



## DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS,

2010 is the year of the census. Their slogan is "we can't move forward unless you mail it back". Quite catchy! We actually feel the same way and acknowledge with any Forward movement you sometimes have to go Back. Progress requires sacrifice at times. We know that most of the county is sacrificing and suffering. People are looking for jobs, trying to hold on to their homes, saving pennies to pay for gas, and on and on. And yet, with all these conditions the plight of our children still remains. In major cities across America, student drop out rates are astounding. In Baltimore (City), Prince George's County and Washington, D.C. the graduation rates are 38.5%, 67.3% and 57% respectively; that is why our children and youth still need US. This is why LEAP Forward continues to provide educational outreach services to our young people despite the hard times we are experiencing. For those of you who are fortunate to have gotten a good education and find yourself in a position to aid others who are where you use to be; we want to remind you that our young people can't continue to LEAP Forward or obtain the success we have unless we Give Back.

This issue will highlight our 2009 scholarship recipients, introduce two new scholarship opportunities being offered by LEAP Forward and acknowledge a few Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) professionals. Our message is **CLEAR**; if we could do it, so can this generation of young people.

Yes, we understand that times are economically challenging right now. However, we still **BELIEVE** that things will get better and asked you to reach inside your piggy banks and lend a helping hand. Know that no contribution is too small and ALL contributions are graciously appreciated! As such, LEAP Forward stands ready to receive your financial gifts and support in 2010 and will use it to create a **BRIGHTER** tomorrow for our young people. Thank You. Rhonda Thomas, Founder

## Notable Events In 2009

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

**March** – Attended the National Society of Black Engineers Conference – Las Vegas, Nevada



**August**—Scholarship Reception held and 9 Book Scholarships awarded to deserving high school seniors—Prince Frederick, Maryland

**August**—Support Provided to the Back to School Blessings Program (Providing school supplies)

**October**—Established the Pamela Offer Memorial Scholarship

**October** – Established the Andrew Goodrich Memorial Scholarship

**November**—Supported the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Forum held at the Constitution Center in Washington D.C.

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## 2009 Wallace Lorenzo Leeper Memorial Scholarship Recipients



“What is the Value of Education? To Make a Worthwhile Life”, Dr. Brown.

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:



**Jo'nel Roxanne Barnes**

Calvert High School

Fayetteville State University

Physical Education (minor Business and Entrepreneurship)

“I want to be able to reach out to students and teach them. My intentions are to be the best Teacher I can be...”



**Jasmine Nicole Brown**

Calvert High School

College of Southern Maryland

Broadcasting and Communications

“Hopefully after I earn my degree, I aspire to intern at a news station where I will start off writing and covering local stories then progress my way up to my career goal of being an anchor woman”



**Kelsey Edwards**

Patuxent High School

Washington College

Behavioral Neuroscience

“My determination to be successful is preceded by the necessity of a good education... With a college education, my aspiration is to become a successful physician and one day return to my community physician and one day return to my community to open my own private practice.”



**Michael Ellison**

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute

Morgan State University

Electrical and Computer Engineering

“After I get my degrees (B.S. and Masters) in Engineering, I also plan to get a B.S. in Business and then start my own company.”

## President Obama said....

- In the 21st century, the best anti-poverty program around is a world-class education.
- No matter what you want to do with your life, I guarantee that you'll need an education to do it.
- What you make of your education will decide nothing less than the future of this country.
- You'll need the knowledge and problem-solving skills you learn in science and math to cure disease like cancer and AIDS, and to develop new energy technologies and protect our environment.
- If you quit on school—you're not just quitting on yourself, you're quitting on your country
- I'm calling on each of you to set your own goals for your education—and do everything you can to meet them.

## 2009 Wallace Lorenzo Leeper Memorial Scholarship Recipients



*The Work goes on, the Causes endures, the Hope still lives and the Dreams shall never die. Senator Edward Kennedy*



**Jameela Hendricks**

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute  
Morgan State University  
Architecture

"I believe my passion is to help people...and create any type of environment that will help people from daycares to skyscrapers."



**Nalynn Y. Holland**

Huntingtown High School  
Salisbury University  
Nursing

"...I believe I have found my purpose. My purpose in life is to help others. It is my plan to be an anchor for people from all walks of life providing essential care."



**Ameellah S. Isley**

Calvert High School  
College of Southern Maryland  
Nursing

"Facing hardships throughout my life and in my past will make me successful nurse.. I believe I will enjoy this practice of the care of all people."



**Jay Little Jr.**

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute  
Pennsylvania State University  
Civil Engineering

"I plan to get right into my field contributing to engineering...I will use my knowledge in engineering and degree from business to help me throughout the necessary steps to fulfill my goals... I want to create a neighborhood and may others..."

## President Obama said....

- Still in this country, a high school diploma no longer guarantees a good job.
- The truth is, being successful is hard.
- You can't let failures define you—you have to let your failures teach you.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it.

- I expect you to put your best effort into everything you do. I expect great things from each of you. So don't let us down.
- Don't let your family down or your country down. Most of all, don't let yourself down. Make us all proud.





## 2009 Rev. Charles Lee, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Recipient



Yes! EVERYONE Deserves A Chance At A FUTURE. We Are So Proud of You All!!



**Michelle Brooks**  
Calvert High School  
Bowie State University



Congratulations to Michelle Brooks! Michelle will graduate on May 21, 2010 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. With a GPA of 3.75, she is currently Magna Cum Laude. Her career aspirations are to own and operate her own business. She is affiliated with 2 honor societies: Alpha Chi and Delta Mu Delta. Her words of wisdom to other youth: "Always respect yourself and pray continually for direction when making critical decisions. True happiness is in knowing God and walking with Him daily. Have faith to wait on the Lord, especially in times of adversity. Marvelous blessings are waiting for you; position and prepare yourself to receive them."



**Past Scholarship Recipient  
and College Tour Participant**

Congratulations to Dominique Reid, a 2006 gradate from the School Without Walls in Washington D.C.

In 2005 Dominique participated in our college tour to Tennessee State University. Though she was impressed with TSU, she decided to pursue her education here at home at the University of Maryland College Park! We are so please to report that in May 2010 she will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art Studio. We are equally pleased that she will continue her studies at the UMCP and pursue a Masters degree in Education in the Fall of 2010.

Congratulations!



### Education

**is going to be the key for us for a very long time.**

Dr. Ruth Simmons, President Brown University

## Who Wants to Be An Engineer?

LEAP Forward was introduced to Malcolm by his grandparents who reside in Maryland. LEAP Forward provided an informational package about engineering and programs at HBCUs.

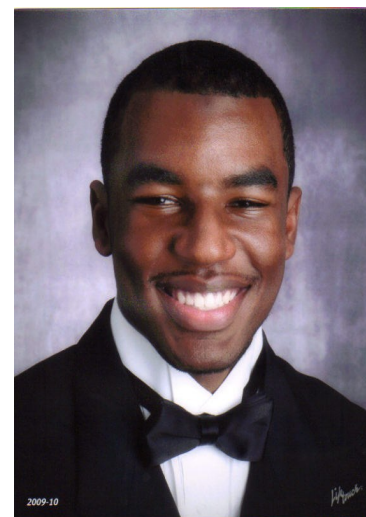
Malcolm will graduate in the top 50 of his class. He has a 3.98/5.0 GPA. For extra-curricular activities, he played football all four years and plans on doing so in college. He also runs track. When we asked him why he wanted to be an engineer, he replied "Engineers are innovators. Engineers are pioneers. Engineering is a demanding field and I feel like I'm up to the challenge. I have a strong passion for math and I believe engineering will help me channel that passion into something that can help the world."

**Malcolm Miller**

2010 Graduate of Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy in Chicago, IL.

Malcolm has decided to attend North Carolina A&T in the Fall. He is the recipient of the Lewis and Elizabeth Dowdy Scholarship, which covers everything plus a laptop!

We are SO PROUD of Malcolm!





## Scholarship Reception 2009—Reflections

On August 9, 2009, LEAP Forward held its second scholarship awards reception at the Phillips House in Prince Frederick, MD. Scholarship recipients in attendance received certificates and monetary book scholarship awards. The program included the following activities. College experiences and words of encouragement were shared by Jessica Brooks, graduate of Morgan State University and Dynika Gross, first year student at University of Maryland Baltimore County. A memorial tribute to the late Rev. Charles Lee, Sr. and words of encouragement were provided by his son, Charles Lee, Jr. as he presented the first annual Lee Memorial Scholarship to Michelle Brooks (Bowie State University). Rhonda Thomas presented the Wallace Leeper Memorial Scholarships and allowed all recipients to share a few words about their educational and career goals. The LEAP Forward poem was read by Dorien Minor (Barstow Elementary). Scholarship recipients and their families enjoyed a fabulous dinner prepared by Board Member, Maurice Irvine. Board members Wilhemina Greene, Wilson Ennis and Conrad White contributed to the success of this event. Special Thank you to Kelvin Offer (President of The Pamela Offer Memorial Foundation), Joseph and Pamela Berry, Grace Parker, and Tammie and Paul Owens. Congratulations to all of our 2009 scholarship recipients!



Photos include 2009 Scholarship Recipients, LEAP Forward Board Members, Mr. Charles Lee, Jr. , Family, Friends and other Guests.

## 2009 LEAP Forward Contributors



During hard economic times God provided *OUR RAMS* in the bush in 2009! WE Thank Him and All of YOU.

### *A Big Thank You to Our 2009 Contributors*

Gregory Woods  
 William Harris  
 Pamela Berry  
 Wilhemina Greene  
 Mrs. Charles Lee, Sr. and Family  
 Rhonda Thomas  
 James Battieste  
 Conrad White  
 Gloria Dennis  
 Yamilee Dambreville  
 Bill and Blanche Finch  
 Carleen Adams  
 Maurice Irvine  
 Harry Wilson  
 Dorien Minor and Kimberly Thomas  
 Keith Pruitt  
 Dorothy Gomes  
 Kelvin Offer—Pamela Offer Memorial  
 Foundation and Eric Goodrich—In  
 Memory of Dr. Andrew Goodrich

### WE REMEMBER....

LEAP Forward acknowledges the support and encouragement received over the years from the late **Marilyn Brown Preston Killingham**. We truly appreciated her support which included:

- ♥Passing on contact information for persons she felt could assist the organization.
- ♥Editing and reviewing our Newsletters and other correspondence.
- ♥Providing one of *our first* financial donations. A \$10.00 bill with a note that proclaimed "May God Bless You by Adding the Other Zeros!"

We Thank you... Rest In Peace



## Quotable Quotes

**The three great essentials to achieve anything worthwhile are, first, hard work; second, stick-to-itiveness; third, common sense.**

**Thomas Edison**

**What lies ahead of you and what lies behind you is nothing compared to what lies with you.**

**Mohandas K. Gandhi**



## The Faces of STEM Professionals

Attention all Youth!

IF WE can do it..... YOU can do it!! Consider a career in science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics.

From right to left: Name-Undergraduate College, B.S./M.S. Engineering Degrees. Rhonda-Tennessee State University Electrical /Systems Engineering; Michelle-Howard University, Civil Engineer; Yvette-Northwestern University, Chemical/Civil Engineering; Kimberly-George Mason University, Information Technology; Philip-, Sociology/Business, Chloe-Duke University African American Studies with Biomedical Engineering classes; Arthur-University of Michigan, Chemical Engineer; Pamela-University of Florida Environmental/Industrial Engineering; Zahara-North Carolina A&T, Chemical Engineering; Dashun-xxxx Engineering, Hugh-Brown University, Mechanical Engineer; Michael-Virginia Tech, Aerospace and Industrial/Systems Engineering.





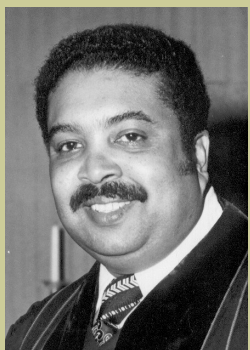
## Scholarship Applications 2010: Two Additional Scholarships Announced

Greetings Applicants!

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

The Leeper Scholarship awards 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 awards a one-time \$1000.00 scholarship to deserving disadvantaged minority students from the Washington Metropolitan areas. Current college and high school students may apply.



For  
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Schol-  
Applica-  
tions

Please Visit

[www.leapforwardinc.org/News.html](http://www.leapforwardinc.org/News.html)  
or [www.smdcan.com](http://www.smdcan.com)

### Scholarship Criteria

Be a high school graduate or current college student with a GPA of 2.5 or above;

Accepted by an accredited University/College;

Display scholastic, athletic and/or leadership achievement;

Be in need of financial assistance (verification may be requested; and

Submit a completed application and essay.

*Serving the underrepresented disadvantage minority population.*

### 2010 Dr. Andrew Goodrich Scholarship

Andrew L. Goodrich Ph.D., of Memphis, Tennessee, was a jazz musician, educator and early civil rights activist. Andy often performed on Beale Street and developed lifelong friendships with musicians such as B.B. King, Phineas Newborn, Hank Crawford, Maurice White, Emerson Able and others. He attended and was a member of the Manassas High School Band in Memphis, TN whose members included jazz greats, *Booker Little, Frank Strozier, Harold Mabern, and Charles Lloyd*. He received a music scholarship to attend Tennessee State University where he performed with the famed "Aristocrat of Bands" marching band and with their college jazz band. One of the highlights of his musical career was performing with Cannonball and Nat Adderly along with poet Langston Hughes in the first "Jazz and Poetry" concert at Fisk University in 1958. He also was invited and performed at the White House. Dr. Andy Goodrich was not only a very talented and outstanding alto saxophonist he was an educator. After working as a public school music teacher for fifteen years in Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee he returned to Michigan State University in 1967 and completed his Ph.D. in Administration and Higher Education. He was soon appointed the Director of the Office of Minority Group Programs at the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges in Washington, D.C. He subsequently served as an Administrative Director for Student Affairs at the University of Maryland. He participated in civil rights activities from his college days and throughout life. He was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.



### 2010 Pamela R. Offer Memorial Scholarship

A 1982 graduate of Calvert High School, Pamela had a GREAT love and desire for education. Her matriculation extended to the Charles County Community College, and the University of Maryland University College where she earned Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees. Proving that a good education leads to a worth while life, Pamela excelled in her 25 year career with the Federal Government at the FBI, Census Bureau and the Commander Navy Installation Command.

*Through a generous contribution from a foundation established in her memory, LEAP Forward is proud to administer this one-time scholarship in her honor to an female minority student from Calvert County, Maryland.*





## 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."

**Are you interested in LEAP Forward services?**

**Please complete the form on page 10.**

**check out**

<http://mathforum.org>  
(Virtual Math Forum)



[WWW.LEAPFORWARDINC.ORG](http://WWW.LEAPFORWARDINC.ORG)

**Phone: (301) 509-3872**

**Or (410) 535-1803**

**Email: [leapforwardinc@yahoo.com](mailto:leapforwardinc@yahoo.com)**

**Or**

**[Rthomas@leapforwardinc.org](mailto:Rthomas@leapforwardinc.org)**

*Excellence. Dedication. Commitment.*

## Community News

Message from Dr. Bevlee A. Watford, "The College of Engineering at Virginia Tech is embarking on a long term plan to increase the numbers of African American, Hispanic, American Indian and Women students admitted to and enrolling in our undergraduate engineering and computer science degree programs. We believe that increased diversity of our College will enhance the educational experience of all students. If you have any questions, please contact me at [ccd@vt.edu](mailto:ccd@vt.edu) (540) 231-3244."

**STEM CAMP in Annapolis, Maryland Grades 7, 8, 9 and 10th. More information [www.usna.edu/Admissions/stem.html](http://www.usna.edu/Admissions/stem.html)**

Message from Professor Montanez Wade, Director Pre-College Programs (Summer Transportation Institute) at Tennessee State University. Grades 10, 11 or 12. Contact Professor Wade, (615) 963-5366 [mwade1@tnstate.edu](mailto:mwade1@tnstate.edu)

Howard University Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP) summer camp for High School Seniors. [www.howard.edu/mseip](http://www.howard.edu/mseip) or Contact Emmanuel Glakpe, Professor of Mechanical Engineering (202) 806-7741 [eglakpe@howard.edu](mailto:eglakpe@howard.edu)

Online studies in Geographic Information Systems (GEOG 3150) for 3 credits. Dr. Padgett (615) 963.5508 [dpadgett@tnstate.edu](mailto:dpadgett@tnstate.edu) or <http://www.tnstate.edu/interior.asp?mid=6436&ptid=1>

# Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward, Inc.

We Can't LEAP Forward Until You Give Back

**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. Donations are 100% tax exempt.

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

Thank You



Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward, Inc.

## 2010 Contributions

**Yes, I want to invest in our children!  
Please accept my tax-deductible  
donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.00.**

**Mail to: LEAP FORWARD**

2290 Adelina Road  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678



## Student Interest Form

Student Interest Form

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Classification (Freshman, 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