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The Young Center

Building a new generation of leaders

Since 2001, the Young Center for Academic & Cultural Enrichment has stood as a model of success and symbol of hope for hundreds of disadvantaged youth looking for a way out of the vicious cycle of poverty and despair.

With award-winning youth training programs and a proven track record of success, the L.A.-based non-profit has emerged as one of the most effective organizations of its kind in the nation.

More than 10,000 diverse youth from 153 schools and local communities statewide have participated in programs sponsored by the organization.

More than 50% of its youth participants are from low-income households in under-served communities and require financial assistance.

With funding support from organizations like Northrop Grumman, Farmers Insurance and Brotherhood Crusade, the Young Center recruits, trains and inspires disadvantaged youth to achieve excellence, helps them develop critical knowledge and skills, and mobilizes them as leaders to identify and address the needs of their community through service.

“The Young Center represents an incredible opportunity for young people to realize their infinite potential to change the world around them,” says Dr. Gayle Garrett, Principal, L.A. Unified School District. “The impact this organization and its programs have had on our students and our community has been phenomenal.”

One hundred percent of the organization’s graduates have been accepted to accredited colleges and universities nationwide compared with the statewide average of 23%.

“Our students are among the brightest and most gifted and talented youth in the nation,” says Founder/President William A. Young. “With the proper training and guidance, there is no limit to what they can accomplish.”

The organization recycles its young talent and brainpower back into the community by hiring former students as tutors and college mentors for incoming program participants.

“Our students have a moral obligation to give back to their community,” says Mr. Young. “What they learn, they must teach. When they get, they must give back. It’s how we maintain our village.”

“When I first came to the Young Center, I was so nervous and really didn’t know what I wanted to do,” recalls former participant and Spelman College grad, Nicole Boggs. “They gave me the confidence and support I needed to follow my dreams and succeed.”

“We are very proud of the work the Young Center is doing to uplift the hearts and minds of so many young people,” says Joyce Peyton, former Director, Senior High Schools Division, L.A. Unified School District. “It is so vitally needed in our community.”

Despite the organization’s many successes and accomplishments, Mr. Young says there is still much work to be done.

“There’s still not enough being done to help the youth of our community develop the skills needed to succeed at the highest levels. It’s as if someone has already decided that these children aren’t going to make it. That’s unacceptable to us.”

For more information about the Young Center visit www.theyoungcenter.com.



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