



DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS,

Yes We Can! As I embrace the spirit of change that is erupting within our nation and the world, I can't help but think of all those who have gone before.

People who suffered so much and sacrificed just as much to be allowed basic freedoms like the right to vote and be educated. Though our foremothers and fathers may have not experienced these freedoms, they

war cry of our children doing the best they can in school and taking advantage of every opportunity.

Yes We Can! Should be the battle cry of parents doing their part to ensure their children are prepared for the challenges.

Yes We Can! Should be the support cry of those of us

the better for it? The world is.

Yes We Did! Make a difference. See just how on Page 9.

Yes We Will! Need and appreciate your support in 2009. Please continue to support us!

Every future should have a chance.

Yes We Can! —

never stopped praying for their children. They wanted their children to dream beyond bad circumstances and realize better days.

I want to believe that with change, better days are ahead but I'm not naive enough to think that it will occur unless we ALL do our part.

Yes We Can! Should be the

Yes We Did! —

who just want to make a difference in what really matters.

In spite of economic conditions, LEAP Forward continues to strive to make a difference. Our youth need a stimulus package. If we can stimulate them to pursue their dreams, increase academic achievements and value education... who is

Yes We Will!

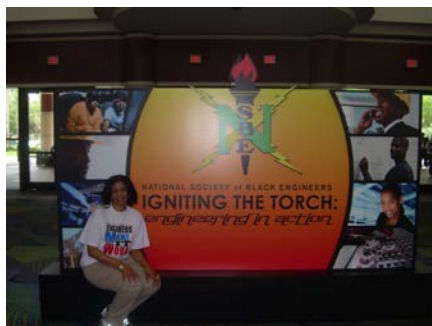


January 20, 2009

Notable Events In 2008

February – Participation at Black Engineers of the Year Award – Baltimore, Maryland

March – Attended the National Society of Black Engineers Conference – Orlando, Florida



April – Second Edition of LEAP Forward Newsletter is released. Many thanks to Deborah Hemphill.

July 18-20 – Participated in the National Society of Black Engineers Summer Engineering Camp at North Carolina A&T in Greensboro. Sponsored 5 students.

July—Scholarship Reception held and 7 Book Scholarships awarded to deserving high school seniors.

September—Attended Black MBA conference in Washington DC

November – Pizza Kit Fundraiser for LEAP Forward

November—Attended the Society of Women Engineers Conference in Baltimore, Maryland

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2008 Wallace Lorenzo Leeper Memorial Scholarship Recipients



EVERYONE Deserves A Chance At A FUTURE.

LEAP Forward, administers the Wallace Lorenzo Leeper Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship honors the memory of one of the most outstanding counselors who served at Calvert High School in Calvert County, MD. His dedication and devotion to young people framed many lives. He worked tirelessly to support students and provided an extremely personal touch to counseling. We honor his memory with the following scholarship recipients:



Dynika Gross

Huntingtown High School

University of Maryland Baltimore County

Pre-Law

"Involvement in this field is not only challenging but it is extremely rewarding. I want to make a positive difference in the world."



Jhalita Holland

Calvert High School

Winston Salem State University

Nursing

"I will never give my nursing career up because I have a strong positive family. I can be the one to help the shortage of nurses."



Ashley Jerre Jones

Calvert High School

Virginia Tech University

Dairy Science

"I have always been around animals and naturally, I developed a love and passion for them. A profession dealing with animals is necessary for me."



LaQuita Jones

Calvert High School

Morgan State University

Computer Science

"Computer Science is a great field for me because I love math and everything about computers."

WHY Should YOU SUPPORT LEAP Scholarship Efforts?

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above...

James 1:17

Giving leaves an imprint that endures forever.

African Proverb



2008 Wallace Lorenzo Leeper Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Yes! EVERYONE Deserves A Chance At A FUTURE.

Additional scholarship recipients include the following students:



Ashley Nicole Lindsey

Great Mills High School

Claflin University

Communications

"Achieving my career goal will help me to make a difference in my community in many different ways. I can also work at one of my dream places, a news station!"



Eugene Plater

Huntingtown High School

College of Southern Maryland

Mechanical Engineering

"I was amazed about how much amusement I got out of creating something from scratch; collecting data from testing the vehicle and using that data to draw conclusions."



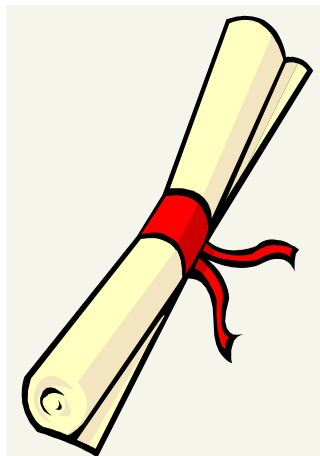
Quonte Stewart

Calvert High School

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Computer Graphics

"My main goal is to become a video game developer, my dream career. I want to study graphic arts and become proficient at designing games."



Their Success
is
Our Success.

Summer Engineering Camp 2008 - See photos on page 6

The National Society of Black Engineers Summer Engineering Camp was held on the campus of North Carolina A&T University on July 18-20, 2008. LEAP Forward provided sponsorship and transportation for 5 students from Maryland Counties, Calvert and St. Mary's and Baltimore City. Students participated in a campus tour and resided in the dormitories.

Events were held in the Dr. Ronald McNair School of Engineering. Workshops included an IBM Robotics presentation, Kaplan SAT preparation, design competitions, try-math-a-lon, high school myths and tips, modeling your image and featured speaker Dr. Njema Frazier (Nuclear Engineer).



2003 Leeper Memorial Scholarship Recipient Becomes A Nurse



Greetings and Blessings Ms. Thomas! God was there from the beginning, and my faith in Him is the reason for where I am today. I have to thank my biological and spiritual family of Healing and Deliverance Community Experience of the Holy Spirit where I am under the leadership of Prophet Apostle Aniachi C. Belu-John.

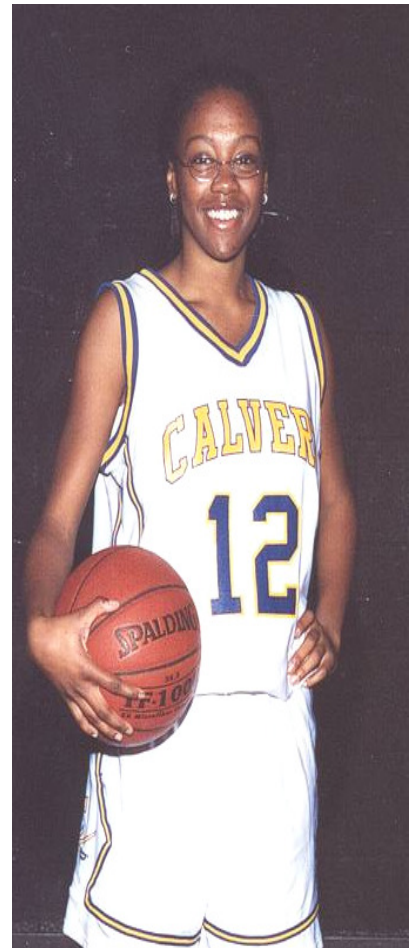
I graduated from Hampton University with a Bachelors of Science degree in Nursing (BSN) with Honors on Mother's Day of 2008. I will start my career at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at the Johns Hopkins Hospital as a Registered Nurse in January '09. I give thanks to you because you were a contributor to help me through college. God is good and you will continue to be blessed for helping people like me and many others to come....

With much love, Shionta Pumphrey RN, BSN



"It feels GREAT!!
The Blessing is
God has given me
every opportunity
to reach back and
that's what I am
doing." 2009

"To be educated
and willing to
learn you have to
stay focused and
want it for your-
self. Nothing
makes me happier
than to nurse
others." 2003



Keep Dreaming— Dreams Do Come True...

**Great it is to dream the
dream,**

**When you stand in youth by
the starry stream.**

**But a greater thing is to fight life
through,**

**And say at the end, the dream is
true.**

By Edwin Markham (1852-1940)

Lessons from Noah's Ark . . . Food for Thought

A recitation by Dorien Minor performed at Carroll Western United Methodist Church. Everything you need to know, you can learn from Noah's Ark.

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Build your future on high ground.
6. For safety sake, travel in pairs.
7. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a **Rainbow** waiting.



POINTS OF INTEREST & MESSAGE BOARD



Other Scholarship Opportunities

Charles County Scholarship Fund, Inc. www.ccboe.com

VMDAEC Educational Scholarship Foundation www.co-opliving.com/community/scholarship.htm

Navmar Applied Science College Scholarship www.navmar.com/scholarship.php

SMECO www.smeco.com/whatsnew/scholar.html

St. Mary's Hospital Foundation www.smhwecare.com

LEAP Forward's Core Philosophy, "Enhance Your Life With An Early Start & A Perfect Finish"

*Give and it shall be
Given back to you*



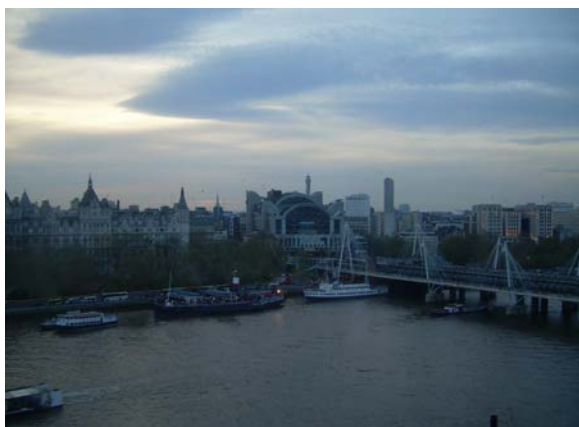
A Big Thank You to Our 2008 Donors

In spite of economic times—support continued in 2008.

- ♥♥Gregory Woods
- ♥Jeffery Hobbs
- ♥Dorothy Gomes
- ♥Letitia Peters
- ♥Gloria Dennis
- ♥Maurice Irvine
- ♥Wilhemina Greene
- ♥Rhonda Thomas
- ♥Pamela Berry
- ♥Dorien Minor and the Joe Corbi Pizza Patrons

Where in the world is this?

London, England



"The surest path to success is through education in a society increasingly based in science and technology. Education is key." Dr. Dorothy Height, Author, Open Wide the Freedom Gates

NSBE Summer Engineering Camp—Reflections



LEAP Forward Awards 7 Book Scholarships

On July 25, 2008, LEAP Forward held its first scholarship awards reception at the Yardley Hills Community Center in Prince Frederick, MD. Scholarship recipients in attendance received certificates and monetary book scholarship awards. The event was hosted by LEAP Forward's Founder, Rhonda Thomas who spoke words of encouragement to the group. Students pursuing nursing were blessed to meet retired nurses Blanche Newton and Evelyn Irvine. We thank them for sharing information about their profession. We thank all of the past scholarship recipients who returned to share experiences

and offered these words of knowledge (i.e. go to class, study in groups, avoid very early classes, don't party too much, don't hesitate to get help if you need it, etc.) Thank you Tyshra Jones, Shoron Waul and Kendra Edwards. A delicious meal donated and prepared by Maurice Irvine (Board Member) was enjoyed by all. The highlight of the evening was watching

the exchange among the recipients. Students shared and genuinely wished each other well and provided encouragement. We are so proud of all of them! Congratulations to all of our 2008 Scholarship Recipients. Photos on page 8 are courtesy of Lamar Waul, current student at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Congress, Students Find Ways Around High Cost of Textbooks

Sections Reprinted with Permission from the Black College Wire.

By Brittany Johnson

With the recent passage of the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2008 by Congress on July 31, college students can expect a decrease in educational expenses and better accessibility to college.

One of the initiatives involves textbook prices. The cost of text books is at an all-time high and beyond the

affordability of many students.

According to a 2005 report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), within the past 20 years textbook prices have tripled, double the general inflation rate for that time span.

The Howard University Bookstore Website shows some of the factors of price increases include "author royalties, publisher costs, marketing, publisher and author taxes, and bookstore expenses."

The HUB sets retail prices of textbooks based on the industry standard 225 percent margin.

The National Association of College Stores' Student Watch 2008" report said during the 2006-2007 academic year, only 26 percent of students were able to purchase course materials, a large part being textbooks, using grants and scholarships.

With many students left making educational sacrifices, when it comes to textbooks and other materials, some

Continued...

students have resorted to other outlets to get the materials at a lower cost.

Sophomore nursing major Lynn Pierre buys her books at reasonable prices from her peers. "It's hard for some people to get books," she said.

Some end up with the hassle of sharing books or "may even take their first test without having a book," Pierre said.

Madison Mitchell, a junior biology major, mainly exchanges her books with friends or gets them from upper-classmen instead of purchasing them from the bookstore.

"If I do buy a book from the bookstore, it usually pertains to my major," Mitchell said. The GAO report states that the adoption of CD-ROMS and other supplemental materials adds to increases in textbook prices... Under

the legislation, a provision aims to require publishers to offer bundled and unbundled text book versions without withholding their full pricing to bookstores, and to provide student with advance details about textbook prices before semesters begin...In the meantime, students may turn to student-founded resources that offer textbooks at lower prices. One of those, Textbook Pals...helps students save money in the buy-back process.

2008 Scholarship Award Reception



No matter what
accomplishments
you achieve, some
body helped you.
Althea Gibson



Act as if it were
impossible to fail.
Dorothea Brande



Photos: Scholarship Reception honoring our 2008 Scholarship Recipients include Ashley Lindsey, Jhalita Holland, Dynika Gross, Ashley Jones, and Quonte Steward. Board Members pictured above include Maurice Irvine and Rhonda Thomas. Photos courtesy of Lamar Waul Calvert Senior High graduate and current student at University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Scholarship Applications 2009

Greetings Applicants!

Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward, Inc. (LEAP Forward, Inc.) is a non-profit organization that administers the Wallace Leeper Memorial Scholarship and now the Rev. Charles Lee, Sr. Memorial Scholarship.

The Leeper Scholarship will award a one-time book scholarship (minimum \$500.00) to deserving disadvantaged minority students from the local Southern Maryland areas. High school seniors may apply.

The Lee Scholarship will award a one-time \$1000.00 scholarship to deserving disadvantaged minority students from the Washington Metropolitan areas. Current college and

high school students may apply.

Application deadline is April 17, 2009 and awards will be made for the Fall 2009 semester. To be eligible for consideration, the student must:

- Display scholastic, athletic and/or leadership achievement; and
- Be in need of financial assistance (verification may be requested).

Upon notification of the scholarship award, the student must:

- Provide proof of college enrollment, and
- A high school photo (with permission for use in solicitation of future scholarship funding.)

Completed applications (with essays) should be forwarded to:

LEAP Forward, Inc.

2290 Adelina Road

Prince Frederick, MD 20678

????Questions????

We can be reached at 301.509.3872

or by email at

leapforwardinc@yahoo.com or

rthomas@leapforwardinc.org

Also Please Visit

www.leapforwardinc.org/News.html
for scholarship applications.

**MAY YOU HAVE SUCCESS IN
ALL OF YOUR COLLEGE AND
CAREER ENDEAVORS!**



LEAP Forward now Administers the Rev. Charles H. Lee, Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Reverend Charles H. Lee, Sr. (1928-2007) graduated from Carver High School in Milledgeville, Georgia. He attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and graduated from Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He later received his Bachelor of Divinity and Masters of Theology Degrees from the Interdenominational Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. As a student, he served as a Methodist Student Organizer and Coordinator at Texas Southern University. Additionally, he was a leader in the First Student Sit-in Demonstration west of the Mississippi and a leader of civil rights groups throughout the southern area of the United States serving as a leader in the Selma to Montgomery march for students at the Interdenominational Theological Center. After the signing of the 1964 Civil Rights Law, he was instrumental with other students during the



summer in integrating eating facilities at Milledgeville State Hospital. Scholastically, Rev. Lee was listed in Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities and was a Crusade Scholar. Rev. Lee served in the United States Army—Europe, Pacific Far East where he served in the Korean Conflict (Private to Captain – Airborne and Infantry); Chaplain (Major) in the California Army National Guard (Retired). Rev. Lee also served as Director of the South East Educational Development (S.E.E.D.) Project for the San Francisco Unified School District. S.E.E.D. was a federally funded program implemented to increase the academic proficiency of inner city children. He has served as Associate Minister of the Trinity Methodist Church, Houston, Texas; Pastor of St. Mary's Methodist Church, League City, Texas; Wesley Methodist Church, Newman, Georgia; Ridge Point United Methodist Church (UMC), San Francisco, California; and, was appointed Pastor of Downs Memorial UMC, Oakland, California in 1971. In 1987, Rev. Lee was appointed as the District Superintendent for the Golden Gate District of the California/Nevada Conference for the UMC which he served until his retirement in 1991.

Who Is LEAP Forward Inc.?

Organized officially in 2001, LEAP Forward, Inc. seeks to:

- Expose youth to math and science careers with an emphasis on engineering;
- Provide educational financial assistance to economically disadvantaged youth through scholarships;
- Expose youth to technical careers options through seminars, exhibits and industry tours;
- Introduce college life through college visits and tours;
- Advocate admission, financial aid, considerations;
- Assist in preparing necessary documentation to pursue post secondary education or vocational training; and
- Introduce youth to technical professionals who can encourage, inspire and foster dreams.

OUR MISSION

"We believe in serving minority youth from underrepresented ethnic backgrounds through personal mentoring and providing them with social and cultural enrichment activities to include (but not limited to) informational seminars, field trips, and educational support services that foster positive self esteem, academic excellence and a comprehensive awareness of technical career options."

OUR CORE VALUES

Our Core Values: Excellence, Dedication, and Commitment. We believe:

Excellence should be displayed in all we do and that all youth can achieve excellence when given an opportunity to learn and grow.

Dedication to our youth is necessary to meet their needs.

Commitment embraces commitment and as we make deposits in the lives of youth they will commit to society.

OUR VISION

"We believe in developing a generation of minority youth that will accept the challenge to become academically prepared, to enter math and science-based careers and to become the problem solvers and productive leaders that will address the needs of all humanity."

Check us out at

www.leapforwardinc.org

And

Check out

www.engineeryourlife.com



LEAP FORWARD, INC.

WWW.LEAPFORWARDINC.ORG

Phone: (301) 509-3872

Or (410) 535-1803

Email: leapforwardinc@yahoo.com

Or

Rthomas@leapforwardinc.org

Excellence. Dedication. Commitment.

LEAP FORWARD participates in Verizon Velocity Program

Dear Friends and Supporters, What Can You Do To Help?

ORDER a new Verizon product from the list below to **HELP US EARN DONATIONS**.

When you order Verizon products such as Verizon FIOS Internet, Verizon High Speed Internet, Direct TV Service, Verizon FIOS TV, Verizon Freedom Calling Plans, Verizon Long Distance and Additional Lines Please place your new Verizon order by calling **1.888.695.5299**, the special Velocity sales number. (Call Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST.)

You must provide our 5-digit tracking code at the time you order: **12526**.

For Other Donations:

Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward Inc. (LEAP Forward, Inc.) is a **501 (c) 3** nonprofit organization established to provide hope and opportunity with excellence, dedication and commitment to youth. **To make a donation, please navigate to our webpage at www.leapforwardinc.org and select the link entitled "Donations". Here you can download a donation form or see page 11 of the LEAPERS Newsletter for additional information. Donations are 100% tax deductible.**

Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward, Inc.

Won't you invest in our children's education?

LEAP Forward is a non-profit corporation that qualifies as a 501 (c) (3) corporation under the Internal Revenue Code. As such, contributions are tax deductible in accordance with federal law.

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

Thank You



Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward, Inc.

2009 Contributions

Yes, I want to invest in our children!
Please accept my tax-deductible
donation of \$_____.

Mail to: LEAP FORWARD

2290 Adelina Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Student Interest Form

Student Interest Form

Name

Address

Address

Phone Number

School

Classification (Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior)

Interested in

_____Engineering

_____Scholarships

_____Math and Science Career Options

_____College Assistance

_____Literature

_____Academic Support



Mail to

LEAP Forward

2290 Adelina Road

Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Or email information to

leapforwardinc@yahoo.com or

rthomas@leapforwardinc.org