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December 23 - December 29, 2017 52nd Year Volume 34 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive



Paid Internships for 1000 Students

**City and YouthForce NOLA
Team Up to Empower Youth**

Page 2



**Newsmaker
Tis' the Season
to be Ugly**

Page 6

**State & Local
Season 16
Midnight Basketball
Scholarships Awarded**



Page 9

Paid Internships for 1000 Students

City and YouthForce NOLA Team Up to Empower Youth



Paid internships are the capstone experience of YouthForce NOLA's system-wide effort to prepare New Orleans students for the approximately 70,000 high-wage, high-demand jobs that will be available in the greater New Orleans region in the next ten years.

Data News Weekly Staff Report

On Monday, the City of New Orleans approved a multi-year Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) for \$1.1 million with YouthForce NOLA to place 925 New Orleans' students into paid internships through 2020. Scaled over a three-year period, the CEA will support up to 275 interns in 2018, 325 interns in 2019, and 325 interns in 2020. Additionally, the CEA will assist YouthForce NOLA in meeting its goal that at least 10% of the high school graduating class of 2020 will complete YouthForce Internships.

"Since 2010, we have been committed to ensuring that the youth of New Orleans have had access to the best opportunities," said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. "We are excited to continue our partnership with YouthForce NOLA and look forward to providing students with invaluable work experiences to prepare them for success."

Since 2016, the City has supported YouthForce NOLA by giving \$120,000 in 2016 and \$270,000 in 2017. With this partnership, YouthForce NOLA has helped 258 students to complete internships, with an additional 47 students currently enrolled.

Over 90 local employers partner with YouthForce NOLA to provide internships to high school students. 96% of summer 2017 employers said their intern was adequately prepared, and 89% said their high school intern's professionalism was similar or favorable to that of an entry-level employee. 96% of interns found the experience rewarding reporting that the training prepared them for job placement. 95% of interns said they would recommend the program to other students.

This partnership with YouthForce NOLA is part of the City's broader commitment to youth employment. Since 2010, the City has provided 10,631 jobs to

Cover Story, Continued on page 4.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story	2
Newsmaker	5
Fashion	6
Data Zone	7
Commentary.	8
State & Local News . .	9
National News	10

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

youth through the Summer Youth Employment Program and created summer employment opportunities for over 18,600 youth in the greater New Orleans area through NOLA Youth Works and NORDC teen camps, 98% of whom were African American.

"We are pleased to deepen our partnership with the City of New Orleans to give more students the opportunity to participate in paid internships where they will gain real-world experience and exposure to the technical and soft skills needed for success in high school, college, and the world of work," said YouthForce NOLA President Cate Swinburn.

Paid internships are the capstone experience of YouthForce NOLA's system-wide effort to prepare New Orleans students for the approximately 70,000 high-wage, high-demand jobs that will be avail-

able in the greater New Orleans region in the next ten years. Currently, too few New Orleans graduates have the skills or the connections to obtain these jobs. To close this gap, YouthForce NOLA offers expanded coursework offerings, career exposure and experiences, soft skills training and application opportunities, and industry-based credentials.

City Council President Jason Williams said, "This partnership is an incredible example of meeting youth where they're at with a program that attacks inequity head on. We are a very poor city despite all the money that comes through and the size of some mansions. YouthForce NOLA has a program that provides not just tokens to our young people but actual benefits, crafting a process from start to finish that brings the services and training to them. I am so excited to

be part of a process that invests in our youth from the start and puts them in the best posture to obtain a truly rewarding career."

District B Councilmember LaToya Cantrell said, "Career education and technical skill-building are so important for our young people. I am proud to see the Council partnering with YouthForce Nola to make these opportunities a reality."

YouthForce Internship provides 60 hours of paid soft skills and business etiquette training followed by 90 hours of paid work experience with a local employer for rising seniors from partner open enrollment public high schools. Students are placed with employers in one of three high-wage, high-demand fields: health sciences, digital media/IT, and skilled crafts.

For more information on how to get involved, please visit youthforcenola.org.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

ENTERGY NEW ORLEANS, LLC.

REGARDING

DG ROOFTOP SOLAR PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ENTERGY NEW ORLEANS, LLC. ("ENO") WILL HOST A PUBLIC MEETING TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND ANSWER QUESTIONS SURROUNDING ENO'S APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO CONSTRUCT DISTRIBUTED GENERATION ("DG") SCALE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ("PV") SYSTEMS, FILED WITH THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS ON OCTOBER 6, 2017. ENO'S APPLICATION PROPOSES TO CONSTRUCT MULTIPLE DG-SCALE SOLAR PV SYSTEMS, WITH A TOTAL COMBINED CAPACITY OF APPROXIMATELY 5 MWAC, LOCATED IN THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS. THE PROJECT IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND FOR ENO AND REPRESENTS A MAJOR MILESTONE IN ENO'S COMMITMENT TO INVEST IN RENEWABLE GENERATION RESOURCES. IN THIS PUBLIC MEETING, ENO WILL ADDRESS VARIOUS TOPICS RELATED TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT, INCLUDING:

- HOW DO SOLAR PV SYSTEMS WORK?
- WHAT IS A DG-SCALE SYSTEM?
- IS THERE A MINIMUM SIZE FOR EACH SYSTEM?
- WHERE WILL THE SYSTEMS BE LOCATED IN THE CITY?
- WHAT KIND OF BENEFITS WILL THE PROJECT BRING TO NEW ORLEANS?
- WILL LOCAL LABOR BE USED TO CONSTRUCT THE PROJECT?
- WHEN WILL CONSTRUCTION BEGIN?
- WHY IS THE PROJECT SUITABLE FOR NEW ORLEANS' NEEDS?
- HOW CAN CITIZENS LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT?
- HOW CAN CITIZENS EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT?

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE MEETING AND TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS IN ADVANCE VIA ENO'S WEBSITE. www.entergyneworleans.com/powerogrow/rooftopsolar. THE PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD **TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018**, AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION FROM 5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.:

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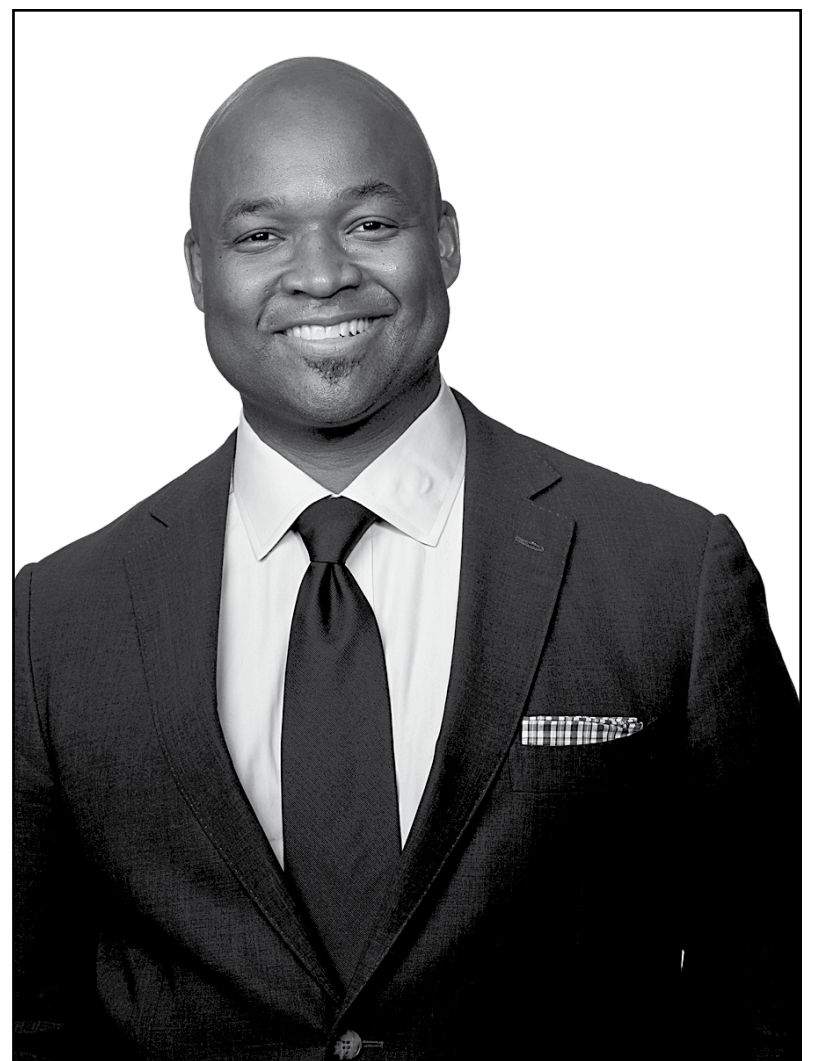
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Mayor-Elect and Ex-Councilmember LaToya Cantrell said, "Career education and technical skill-building are so important for our young people. I am proud to see the Council partnering with YouthForce Nola to make these opportunities a reality."



City Council President Jason Williams said, "This partnership is an incredible example of meeting youth where they're at with a program that attacks inequity head on."

Baton Rouge Businesswoman Designs “TransfHERmation” Program for Young, Black Girls

By Candace J. Semien
Special Contributor (The Drum)

At a time when many messages for young girls seem to be conflicting, Baton Rouge teens are experiencing an influx of organizations and programs designed to show them how amazing and powerful they are in the world. From Black Girls Rock on a national scale to the local Womanhood101 initiative and the “TransfHERmation” program, the brilliance of teen girls are being magnified and strengthened.

“I believe girls are a special gift from God and they should be nurtured as such,” said Quintina Ricks, founder of TransfHERmation, an enrichment program for girls.

For two years, more than 20 girls have experienced “TransfHERmation” at T. Simmons and Company in Baton Rouge where they developed businesses, vision and mission statements, brand names, and taglines to reflect their value system. These values were explored during sessions on gratitude, respect, public behavior, and relationships.

The girls created products for their business—most opting for cosmetics—using raw materials and scientific principles to manufacture lipsticks, lip gloss, soap, and candles. During an interactive, real-world stimulation, they took on adult responsibilities and purchased homes, cars, insurance, and childcare services.

As part of their transformation experience, the girls learned strategies to improve and maintain healthy diets, relationships, hygiene, and finances. “Critical to their success and quality of life will be their ability to make healthy lifestyle choices relative to managing stress and friendships,” said Ricks. “We teach young ladies to prioritize their greatest asset which is their health.”

TransfHERmation is Ricks’ brainchild, which she started in 2014 as an exhilarating, multi-faceted summer program that she designed to help girls improve their self-awareness, self-love, and self-worth. Ricks is owner of Ten40 Solutions. She said she is an accountant by trade, event designer by passion, and youth developer by purpose. It is within the structure of her TransfHERmation program that Ricks is able to be most creative in reaching the girls.



Quintina Ricks, is the founder of TransfHERmation, a summer enrichment program for girls.

“When we invest in young people, the return on that investment is immeasurable. We build the female leaders of the future,” she said. The Drum talked with Ricks to learn more.

Q: How was this experience designed to be transformative?

Quintina Ricks: Our goal is to build the female leaders of the future. There’s no denying that women are making huge contributions all across the globe in all walks of life. It’s also no secret that women face unique challenges relative to crushing stereotypes and breaking through the proverbial glass ceiling. Our desire for these girls is that they embrace their femininity, understand their power, harness their creativity, identify their strengths, and visualize their future.

Q: Why was this age group targeted?

QR: This year’s camp experience was developed specifically for teenage girls. Adolescence is an important time. These young

ladies are making critical life decisions that will either serve a setbacks or set ups for long term success. We want to equip these young ladies with the information, tools, resources, and mentors to make solid life decisions.

Q: What life lessons did you want this experience to teach or be revealed to participants?

QR: Our curriculum is designed to expose these young ladies to lessons that focus on leadership, introduce the concept of entrepreneurship, teach principles of saving/investing, and also highlight STEM careers and women who are thriving in those fields. Self-esteem, self-love, and self-care is emphasized throughout the camp experience. We want these girls to walk away feeling powerful.

Q: How did this year meet or exceed your expectations?

QR: This year exceeded our expectations despite some internal hurdles that we had to cross. Typically when we sponsor these

types of programs, we plan over 6-8 months. This year, we pulled the camp together in less than a month. Our businesses were swamped with new clients, which is a good thing, but we didn’t know, if we would have the time or the capacity to host the camp this year. We decided collectively that we had to make it a priority and we were able to pull it off. It was well attended. We worked with an amazing group of girls.

Q: What were the memorable transformative moments?

QR: The responses that we get from the parents are always telling for me. When you get an email celebrating academic or social growth that makes all the hard work and sacrifices well worth it. We had a diverse group of girls in attendance this year. Some were from upper middle class households, attending high performing schools, taking family vacations, etc. Other camp participants came from extreme poverty. One young lady in particular had not attended school regularly since the flood. Her mother was on the verge of eviction. They had no water or utilities in their apart-

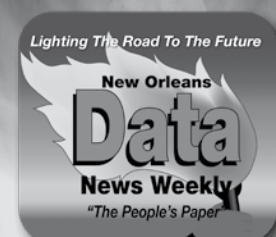
ment. Fortunately the young lady was comfortable enough to tell us what was going on. Our team was able to get her enrolled in school, purchase uniforms, connect her family with job placement assistance, and reconnect their utilities. Were it not for the camp this particular kid would’ve probably dropped out of school and eventually been homeless.

Q: How does this program fit within your company’s work or mission?

QR: Our company is obviously very diversified in terms of its divisions and the products and services that we offer. The common theme across the entire organization is our commitment to giving back to the communities that have contributed to our success. The way we choose to give back is through building human capital. Investing in young people feels good from an individual standpoint, and it’s smart from a business standpoint. The return on investment is so significant that it’s virtually immeasurable.

For more information about TransfHERmation, visit <http://transfhermation.com> or follow the group on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/transfhermation>.

*Happy Holiday's
From
Data News Weekly
Newspaper*



Tis' the Season to be Ugly



Delaney George
Columnist

Holiday's aren't just for the stylish it's for the ugly too; Christmas sweaters that is. Ugly Christmas Sweaters are a holiday tradition dating back to the early 2000's. Family and friends gather in the Christmas spirit with glue guns, letters, and Christmas trinkets galore to make customized Christmas sweaters.

The sweaters typically have unusual colors and patterns that aren't the most stylish to everyone, but they're fun, cozy, and your own. The "ugly" reputation has stuck with the sweaters but are still being worn by thousands of families every holiday.

Local teacher and mother Kimberly Wilts said she and her family hosts a family Ginger Bread Decorating Contest and Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest every Christmas Eve.

"We use lights, glitter, jingle bells, fur, anything that screams Christmas and shows personality" said Wilts.

Join in on the holiday Ugly Christmas Sweater tradition and send your sweater photos to Delinkey@yahoo.com.



Hunter green button down jungle themed Christmas Sweater.



Racks full of ugly Christmas ensembles in true Christmas spirit.



Ugly Christmas Sweater Vest with stocking pockets, "Let it Snow" tie, and holiday writing.

Images courtesy of Delaney George - LanesLense

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Jazzin' Around with Delfayo Marsalis



Photo by Glenn Jones
Data News Weekly Contributor

Last Saturday, Delfayo Marsalis gave a free performance for the community at Peaches Records on Magazine Street promoting his upcoming CD release. His father, Ellis Marsalis accompanied him in the performance.



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Racism in the Workplace and the Whitewashing of the #METOO Movement



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) was the first member of the Congressional Black Caucus to leave his job after the “MeToo” hashtag galvanized women to speak up about sexual misconduct, harassment and more. Too bad that impetus did not float up to the top, where an avowed grabber of women’s genitals occupies the White House. It’s also unfortunate, that members of Congress have paid sexual assault accusers out of a taxpayer-funded slush fund have not been

unmasked. We know some of the names. Texas Congressman Blake Farenthold (R-Texas) arranged to have his former communications director paid \$84,000 (a fraction of the \$27,000 Conyers is said to have paid). Farenthold has not resigned, nor have Congressional Republicans called for his resignation, including Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-Wis.). Farenthold said he will pay the money back. Yeah, right.

As a woman, I am cheered by the #MeToo movement, although I am also annoyed by the myopia about women of color and sexual harassment, assault and rape. In 1944, Recy Taylor was viciously raped by seven White men, who never paid a price. Civil rights icon Rosa Parks was an NAACP investigator in this case, as chronicled by Danielle McGuire in her book, “At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance—A

New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power.” The first case in which the Supreme Court ruled that sexual harassment was a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act was brought by Michelle Vinson, an African American woman, in the case Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson (1986). The high-profile, White women who are talking about workplace sexual harassment and assault really need to acknowledge the many ways that African American women have been systematically abused, and systematically ignored (and sometimes conspired against) by their White “sisters.”

Perhaps I quibble, but this overwhelming stand against sexual misconduct and beyond (getting nude in front of your staff, forcible kissing, grabbing women by the you know what, etc.) makes me wonder when there will be a similar groundswell against racism and

racial harassment in the workplace. Numerous cases of nooses being displayed in workplaces have been reported in the last decade, so many that a law journal published an article titled, “Does One Noose in the Workplace Constitute a Hostile Work Environment? If Not, How Many?” One isolated incident is not enough, the article opines. What about one unwanted kiss or one abusive grope? Why do nooses get to be seen as “jokes,” while unwanted kissing is seen as an occurrence of zero tolerance?

I’m not ever, ever, ever going to excuse sexual perfidy (and more) in the workplace, but I do wonder why we can wink, nod, and grin about racial workplace misbehavior while we stand our ground about gender. I wonder why so many say accept the “just kidding” or “I didn’t know” excuse when people are racially insensitive, but are now willing to hold press conferences and speak out

against sexism in the workplace. If you look at the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, the paucity of people of color as senior staffers is amazing, as documented by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Surely, there is no shortage of highly qualified African Americans and Latinos who could work on Capitol Hill. Why aren’t members of Congress calling each other on their racial myopia?

Perhaps racism and racial harassment are a little more complicated than sexism and sexual harassment. Half of the population, after all, is female, and while women make the slow climb up the hierarchy in corporate America, politics, the media, and entertainment, the pace has been steady enough that powerful women are now able to call men out on their misbehavior, with women demanding resigna-

Commentary, Continued
on page 11.

Should Patriotism Be This Hard?



John Slade
WBOK 1230AM

Sometimes I wonder, being Black, if I could ever be an enthusiastic United States patriot, especially in the current national climate. It’s not a question as much as an observation. I have been around a few gung ho types, but they were White and couldn’t grasp my hesitancy. Patriotism means love of one’s country. I could never love America without feeling the tremendous irony overpowering the love. Irony worse than what’s found in a Seinfeld episode. So, the best I can do is be good friends with my country, you know, platonic buddies. I wouldn’t want to see anything hor-

rible happen to the country I live in of course, like a nuclear attack but I’m afraid platonic is about it.

Now, have I ever felt the stirrings of patriotism from time to time? Can I feel this love of country at all? Well yes, at times. At times the feeling of pure love for America does reach me but then the irony comes, and I snap out of it. When might these times be in my life? Well, I would say when the 1964 Civil Rights Act was passed, and it changed my life as a seven-year-old boy. Before that when my family and I would travel it was usually just to see relatives. We would have to find a hotel that would serve us plus we had to bring our own food. Now, I thought it was fun to bring fried chicken and soft drinks along on a road trip, little did I know that it was mandated by racism. It made my mother angry before desegregation when it was dark, and we had to keep moving and there was one hotel vacancy sign after another blinking in the darkness inviting White motorists, not us. It made my mother, an educat-

ed middle-class flower growing church lady, so angry that she’d imagine herself physically wrecking those hotels somehow. But after the open accommodation law was passed we could see the sights of the USA in our Lincoln Mercury. Apologies to the late Dinah Shore, my father didn’t drive a Chevrolet.

Another moment happened to be the two great space stories of my lifetime. One triumphant and the other a tragedy. In the summer of 1969 at my grandparents’ home in Louisville, Kentucky, I along with the world was watching the Apollo 11 mission land a manned crew on the moon. Many might remember CBS Anchorman Walter Cronkite gives a relieved exclamation, but I remember the reaction around the country. The news cut to people at Tomorrowland in Disneyland to see their reactions to the momentous news. I moved closer to the screen because I had been to Disneyland and saw Tomorrowland myself, so that location added heft to a special time in American history to me. In that moment I felt a little bit of this

American patriotism as the military industrial complex showed its power without destroying civilization. Unfortunately, this feeling returned in 1986 on the occasion of the Space Shuttle Challenger Explosion. I contemplated the deaths of the multiracial Star Trek like crew containing astronauts who were White, Black, Asian, and Female. In that Shuttle crew I saw myself and a possible future for the United States.

Of course, this writer and millions more witnessed the election of our first Black President Barack Obama on that exhilarating night in November 2008. Again, I actually felt a feeling of love for these United States. For the first time the President would be a person in power who looked like my whole extended family and me. How many of us thought the United States turned a corner? That there was finally some teeny tiny acknowledgment that Black people as my Mother used to say, “Did everything possible to fit in to the United States.” I suspected that there would be no totally post racial society as an answer to Obama, but ye Gods a lot of Ameri-

cans didn’t think that answer would be Trump.

But as we all know today a President sits in the White House who lies, and spews hatred and you name it, but enjoys the slavish devotion of just about every elected Republican in office. To sit and watch this country fall back into a dark and slimy pit many millions of Americans over the past century fought to get us out of is a true test of one’s patriotism. The children of those same Americans have to try to keep faith in a country where a President Trump can and did happen. A President Trump who is anti-ethical to any of my feelings on the subject of the United States. I used the word irony but, I define that to mean that it’s too hard and weird to love a county that doesn’t love you back. Until this country makes a really decent attempt to come to its senses, or maybe lands a woman on Mars, as a Black man in this country and context today, I’m back to just being platonic friends with America. Holla.

John Slade is Host of WBOK Radio’s “Up To Date”

Second Round of Midnight Basketball Scholarships Awarded



Data Staff Edited Report

On Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017, Mayor Mitch Landrieu and the National Basketball Players Association Foundation (NBPA Foundation) presented the second round of Midnight Basketball scholarships to five Season 16 participants at the final game of the season. The scholarships will help recipients improve their job readiness and increase their opportunities for education.

"Since 2012, Midnight Basketball has given over 13,000 participants access to jobs, job training, education and other resources. We are grateful for our partnership with the National Basketball Players Association Foundation to continue to expand this impact and provide scholarships to Season 16 participants of Midnight Basketball," said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. "I am proud of the scholarship recipients for taking the initiative to improve their education and look forward to hearing great stories about each of them."

Season 16 Midnight Basketball Scholarship recipients include Arman Gallaspy, Christell Gibson, John Moran, Kayla Williams and Dedrick Humble. Gallaspy will use his scholarship to acquire his Information Technology and Entrepreneurship credentials and will intern with the dessert shop, SNOLA. Gibson will use his scholarship to earn his healthcare credentials and will intern with the LA SPCA. Moran will use his scholarship to acquire his entrepreneurship credentials and will intern with Nu Republic,

a tax preparation agency. Williams will use her scholarship to earn her healthcare credentials and will intern with the Common Ground Health Clinic. Humble will use his scholarship toward earning entrepreneurship training and will intern with Nu Republic, a tax preparation agency.

Last season's scholarship recipients included Cornell Parquet, Narvin Reed and Trenton Anderson. Parquet used his scholarship funds to help pay for his tuition at Southern University of New Orleans and interned with Elevate Next, learning sports training and educational strategies. Reed applied his scholarship toward acquiring his Information Technology credentials and interned with the City of New Orleans' Office of Information Technology and Innovation. Lastly, Anderson put his scholarship toward his tuition at the University of New Orleans and interned with ResCare in the Human Resources Department.

National Basketball Players Association Foundation Executive Director Sherrie Deans said, "We continue to be impressed by the spirit and determination of Midnight Basketball scholarship recipients. NBA players, who we represent in this work, know the importance of hard work and persistence in achieving your goals. And this season's scholarship recipients - like the recipients in the last season - are great examples of this. We value our relationship with Midnight Basketball, and we are proud to represent our players in supporting all of the participants in this unique program."

During the 2017 NBA All-Star Weekend, the NBPA Foundation made a scholarship commitment to Midnight Basketball of \$50,000 per year for the next three years. The NBPA Foundation's commitment will continue to provide select Midnight Basketball participants the opportunity for education and training programs in New Orleans.

For more information about the scholarship program, click here. Network for Economic Opportunity Executive Director Ashleigh Gardere said, "We are excited to continue our partnership with Midnight Basketball. Together, we are creating pathways to prosperity for the participants and enhancing the City's future. We are proud of their hard work."

The City of New Orleans along with the New Orleans Pelicans, Domino's Pizza, PlayNOLA and DJ Wild Wayne, hosted the sixteenth season of NOLA FOR LIFE Midnight Basketball at Rosenwald Recreation Center (1120 S. Broad St.). Throughout the season, players were able to sign up for scholarship opportunities from the NBPA Foundation.

Midnight Basketball is a part of Mayor Landrieu's comprehensive Murder Reduction Strategy, NOLA FOR LIFE, and reaches young men who may be at risk of being impacted by violent crime in the city. Since its launch in January 2012, Midnight Basketball has offered over 13,000 participants access to jobs, job training, education and other resources.

Tonya Boyd-Cannon to Lead Vocal Workshops for Kids

Program Expands from Gentilly to Algiers

Data News Staff Edited Report

The acclaimed singer Tonya Boyd-Cannon will lead a series of vocal workshops for kids this spring as part of a partnership between the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation and the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORD) to offer music education programs around the city.

The program launched last year with classes at NORD's St. Bernard Recreation Center. Now the program is expanding to two campuses by adding classes at NORD's Behrman Recreation Center in Algiers.

The weekly classes are open to kids age 9 to 13, starting in mid-January and continuing through April.

The classes will be led by Tonya Boyd-Cannon, a popular New Orleans singer who is perhaps best known for having reached the Top 20 in Season 8 of the NBC TV show "The Voice."

Participation is free, but students must pass an audition to be included.

Auditions will be held:

Jan. 9 and 16 at 4:30 p.m. at Behrman Park (2529 General Meyer Ave., New Orleans, LA 70114)

Jan. 11 and 18 at 4:30 p.m. at the St. Bernard Center (1500 Lafreniere St., New Orleans, LA 70122)

To sign up for the auditions, please use this online registration form.

Classes will take place:

Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Behrman Recreation Center. Classes begin Jan. 23 and end April 10.



Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the St. Bernard Recreation Center. Classes begin Jan. 25 and end April 12.

The classes will utilize a curriculum that Boyd-Cannon has developed called ARTcademics. Students will receive instruction in:

- Posture
- Breath control and breathing techniques
- Self-awareness and vocal register variations
- Ear-training
- Scales
- Repertoire of songs

The classes are part of an initiative to increase music education offerings in New Orleans. The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation - the nonprofit that owns the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival presented by Shell - already offers several programs at its facility in the Tremé neighborhood, the George and Joyce Wein Jazz & Heritage Center.

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CBC Members Call Trump Presence at Museum Opening an Insult

John Lewis and Bennie Thompson Spar with President Trump Over Mississippi Civil Rights Museum Dedication

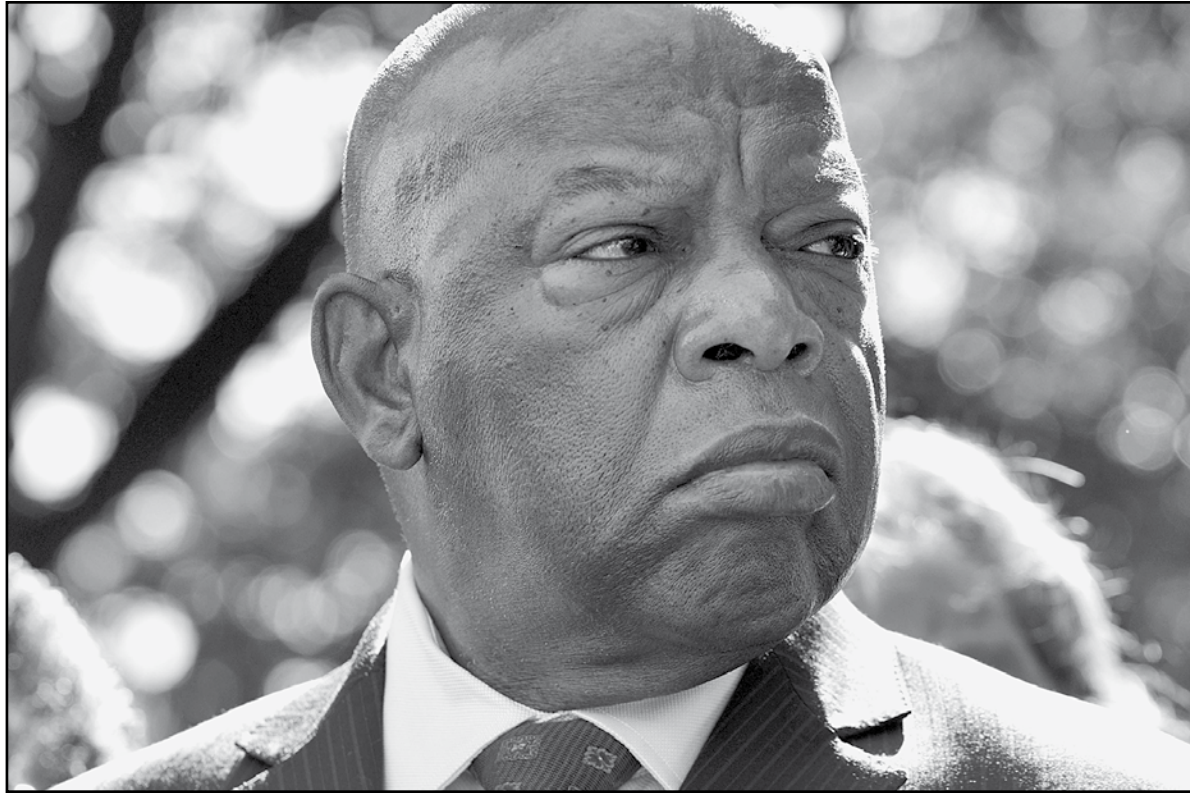
By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

When two members of the Congressional Black Caucus, long-time Mississippi Congressman Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) and civil rights legend Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), heard that President Donald Trump planned to attend the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum dedication ceremony, they both announced that they would forego the event.

The White House was critical.

On December 7, White House spokesperson Sarah Huckabee Sanders said, "We think it's unfortunate that these members of Congress wouldn't join the president in honoring the incredible sacrifice civil rights leaders made to right the injustices in our history. The president hopes others will join him in recognizing that the movement was about removing barriers and unifying Americans of all backgrounds."

From that statement, you might never have guessed that the White House spokesperson was referring to a civil rights leader:



Civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) (pictured) and Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) declined invitations to attend the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum dedication ceremony, when they learned that President Donald Trump was also invited. This photo was taken during a Congressional Black Caucus press conference on police brutality at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. in 2016. (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA)

Congressman John Lewis.

"It's laughable that the White House is criticizing John Lewis and

Bennie Thompson for not attending the opening of a civil rights museum that honors the sacrifices of...wait...

John Lewis, Bennie Thompson, and many others," said CBC Chairman Cedric Richmond (D-La.). "This White House is not serious about civil rights. From dismantling the civil rights division in [the Department of Justice] to equating peaceful people who protested racism to neo-Nazi's and White supremacists, they just don't get it."

In a joint statement on December 7, Thompson and Lewis wrote:

"After careful consideration and conversations with church leaders, elected officials, civil rights activists, and many citizens of our congressional districts, we have decided not to attend or participate in the opening of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum."

The statement continued: "President Trump's attendance and his hurtful policies are an insult to the people portrayed in this civil rights museum. The struggles represented in this museum exemplify the truth of what really happened in Mississippi. President Trump's disparaging comments about women, the disabled, immigrants, and National Football League players disrespect the efforts of Fannie Lou Hamer, Aaron Henry, Medgar Evers, Robert Clark, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, and countless others who have given their all for Mississippi to be a better place. After President Trump departs, we encourage all Mississippians and Americans to visit this historic civil rights museum."

Trump visited a few southern states the weekend before the special election to fill the Alabama Senate seat of former Senator Jeff Sessions, who is now the U.S. Attorney General.

Lauren Victoria Burke is the White House Correspondent for NNPA Newswire and a writer and political analyst. Connect with Lauren by email at LBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.



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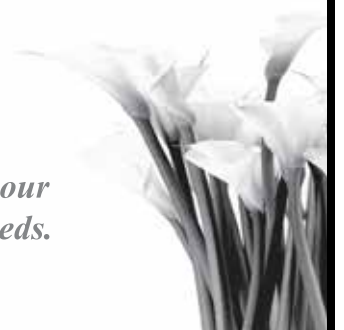


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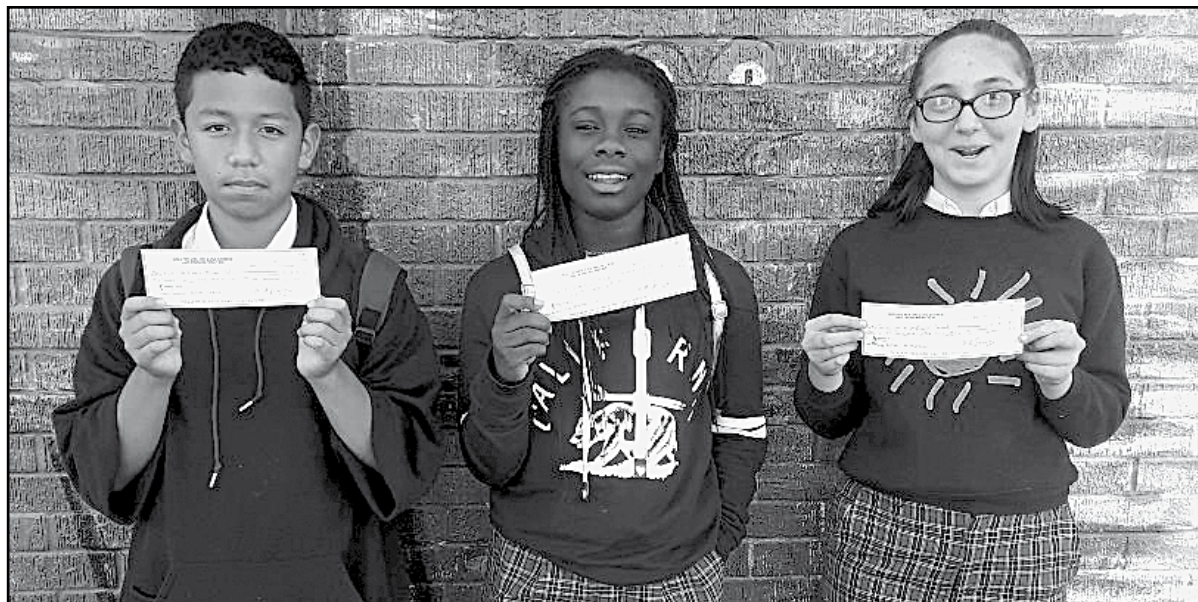
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Young Audiences Charter School Students Awarded Mini-Research Grants



Data News Weekly Staff Edited

Students in the Young Audiences Gifted program wrote mini-research grants to fund their science projects for the Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair. Congratulations to (l-r) Keven Aguilar, Jamari Ross, and Melody Hopkins for being awarded over \$400 in grant money to fund their research.

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

tions of (some) misbehaving men. However, too few White women and men have been willing to apply the same "zero tolerance" to employment matters regarding race.

There should never be another noose laid on a Black employee's desk or displayed in a workplace. There should never be another intimidating Confederate flag flying in a Black person's face. There should never be another opportunity for an employee (or fellow student, or faculty member) to talk about picking cotton. There should never be another blackface performance, anywhere. And there should never be another person who talks about zero tolerance around workplace sexism to accept any whisper of workplace racism.

Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, and Founder of Economic Education. Her latest book "Are We Better Off: Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via amazon.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries, or for more info, visit www.juliannealveaux.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.

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