

THE YOUNG LEADERS' ACADEMY OF BATON ROUGE, INC.

2010 SUMMER ACADEMY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010

MAKING FINANCES FUN



Young leaders gather around for a money management exercise as part of a financial training program during Summer Academy. MidCity Redevelopment Alliance and The Rural School and Community Trust sponsored the YLA Family Financial Literacy Fun Night on July 8.

Last week YLA parents got a sneak peek of what their young leaders do at Summer Academy.

YLA partnered with local businesses on July 8 to put on the Family Financial Literacy Fun Night.

Families had the chance to win prizes while learning

from professionals how to improve their financial lives. The evening was the culmination of a financial training program the boys experienced during Summer Academy.

Parents met with exhibitors before and after the program for individual

advice on money management.

Exhibitors included Money Management International, Home Ownership Center, Internal Revenue Service, Campus Federal, IDA, Office of Community Development, and Ways to Work.



Mr. Kirt Bennett

In Memoriam

This year, we lost our friend, mentor, advocate, and first executive director. Kirt Bennett served as the first Executive Director of Young Leaders Academy (YLA) from 1994-2005. His charisma attracted the support of the business and education communities in support of the YLA mission. He started with 45 young men from six Baton Rouge schools and built a program that has endured for almost two decades.

Mr. Bennett led this organization through its infancy and to great heights, and we will continue to honor his legacy through the pursuit of leadership, scholarship and service .

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: SHANDERRICK'S STORY

Shanderrick Williams entered the Academy in 2001 as a third-grader from North Highlands Elementary.

He was in Group VI of young leaders at the Academy and graduated from YLA in 2006. Shanderrick was raised primarily by his grandparents, Joyce and Lee Henry, because his parents

were in and out of jail. Except for his grandfather, no one in Shanderrick's immediate family has graduated from high school or college.

Shanderrick refused to be a statistic. He graduated with honors from Glen Oaks High School. The YLA alum will be attending Morehouse College in Atlanta this fall.



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



YLA would like to congratulate its Group X graduates — Masters Marlon Antoine, Taylor Matthew, Tony Mitchell, and Edwin Whitfield.

All of these graduates have maintained above 3.5 GPA. Taylor, Tony, and Edwin will be attending Baton Rouge Magnet High School, and Marlon will be attending Christian Life Academy in the fall as 9th graders.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I'm eternally grateful. I honor our staff, who show up daily to do the hard work and heart work that truly makes the Academy a special place to be loved and to grow. My heart goes out to our parents who trust us to be part of their village to help them raise strong, principled and committed young men.

I am thankful most of all for the young men of YLA, whose lives we touch and whose hands we hold, as words cannot begin to express the joy I feel to be associated with them and the countless ways they inspire me to be a better person and a better leader.

With sadness in my heart, I also remember and give thanks for the life and legacy of Mr. Kirt Bennett, our

friend and first Executive Director who passed away suddenly this past May. Kirt was a visionary leader who laid a solid foundation that continues to direct our path today.

We will honor Kirt's memory by continuing to prepare a new generation of leaders who will stand against injustice; reach out to others and help those in need; see value in all living things; speak the truth and share wisdom and who will know love and give love and service openly, abundantly and without restraint.

The mission is still relevant, the hope lives on... and the legacy shall never die.

Tonya G. Robertson
YLA Executive Director

As another program year ends, I pause to give thanks for the amazing opportunity I have to lead such a wonderful organization. I give thanks to our Board of Directors who guide our vision with clarity, compassion and sincere appreciation of the necessary work done here at YLA.

To our donors and supporters...your generosity ensures that our mission work moves forward and for that

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Executive Director

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

- **Volunteer** as a mentor or reading friend
- **Help plan** community service projects, career exploration programs, culture awareness experiences, and mentorship opportunities
- **Send donations** to 419 North 19th Street, Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 or P.O. Box 4465, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4465

Special Appreciation to

St. Luke's Episcopal Church & Middle School
for welcoming us into their home

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for their generous support and printing

Just the Facts

- 100%:** Passage on Leap/Iowa Tests
- 3.5:** Average GPA
- 94%:** Member attendance
- 85%:** Alumni high school graduation rate