



Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.

QUAD COUNTY
URBAN LEAGUE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

QCUL QUARTERLY

Serving DuPage, Kane, Kendall & Will counties

APRIL - JUNE 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am very pleased to tell you about our plan to construct a Vocational and Educational Training Center at our current 1685 N. Farnsworth site and newly acquired adjacent lot.

The Center will house the Aurora Middle School Academy, all existing QCUL programs, and expanded services for vocational training. Training opportunities will be designed to meet the needs of the local economy – including a focus on the trades. There will be increased space for GED

for career opportunities that will provide a comfortable standard of living. Our community deserves nothing less!

Cordogan, Clark and Associates will oversee all aspects of the construction of the Vocational and Educational Training Center. We expect to break ground in October 2006 and are looking at a first phase completion date of July 2007.

To our knowledge, the QCUL Vocational and Educational Center will be the only facility of its kind in Kane, Kendall, DuPage and Will counties.

Mayor Weisner of Aurora and Karen McConnaughay, Kane County Board Chair are Honorary Co-Chairs of the campaign.

We look forward to your financial support of our capital campaign. Remember, the QCUL Vocational and Educational Training Center will:

- Expand the current facility from 5,400 square feet to approximately 23,200 total square feet.
- Enhance existing Urban League programs that serve the community.
- Increase the number of training classes.
- Develop the Aurora Middle School Academy into a state-of-the-art program.
- Increase QCUL's capacity for computer training.
- Increase the number of meeting rooms available for use by the community.



Theodia Gillespie
President & CEO



instruction, space for employer training programs, computer labs for youth and adults and meeting rooms for community activities.

Local government officials, union representatives, and corporate leaders have been invited to partner with us to create opportunity and hope for all members of the community. The Board of Directors is committed to moving Quad County Urban League to an entirely new level of effectiveness and greater impact for the communities we serve.

As an organization, QCUL is challenged to educate community members so that they are qualified



Building A Legacy. Empowering Communities. is QCUL's five year, five million dollar capital campaign.



For more information about our **Building A Legacy. Empowering Communities.** campaign, call or email us.

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Please forward comments, ideas and suggestions for *QCUL Quarterly* to Sandra Charles.

Email: sandracharles@qcul.org
Phone: (630) 851-2203
Fax: (630) 851-2703



ANNUAL MEETING & EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AWARDS DINNER

QCUL's Annual Meeting was held on April 5th, 2006. With more than 250 people in attendance, corporate, academic and civic leaders received QCUL Equal Opportunity Awards for their contributions to their professions and their commitment to championing civil rights programs and initiatives in partnership with the League.

Pamela Bradley is very committed to the community. She is Administrator for the Kane County State's Attorney's Office and coordinates the East Aurora Weed and Seed.

Outstanding Community Service

Mark L. Sanders, I is a scholar, youth advocate, and leader at Main Baptist Church. He is the first African-American Engineering Supervisor at Caterpillar's Aurora plant.

Outstanding Community Service

Dr. Michael Radakovich recently retired as the Superintendent of East Aurora School District 131, the first public school in the State of Illinois.

Outstanding Educator

Pastor David Williams is the Outreach Minister at Calvary Church in Naperville. He oversees the serving of hot meals to more than 3,000 homeless annually.

Outstanding Religious Leadership

Mayor Tom Weisner works tirelessly to instill a "commitment to excellence" in order to fulfill his campaign pledge to make Aurora "A City Second to None!"

Lifetime Achievement

Richard Howard is Vice President of DaimlerChrysler Truck Financial For Daimler Chrysler Financial Services Americas.

Marie Wilkinson (QCUL) Board Member Award



Vicki Stull is Executive Director of Fox Valley United Way. Under her leadership, the annual campaign raised \$2M for 2 consecutive years - a first for the organization.

Outstanding Community Service



E. Geraldine Gray is District 204's first African-American principal. She is a candidate for the HRD degree in 2006 from the University of Illinois.

Outstanding Educator



Pastor Mark Smith is the founding and senior pastor of Family & Faith Christian Church. He also is President of the Center for Community Empowerment, a local think tank.

Outstanding Religious Leadership



Pastor Nathaniel Edmond serves at Second Baptist Church in Elgin. He is a certified family counselor with family, marriage and teen counseling experience.

Outstanding Religious Leadership



William A. Powell was appointed Chief of Police for the City of Aurora on November 2, 2005. In 1977 he was the 4th African-American Police Officer in Aurora.

Lifetime Achievement



Cole Hughley is a seasoned professional with extensive domestic and international finance and planning experience. An entrepreneur, he owns CDent.

Marie Wilkinson (QCUL) Board Member Award

Board of Directors

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Coleman Hughley
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1st Vice Chairperson

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Theodia Gillespie
President / CEO

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Steve Betz
General Motors

Barbara Brown
TCF Bank

Chris Brown
Comcast

Pamela Meyer Davis
Edwards Hospital

Albert Demming
Demming's Hallmark

Dr. Diane Homan
Rush Copley Medical Center

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DaimlerChrysler Truck Financial

Kevin Johnson
SBC

Lawrence Lewis
United Parcel Service

Sally Long
Caterpillar, Inc.

Dr. Deborah Lovingood
Waubensee Community College

Patt Medchill
Hollywood Casino - Aurora

Oboi Reed
Nike, Inc.

Deborah Strout
Provena Mercy Center Hospital

Anthony Taylor
Coca Cola Bottling Corp. of Chicago

Advisors

Gerald Jones
Kane County Board

Scheketa Hart-Burns
City of Aurora, Alderperson



UYEP STUDENT BUILDING HOUSES FOR KATRINA SURVIVORS

Mario Atkins has been accepted into the YouthBuild U.S.A. Graduate AmeriCorps Katrina Rebuild Project. He is one of 35



individuals selected to be a program participant. He recently left for the GulfCoast area where 35 trained YouthBuild members from across the country will rebuild up to 300 houses destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The small devastated community of North Gulfport, on the Mississippi coast, will benefit from this construction program.

Mario has made a one-year commitment to the Katrina Rebuilding Project and will reside at the Gulfport Naval Construction Battalion Center for one year.

Quad County Urban League is

very proud to have one of its own recent UYEP graduates be a part of this important project.

The Urban Youth Empowerment Program assists the community by helping youth rebuild their lives with a focused commitment to education, work, responsibility and family.

UYEP offers out of school and/or adjudicated youth 18 to 21 years of age the opportunity to work towards their GED while learning basic job skills through internships, on-the-job training and community service projects.

Strong emphasis is placed on leadership and personal development, community service and the creation of a positive mini-community of adults and youth who are committed to their personal success.

In conjunction with community and corporate partners, UYEP delivers the academic, career exploration and personal development needed to launch a

successful career.

In a classroom setting, specialized instructors prepare students for GED examinations. Individualized study plans help students prepare for their chosen careers.

Internships allow students to receive hands-on training from employers to learn basic skills in careers they have expressed an interest in developing. The work experience at each site is designed to promote the development of good work habits and basic work skills.

One year follow-up services are provided to all students enrolled in the program for résumé writing, employment counseling or any other services offered by Quad County Urban League.

To **ENROLL** and for more information about QCUL's Urban Youth Empowerment Program, call Ricky Rodgers, Counselor Advocate, (630) 851-2203.

SAVE THE DATE . .

31st

Annual
Equality
Gala

Saturday, October 28, 2006

Signature Events

at Seven Bridges

6440 Double Eagle Drive

Woodridge, Illinois 60517

Coretta Scott King Award

WEST AURORA SCHOOL DISTRICT HONORS

QCUL 2006 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AWARDS WINNERS

To commemorate Quad County Urban League's 2006 Equal Opportunity Award winners for Lifetime Achievement and Outstanding Educator, the West Aurora School District presented a collection of books at QCUL's Annual Meeting on April 5th. Twenty-five Coretta Scott King Award Books from 2001 through 2005 were donated to the Aurora Public Library in honor of Mayor Weisner and Police Chief Powell, East Aurora School District Superintendent, Dr. Radakovich and Indian Prairie School District Educator, Geraldine Gray. The books are on display at the Main Library. They will be added to the Bookmobile collection of circulating materials.

The Annual Equality Gala is QCUL's principal fundraising event. All proceeds benefit our education, employment, advocacy and social service programs and initiatives.

Phone (630) 851-2203 for event sponsorship information or to donate to the Silent Auction.



A Success Story

Last year in mid-June, Phillip had been out of school for one week already. He was bored. He didn't have a summer job yet, although he had been looking all over his neighborhood and, in fact, all over Aurora. He came into the Urban League because he had heard about a summer jobs program. A staff member of the Youth Employment Services program (YES) explained how the YES program could help him to find a summer job. Phillip worked for six weeks earning money for the next school year. He worked in a mortgage office in downtown Aurora as a clerk. When the summer was over, he had been exposed to personal finance issues, debt-to-income ratios, title company documents, house insurance policies, and adjustable rate mortgages. He knew more about buying a house than anybody in his family.

The knowledge of the mortgage industry was fascinating to Phillip, but the YES staff knew that Phillip had grown in other ways. They shared with him the evaluation done by the manager of the mortgage office, Steve. Steve reported how Phillip had missed the first day of work and, at first, didn't handle the fast-pace of the office very well. By the end of six weeks, Phillip was a valued asset to the office, and he was asked to remain part-time during the school year.

During the school year, the YES staff gave Phillip a career assessment. He learned his personality traits and skills. It was interesting to learn that many of his traits fit into the environment of the mortgage office. Phillip used this information to research other occupations, and attended job search workshops. In May, he told us that he was employed for the summer in a nearby insurance office.

The YES program accepts young people 16-21 who are at least a junior in high school or are attaining a GED. Participants will work and learn about career planning and job searching. To find out more, call the Urban League and ask for a YES program staff member.

QCUL RECEIVES YWCA AWARDS

At the Aurora YWCA 19th annual Women of Distinction Awards Luncheon on May 4th, Quad County Urban League was recognized for its leadership in empowering women and eliminating racism in the Aurora area.

EQUITY AWARD

QCUL was the sole recipient of the YWCA Equity Award. This honor recognizes the business or not-for-profit group that best demonstrates support of the YWCA's mission to eliminate racism and empower women. The League strives to ensure that the civil rights of all people are upheld by working to eradicate barriers that prevent equal participation in the economic and social mainstream. Through education and employment programs, community and direct social services, and advocacy, QCUL continually works to make certain that our community is well-educated and equipped for economic self-sufficiency.

WOMAN OF DISTINCTION AWARD

Theodia Gillespie, QCUL President & CEO, was one of three recipients to be named a 2006 Woman of Distinction. Ms. Gillespie was honored for her ability to get "to the heart of the matter" through facilitating dialogues on diversity in Aurora and the surrounding communities. She leads by example and infuses individuals and the community with opportunity and hope.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Carlos Johnson, QCUL Employment Coordinator, recently completed the Chicago Jobs Council, *Skills & Strategies for Working With Employers* course. The skills gained through the program will help Mr. Johnson to partner with employers to better serve QCUL clients in their job search.

QCUL's employment and referral services are available to the employed, unemployed and under-employed. Mr. Johnson works closely with employers to match clients with prospective employers.

Resume writing, job interviewing skills and career exploration workshops are available on a quarterly basis.

Our Computer Training courses help participants move into the Information Technology Age. The curriculum is designed to empower job seekers and inspire senior adults to develop hidden computer skills. Two different class dates and times are available to accommodate busy lifestyles.

The **Basic Computer and Word Processing** course provides instruction on the absolute basics including

creating files and folders, word processing fundamentals, Internet tools and much more.

The **Spreadsheet and Presentation** course teaches basic spreadsheet concepts including creating worksheets, editing data, building charts and graphs, and publishing spreadsheets to the Web. This course also teaches program participants to create basic slide shows, and to add graphics, video, and audio for rich multimedia presentations.

To schedule an appointment of to register for computer training, call Mr. Johnson at (630) 851-2203.

Free Computer Training Courses

Dates: Basic Computer June 26 to July 31, 2006 (5 consecutive Mondays)

Spreadsheet / Presentation July 1 to July 29, 2006 (5 consecutive Saturdays)

Times: Mondays 6:00pm - 8:00pm / Saturdays 8:30am - 10:30am

Where: Quad County Urban League - 808 E. Galena, Aurora, IL.

Space is limited to 15 students Instructor: Carlos Johnson



T.S.T.M. Tomorrow's Scientists, Technicians, & Managers



Arthur Brannon, III



Delores Confer



Jared Marchiando Muhammad



Terrence Wells

2006 Annual Achievement and Awards Banquet

The annual T.S.T.M Achievement and Awards banquet was held on Tuesday, June 6th at Long Island Sound. Showcasing the academic and civic accomplishments of our 2006 graduating seniors was the highlight of the evening.

Arthur Brannon, III is a graduate of Naperville Central High School. He is an Illinois State Scholar, National Achievement Finalist, member of the National Honor Society, and Vice President of TSTM. Arthur is also the recipient of the Quad County Urban League 2005 Award of Academic Achievement, and a Silver Medalist in oratory performance. In the fall, Arthur will attend the University of Michigan; his career will be in either cardiology or pediatric surgery.

Delores Confer is a graduate of Elgin Academy and is the President of the TSTM Club. As an active community volunteer, Delores participates in the Big Brother/Big Sister reading program, sorts food for the Northern Illinois Food Bank and

serves breakfast to the homeless for the Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS) organization. Delores will pursue a career in Biomedical Engineering. She will attend either the University of Illinois or Marquette University in the fall.

Jared Marchiando-Muhammad is a graduate of East Aurora High School. Jared has served in leadership roles including Student Government President, President of Class Council, Public Relations Officer for the National Honor Society, Leader of the Varsity Football Team, Captain of the Varsity Track Team, and President of the East Aurora Rowdies Pep Club. An Illinois State Scholar and National Achievement Scholar, Jared will attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he will major in Business/Marketing with a concentration in Pre-Law.

Terrence Wells is a graduate of West Aurora High School. He is an active member of Main Baptist Church where he participates in the Youth

Ministry and works with the Music Ministry. He has been a member of his high school gospel choir, the Upward Bound Program, Speech Team, and Business Professionals of America. Terrence plans to become a high school music teacher and/or chef after pursuing a major in Music Education/Production and a minor in Business/Culinary Arts degree at Eastern Illinois University.

Quad County Urban League proudly wishes these graduates every success as they pursue their studies to realize their dreams.

The generous commitment of time and resources from individuals, government, corporate and foundation supporters including, Caterpillar, DaimlerChrysler Truck Financial, FermiLab, TCF Bank, Luigi's Pizza, the City of Aurora, Kane County and Fox Valley United Way contribute enormously to the successes of TSTM.

Get With the Program!

Join

TSTM / Project Ready

Tomorrow's Scientists, Technicians and Managers (TSTM) / Project Ready is a program that provides direction and motivation to minority middle and high school students who have a **3.0 or higher GPA in Math, English, Science, and Social Studies**. TSTM offers tutoring sessions, field trips, an annual college tour and summer internships. Participants who successfully complete the program are offered scholarship opportunities. Project Ready is designed specifically for 9th and 10th grade students.

To join the area's premier college preparatory program, call Quad County Urban League at (630) 851-2203.

Attend Orientation *either* on Saturday, **July 15, 2006** *or* Saturday, **August 12, 2006** from 11a.m.-1p.m. at Prisco Center, 150 W. Illinois Avenue, Aurora.

To confirm that you will attend Orientation, please call Quad County Urban League at (630) 851-2203.



ACHIEVERS HALL OF FAME AWARD PRESENTATIONS

The academic achievements of 175 students who attend District 131 and 204 schools were recognized during Quad County Urban League's first annual Hall of Fame Awards presentations. The first recognition event was held on Saturday, May 13th at North Island Center. The second event was held on Saturday, June 10th at Eola Community Center. **Achievers Hall of Fame Award** recipients maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or better in core academic subjects including Math, English, Science and Social Studies.



QCUL 5TH ANNUAL CAREER FAIR



Held Thursday, May 11, 2006 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the 95th St. Library in Naperville.



QCUL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Currently accepting applications for the following positions:

Aurora Middle School Academy (AMSA)

1685 North Farnsworth

Principal / Coordinator
(Type 75 - preferred)

Instructional Aide(s)
(Bi-lingual Spanish)

Teacher(s)
(Bi-lingual Spanish)

For confidential review of your qualifications, contact QCUL.

Participating Companies:

- 84 Lumber
- Cintas
- Comcast
- DaimlerChrysler Truck Financial
- Hollywood Casio
- International Truck & Engine
- McDonald's Corporation
- Oberweis
- Paychex
- TCF Bank
- UPS
- XPAC



Carlos Johnson
Employment Coordinator



QCUL CALENDAR

Saturday, July 15	11-1 p.m.	Orientation	Prisco Center, Aurora
		TSTM / Project Ready	
Saturday, August 12	11-1 p.m.	Orientation	Prisco Center, Aurora
		TSTM / Project Ready	
Saturday, September 9	6:00 p.m.	TSTM meeting	AMSA, 1685 N. Farnsworth
Saturday, October 14	6:00 p.m.	TSTM meeting	AMSA, 1685 N. Farnsworth
Saturday, October 28, 2006		Annual GALA	Signature Events, Lisle

We are on the web!

www.qcul.org

**Quad County
Urban League**

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

Quad County Urban League
808 E. Galena Boulevard, Suite B
Aurora, IL 60505

Phone: 630-851-2203

Fax: 630-851-2703

E-mail: info@qcul.org

SAVE THE DATE

October 28, 2006

Annual Equality Gala

Signature Events at Seven Bridges

6440 Double Eagle Drive

Woodridge, IL

For information call (630) 851-2203

Tomorrow's Scientists, Technicians and Managers

TSTM is designed to motivate, encourage, and assist minority students in the educational pursuit of entering college programs.

Are you....

1. in 6th grade through 12th grade?
2. academically motivated to excel in science, math, and management?
3. a middle school or high school student with a 3.0 or higher GPA in core subjects?

If so, you are eligible to join TSTM

Then come check out TSTM at Quad County Urban League!

We offer our Students. . .

Opportunities to meet other students like you !

Spring Break COLLEGE Tour !

- Scholarship Opportunities
- Motivational speakers
- After school tutorial
- Annual TSTM banquet
- Professional/Personal Seminars

Please contact the Quad County Urban League to R.S.V.P. for the next meeting

808 E. Galena Blvd.
Aurora, IL 60505
630-851-2203



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*Project Ready is affiliated with TSTM through Quad County Urban League



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Urban League**

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808 E. Galena Boulevard, Suite B Aurora, IL 60505

