 scholarships will be awarded to the students, who will be entering a post-secondary institution in the Fall.

Tessa Piety / Knoxville Area Urban League
Ja’vona Bush / Palm Beach County Urban League
Ariel Laidley / Palm Beach County Urban League
Christopher Rolle / Palm Beach County Urban League
Briana Nicole Thomas / Palm Beach County Urban League
Sherine Thorpe / Palm Beach County Urban League
Tiffany Wright / Palm Beach County Urban League
Erinn Brooks / Quad County Urban League
Imani Hughes / Quad County Urban League
Alisha R. Sandridge / Quad County Urban League
Cynthia Smith / Quad County Urban League
Victoria Wilson / Quad County Urban League
Keni Iman Gray-Timmons / Urban League of Greater Chattanooga
Brianna Banks / Urban League of Hampton Roads
Jonathan Lee Leake / Urban League of Hampton Roads
A signature event at the year’s summit will be the 2012 Project Ready “Inspiring the Next Generation of Innovators” Real World STEM: Connections, Education & Opportunity, which will create hands-on learning experiences utilizing New Orleans as a living STEM laboratory.

On Saturday, July 28th, Youth Leadership Summit students will learn real world applications of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) by visiting settings affected by Hurricane Katrina, areas impacted by wetland erosion, and learning more about how the geography of the city and region makes them particularly vulnerable to extreme weather conditions.

**PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS / SITES INCLUDE:**

- Dillard University
- Golden Leaf Energy, Inc.
- Levies.org
- Make It Right Foundation
- National Wildlife Federation
- Parkway Partner
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
We appreciate the support of our 23rd Annual National Urban League Youth Leadership Summit Sponsors!

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Dreams empower us to make the impossible seem real

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

Honda would like to salute the National Urban League for their initiatives to empower all of us to dream and become a force for change in America.
Giving $1 billion for education. And bright futures.

Target® is on track to give $1 billion to support education by the end of 2015, so kids and schools in your community have what they need to succeed.

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WHEN IT COMES TO INSPIRING TOMORROW’S LEADERS, WE’RE HAPPY TO LEND A HAND.

Allstate is proud to support the National Urban League’s 2012 Youth Leadership Summit.
ETS is a proud supporter of the National Urban League’s 2012 Youth Leadership Summit and its efforts to advance students’ college and career readiness goals.

ETS develops, administers and scores more than 50 million tests annually — including the TOEFL® and TOEIC® tests, the GRE® General and Subject Tests and The Praxis Series™ assessments — in over 180 countries, at more than 9,000 locations worldwide.

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Georgia-Pacific and Youth Entrepreneurs® Atlanta are proud to sponsor the 2012 National Urban League Youth Leadership Summit

OUR DIFFERENCES HELP US GROW

At Georgia-Pacific, we believe real growth doesn’t happen Despite differences—it happens because of them. Which is why we actively seek employees from all walks of life. Diverse backgrounds, perspectives and ideas play a huge role in our success. They also have a way of bringing out the best in people. Just ask one of the 33,000 different individuals growing along with us.

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The National Urban League Youth Leadership Summit Steering Committee represents some of the best and the brightest young people involved in Urban League youth leadership programs. Annually, the National Urban League invites the host affiliate and regional affiliates for the Annual Conference to identify young people from their programs who will serve as ambassadors for the Youth Leadership Summit. As part of the steering committee, these young people meet with representatives of the National Urban League Education & Youth Development Division to create the Youth Leadership Summit’s theme.

The 2012 National Youth Leadership Summit Steering Committee is comprised of students from the Urban League of Greater New Orleans College Track Program.

Yasmien Brown

Being a youth leader is really a big deal to me. I have the opportunity to educate my peers and children younger than me. I’ve always dreamed of becoming a Hematologist and a Chef, since I was about 7 years old. To attain my dreams I will continue to work hard, finish school, attend college for however long I have to and stay on the right path. If we had a time capsule of this Youth Summit, I would like to leave behind advice for the future generations to take school and your education seriously.

Tia Cage

In my opinion, being a youth leader is setting an example for your peers and other people because you’re leading them. You should take responsibility for your actions. People can’t be following after you if you’re doing wrong yourself. I will be a sophomore in the fall of 2012. As of now, when I grow up, I would like to be a successful pharmacist. Right now, my heart is set on going to Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana. If I could, I would tell someone younger than me to, most importantly, get an education. Don’t drop out of school. Go to college because education is one of the few things that can’t be taken away. So, why wouldn’t you try to get an education?

Kaila Nykole Holloway

I do whatever I can to ensure that I am a person who youth can look up to. Being a youth leader means acting as a guiding influence in a child’s life. I try to embody this to my fullest ability. After high school, I plan to attend Howard University in hopes of becoming an anesthesiologist. I also have a passion for cooking, and have a dream of opening my own restaurant in the heart of my hometown of New Orleans. To achieve my future goals, I am going to push myself for greatness, always put forth 100% effort, and never settle for less. My participation in Urban League College Track is a catalyst to my success.

Happie’a Martin

Well for starters I have one of the most unique names you will ever hear of! Being from New Orleans, a city that’s has gone through a lot of hard times and is still trying to recover, I will one day be the help that New Orleans needs. The only way I can help my city while doing what I love is to become a pediatrician / child psychologist. I believe that the only way the city of New Orleans will ever become a greater place than it was before Hurricane Katrina is to start with the children. The city has few places teens can turn to in a time of need, so I plan to create that place for them by opening a center. My advice to someone younger than me is to always be a leader, not a follower, because being a follower will sometimes lead you in the wrong path.
I will be starting college in the Fall. I am the oldest of three children. Well I’m the oldest by 2 minutes because I’m a twin; I also have a younger brother. At my age there’s a lot of peer pressure to do wrong things, and everybody just follows everyone else because they don’t want to seem uncool; but being a youth leader means that you won’t care about what everyone else is doing. Being a leader means doing the right thing not the popular thing. When I grow up I want to be an entrepreneur and own various businesses. I plan to go to college and graduate school to obtain a Bachelors in Business and MBA. Joining Urban League College Track has made a big impact on my life and it helps me financially in a huge way. I continue to participate in this program because I get help in everything I do. If I were to give advice to someone younger, I would say don’t be a procrastinator, have great time management skills, and learn how to balance social and school life.

Being a youth leader means I am setting an example for my peers. I will be attending college in the fall. When I grow up I want to be an entrepreneur and own various businesses. I plan to go to college and graduate school to obtain a Bachelors in Business and MBA. Joining Urban League College Track has made a big impact on my life and it helps me financially in a huge way. I continue to participate in this program because I get help in everything I do. If I were to give advice to someone younger, I would say don’t be a procrastinator, have great time management skills, and learn how to balance social and school life.

I was born and raised in New Orleans and I’m still here. I consider myself to be a youth leader in my community and it is such an honor for my community to accept me. Being a youth leader to me is standing out at a young age in your community, making a difference. We children have a very powerful voice. We are the future so we should know what we want for our world in the future. Putting conferences together, like the Youth Leadership Conference, is what’s really making the difference in how we educate and give a voice to our youth. There are too many flaws in this world today for the youth to just sit back and relax—let’s step up to the plate.

I love to draw, learn, explore and challenge myself. In the Fall of 2012, I will be attending Southeastern University, where I will be studying nursing and pre med. My goal is to graduate with my Bachelors Degree in Nursing, and come back to New Orleans—home—to work in my community.
WE SALUTE OUR 2012 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

The National Urban League congratulates high school graduates from Education & Youth Development programs throughout the affiliate movement as they prepare for college, work and life. Some of the graduating seniors include students from the following affiliates.

**Fort Wayne Urban League**

graduates will be pursuing post-secondary success at: Indiana-Purdue University of Indianapolis, Ivy Tech State College, Masters School of Cosmetology, and the Military.

Deven Bridges
Denise Brunson
Andrea Eaton
Lavraea Eldridge
Kristina Harrington
Lajaysha Richardson
Clayton Westerman

**Houston Area Urban League**

graduates will be pursuing post-secondary success at: Full Sail University, Philander Smith, Spelman College, Texas A&M College Station, and Texas Southern University.

Andre Burrell
Kiera Bashay
Simone Holloway
Tanisha Manning
Chassidy Oakley
Damesha Roy
Willie Williams
Lavoshae Wygal

**Indianapolis Urban League**

graduates will be pursuing post-secondary success at: Ball State University, Ivy Tech, Indiana State University, IUPUI at Indianapolis, Indiana University, Indiana Wesleyan, Marian University, Purdue University, Rochester College, Vincennes University, and the University of Indianapolis.

Felipe Hernandez Alvares
Jonathon Aris Barrientos
Millionett Baxter

Justin Michael Becktell
Mariah Dawn Sophia Benefiel
Erik D. Brown
Kiea Brown
Brandon D. Butz
Alexander Caldera
Edgar Daniel Calderon-Rodriguez
Terry A. Campbell, Jr.
Monica Cegueda-Pena
Montaya Collier
Shalanda Caree Cooper
Kevin Couch
Joseph Davis
Christina Dupree
Martin Duran
Janet Lynn Elsbur
Johnny D. Etter, Jr.
Jacob Lee Farr
Lucas Stephen Ford
Ramon Dujuan Fox
Jessica Frazier
Joseph M. Fuller
Harley Daniels Turner Garcia
Roberto Garduno
David Christopher Gonzalez
Carlos Alberto Gonzalez
Honoria Gonzalez
Saul Gonzalez
Bianna Green
Morgan Brittany Hamilton
Marie Harris
William Heise
Jarmane Ahmed Hughes
Elsa Avila Jimenez
Terrance L. Johnson
Timothy Carl Johnson
James B. Jones
MarkKeith JamarShay Jones
Thurman Ayrius Jones
Motasha Latimore
Steve Latimore
A'Nysha Donjere’ Linzy
Christian E. Maerz
Olga Munoz-Martinez
Ashley McIntyre
Labria Tonia McVeA
Vivian M. Miles
Clare Eloise Miller
Darian Morris
Dominic Nelis
Shekoya Purnell
Chad D. Reeves
Xavier Roberts
Jazmin I. Rodriguez
Dexter J. Rogers
Maiesha M. Sanders
Alexander James Shelton
Amanda A. Sims
Elizabeth M. Tackett
Breanna Renee Taylor
Sean Totten
Dorian D. Triplett
Treyvaughn Weaver
Dacreasha Young
Efren Zapata-Flores

**Urban League of Greater Chattanooga**

graduates will be pursuing post-secondary success at: Chattanooga State, Fisk University, Lee University, Middle Tennessee State University, Reinhardt University, Southern Illinois University, Spelman College, Stillman College, Tennessee State University, University of Alabama-Birmingham, University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

Keyonna Ashford
Dalaia Austin
Gregory Besley, Jr
Treketta Bonds
James Clemens
Alexandria Davis
Erinnes Drake
Alexandria Fuller
JaDarous Gillispie
Keni Iman Gray-Timmons
Taylor Harris
Chelse’ Hatten-Ross
Victoria Henderson
Aven Hunter-Price
Deric Ison
Hussnain Javid
Taylor Lewis
Bianca Perkins
Ezekiel Rudolph
Denzel Swain
Rachel Tolliver
Brianna Wesley

**Urban League of Greater Cleveland**

graduates will be pursuing post-secondary success at: Bowling Green State University, Central State University, Clark Atlanta University, Cleveland State University, Cuyahoga Community College, Eastern Michigan, Hiram College, University of Akron, University of Toledo, Virginia Union University, and Walsh Jesuit University.

Dataruz Aniton
Succarra Anderson
Anisha Ashford
Shalez Baker
Brando Baldwin
Karion Banks
Tiana Bradford
Kenneth Burnett
Elijah Bush
Mario Campbell
Kahmera Colvin
Xavier Dowdell
Dyleisha Fair
William Foy
Betty Gay
Taylor Goolsby
Anna Gould
Taylor Griffin
Dominique Hill
Sparkle Hill
Deonte Hood
Tony Jackson
Christopher Jamison
Aaron Johnson
Jai’Queshia Johnson
Jamil Johnson
Shakira Johnson
Tomisluv Johnson
Donesha Jones
Mijamar Jones
Kevin Kinds
Jesse Mays
Larissa Mckenzie
Michael McMillan
Marcus McNeal
Rahmere Merritt
Zhane Mills
Ryan Mitchell Jr.
Marrena Moore
Gregory Nicholson
Ta’raya O’Neal
Willard Osborn
Derek Perkins
DeAnthony Riggs
James Robinson
Porsche Roolton
Vincia Rountree
Jimisha Sailes
Jason Simmons
Raphael Stedmire
Richard Stokes
Lary Stromer
Shameka Taylor
Tra’bienne Tolliver
Marcysheiyah Turner
Lady Walker
Breanna Washington
Tyra Washington
Levert Williams
Trevari Williams
Faydra Wilson
Cierra Woods
Justin Young

Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh graduates will be pursuing post-secondary success at: Community College of Allegheny County, Duquesne University, Penn State University, Pittsburgh Technical Institute, and Seton Hill University.

Deryck Benton
Breonna Dama
Alexis Davis-Jones
Jasmine Johnson
Jayshawn Moore
Kizuwanda Raines

Urban League of Kansas graduates will be pursuing post-secondary success at: Butler County Community College, Coffeyville Community College, Cowley County Community College, Dodge City Community College, Emporia State University, Friends University, Kansas State University, Langston University, Pittsburgh State University, Pratt Community College, Savannah State University, Southwestern College, Southwestern Missouri State, U.S. Air Force, University of Baylor, University of Arizona, Wichita Area Technical College, Wichita State University, and Vanderbilt University.

Chenice Avery
Zakiya Barnes
Desiree Bland
Bobby Brokschmidt
Damian Brown
Zara Brown
Toyaunna Burris
Stephanie Calloway
James Calvert
Le’Andre Carthen
Marquez Chambers
Shaquille Cook
Laura Cuevas
Emily Dee
Bertha DeLos
Andrew Diaz
Michelle Do
Jesse Duckens
Jamesia Ellis
Lamont Emarri
AJ English
Freddie Foust
D’Avonte Garland
Alexus Grace
Tarez Griffin
Shaina Hoy
Chinassa Iwuoha-Phillips
Bernaiyya Jackson
Ashley Jenkins
Breanna Johnson
Lucreatia Johnson
Brenton Lee
Davonn Lowery
Joshua Morris
Trekia Nolen
Carrie Patton
Gakesha Philips
Ebonie Porter
Tanisha Porter
Tyler Rogers
Kiana Roundtree
Aaron Sanchez
Juan Ramiro Sarmiento
Ivy Sellers
Stephanie Shugart
SiRicayah Simpkins
Antonio Terrel
Edwin Thompson
Elizabeth Thompson
Malee Tolbert
DiQuan Toles
Brianna Vann
Ceyaira Washington
Dasia Washington
Joshua Washington

Urban League of Rochester graduates will be pursuing post-secondary success at: Alfred State College, Buffalo State College, Canisus College, Clarkson University, Finger Lakes Community College, Hilbert College, Howard University, Onondaga Community College, Rochester Institute of Technology, Saint Bonaventure University, St. Johns University, and The Art Institute of Tennessee-Nashville.

Constant Beaty
Jonathan Blythers
Alex Brumfield
Collin Bussey
Victor Gill
Chelsea Harris
Khadija Harris
Edward Joiner
Tahji Jones
Ridge McKnight
Troy Nelson
Aisha Parker
Pamineo Richards
Timarra Thomas

Urban League of Springfield (MA) graduates will be pursuing post-secondary success at: American International College, Stone Academy, and Worcester State University.

Kaila Barnett
Dana Henry
Sheana Wallace

Jasmine Williams
Lena Williams
Myranda Williams
Jazmin Wilson
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Urban League of Springfield (MA)
Urban League of the Upstate, Inc.
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## STAFF

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Vice President</td>
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<td>Manager</td>
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<td>Quincy Dunlap</td>
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