

Science ... Technology... Engineering... Math

www.leapforwardinc.org 7th ANNUAL EDITION JUNE, 2013 LEAPERS

A Newsletter for the Community...about the Education of 'Our Children'

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of our numerous scholarship recipients and the youth who participate in our outreach programs, we at **LEAP Forward** would like to "**Thank you**." **Thank You** for your continued financial support. **Thank you** for your many kind deeds and countless words of encouragement and inspiration. It's all about the education of 'Our' children.

And we Thank You for your prayers during 2012.

As an observer and participant of life, I am both saddened and encouraged by what I have seen and experienced. Some current events have made me cry out, "what in the world is happening with our youth?" Bullying is at an all time high. At times, I question if anyone really cares. Then there have been those occasions when my very soul has 'burst' with excitement. I have witnessed the successes and accomplishments of youth who have accepted the challenges to aspire academically and to help forge a stronger community. I recently met a 5th grader who served as the lead programmer for her NSBE Jr. robotic team! Achievements such as this should be touted as much as a 30.0 point per game average.

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I am both honored and blessed to serve. It's our duty and our utmost pleasure. Thank you again for your support in 2012. Please consider us in 2013. Help! Give! Pray! Encourage! Inspire! Listen! Donate! Volunteer! Learn! Love! Mentor! Call!............. Rhonda Thomas

LEAP FORWARD'S 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EV ENT
January	Career Day at Plum Point Middle School
January	Career Day at Northern High School
February	Supported Engineering Week at Middle School
February	Engineering Week-Building Museum Washington, DC
March	NSBE Convention-Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
April	Maryland Non-Profits Open House
April	Engineering Kits distributed to the School of Success
April	Motorcycle Rally-Ride for Education
May	15 th Annual Summit on Technology-Bowie State
May	STEM Fair-Tacoma Park Middle School
July	Scholarship Reception
September	Yes Ministry tutoring commences
November	College Fair to promote engineering

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2012 LEAP Forward's Memorial Scholarships

THE WALLACE LORENZO LEEPER MEMPRIAL SCHOLARSHIP



1935-1978

Wallace Lorenzo Leeper. With his insight and his involvement in his student's preparedness to face the ever changing global challenges, **LEAP Forward** with great adulation do establish and administer this scholarship in honor of the man who 'started it all'. He helped to eradicate pre-existing barriers which prevented many academically gifted minority students from utilizing their fullest potential. A high school guidance counselor by profession, a Godsend by many families and current minority professionals. He directed many students into college and post- graduate schools. His involvement with the Pax-Tenn Navy Co-Op program was instrumental in producing many of the LEAP Forward Board Members, and **LEAP Forward** itself.

THE VIOLET PARKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



1917-2006

Violet Parker. The matriarch of the family. Her kind, wise yet stern demeanor helped to lead and navigate her family through life's endless adversities. She lead by example and expected only the best from 'her children'. Mrs. Parker celebrated and boasted over the challenges overcame, strides made and academic advances met, by each of 'her children'. Mrs. Parker, who saw the value of education, along with her unwavering lifetime commitment of helping others who through no fault of their own, may have needed help to be uplifted; and gave freely. Contributions from the Parker Family and Mrs. Parker's 'children' makes this scholarship possible. Mrs. Violet Parker will be remembered through prayers, this scholarship and in the words of that old Negro spiritual, "May the Work I've Done, Speak for Me".

THE REV. CHARLES LEE Sr. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



1928-2007

Rev. Charles Lee, Sr. As a veteran of the Korean War he demonstrated his leadership abilities which allowed him to advance from the enlisted ranks to becoming an officer, where he served as Chaplain. While a student he took on leadership roles in the early stages of the modern day Civil Rights movement. He organized non-violent sit-ins and took on leadership responsibilities in the historic Selma-Montgomery March. In 1987 Rev. Lee was appointed District Superintendent for the Golden Gate District of California/Nevada Conference for the United Methodist Church. We at LEAP Forward would like to thank the philanthropic generosity made by his wife Carol Carruthers Lee and their two sons Charles Lee, Jr. and William Lee.

THE RANDOLPH ADAMS AND CLIFTON MORSELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



1920-2011

Clifton Morsell A highly decorated veteran of World War II for his heroism, leadership and his ability to motivate and to be able to make decisions under adverse conditions. In November 2010 he, along with other veterans from Calvert County and Washington DC was honored by the Calvert County NAACP. Mr. Morsell, father of LEAP Forward's board member Tim Mosell, was a devout husband and exemplified what is meant by a Strong Black Man. He would not hesitate to 'drop what he was doing' to help his neighbors and friends. He stressed the importance of education but placed a heavy emphasis on Mathematics.

THE RANDOLPH ADAMS AND CLIFTON MORSELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



1947-2007

Randolph Adams Son-in-law of Mr. Clifton Morsell. As with Mr. Morsell, he was that giant whose shoulders his children stood on in order to pursue their dreams. He was a hard working, blue collar African-American man whose sensed the urgency of an education. He aspired to have his children be the best at whatever endeavor they chose to pursue. Mr. Adams can look upon his two children with pride. Rantessa Adams is an educator in the Calvert County public school system. His youngest daughter, Marseta Dill who was involved in LEAP Forward's community outreach pursued a career in engineering. Currently she is an electrical engineer with the Federal Aviation Administration.

Launching Educational Assistance Program Forward Inc. 2012 CHARLES H. LEE, SR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Darius Jones
Patuxent High School Graduate
Shepherd University
Athletic Training



"A problem that I can personally relate to is obesity. This is why I plan to study athletic training and nutrition. It will equip me with the tools and knowledge to become a personal trainer and nutritionist...What I do and how productive I am in society is up to me and only me."



Riddicia Mackall Howard University Accounting



"I really enjoy being a resource and sharing what I have learned with others; and I truly enjoy making a difference in the lives of my family, friends, and community...The education and experience I've received at Howard thus far has been priceless.. Through all my experiences and opportunities, I realized that I do not only shape my future, but the future of others."

2012 VIOLET PARKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Shakira Chapman Calvert High School College of Southern Maryland Education



"Calvert pushed me to test my educational limits with higher level classes (Honors and AP classes) and I shined each time...When I go to college, I would have my contribution to society to be me being a positive role model to others. I want to prove that there is still hope in the new generation, and I am one with hope."



Lachelle Stewart
Calvert High School
College of Southern Maryland
Engineering



"After my four years of higher education, I hope to help people with my engineering degree...With my degree, I could change multiple lives with an invention or an idea...What I hope to contribute to society is my ideas. I hope that by giving my ideas, it inspires others to give their own ideas. Ideas are the start of change."

2012 ADAMS-MORSELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Torez CookeFrostburg State University
Sports Medicine/Physical Therapy



"I have aspirations of being in the sports medicine field because it will help me learn more about sports injuries and treatments, which will allow me insight into the personal trainer career, and it will keep me around athletes that love sports just as much as I do...I want to be the one that improves young athletes skills."



Michael Greene Baltimore Polytechnical Institute Morgan State University Electrical Engineering



"My future goal is to become an Electrical Engineer because the field deals with the use of electricity, electronics and electromagnetism to make new tools... The biggest factor that has influenced my decision to pursue engineering has been living in the city of Baltimore. I watch how people struggle to work, live and thrive in urban settings. I think of ways that I could use existing concepts, buildings, tools and ideas to create modern living space or ways of communication that can help us progress."

2012 WALLACE LEEPER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Brittany Brown Huntingtown High School University of Maryland College Park Education



"Life is divided in seasons. In knowing how this season has impacted me, I feel that I can best service my community through providing quality education to high school students. I feel that I will be able to pour back into my community by becoming the best teacher that I can be. In the future, I promise to strive for excellence because I believe it's obtainable for all."



Tonique Butler Calvert High School Bowie State University Chemistry



"I have always known from a young age that I wanted to help people; I felt as though that was my calling and it was one of the reasons that I was put on this earth... My ultimate goal is to become a dentist...I am determined and will do any and everything to further my education and attend a dental school, so that one day I will have my own dental office."

2012 WALLACE LEEPER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

(continued)



Markeisha Creek Calvert High School CSM/Bowie State University Physical Therapy





"I have decided to become a physical therapist because a lot of people that I know have gotten into car accidents. That was a lot to go through... I like to meet new people and have different challenges every day. I know that I will have a good future because I am always happy and I love everyone and I am a nice person. I like to work hard every day and like to learn something new every day."



Sylvester Phillips
Calvert High School
Bethune Cookman University
Engineering



"Educationally, every day I put forth a hard working effort in my class rooms. My favorite subjects are engineering and math. I understand math well because I took the extra time to study what was most difficult when I was younger...I've learned to never give up and that hard work surely pays off. I appreciate all my teachers and mentors that help me get this far."

Have You Ever Considered A Scholarship In Memory of Your Loved One?

Why Not Establish Your Scholarship Through LEAP Forward?
The Process is Easy!

Memorial scholarship guidelines are available on the LEAP Forward website:

www.leapforwardinc.org

All donations and contributions received

In Memory... They can 'Keep On Giving'

Providing a scholarship in honor of your family serves several purposes. First, it helps a student pursue their dream of a college education. Secondly, it leaves a legacy that can be cherished by your family and lastly, it makes others aware of the contributions of the outstanding individual being honored.

We thank you in advance for your undertaking of this great task! You are in good hands with LEAP Forward! Please feel free to review our track record at www.leapforwardinc.org under News! Without a doubt, it is our sincere privilege to administer this scholarship on behalf of your family!

Peace and Blessings!

A STEM STUDENT EXPERIENCES HIS FIRST NSBE CONVENTION



by Kevin Cook

Ingenuity and amicability – two things anyone must possess to succeed; two things that were displayed at the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) National Convention. This Convention is an annual event, one where black engineers – current and aspiring gather to celebrate the past year's accomplishments, and to network with new colleagues, employers, and friends.

Ingenuity: the outside-the-box thinking. Efficient problem solving requires this trait. During the convention there were quite a few competitions in which competitors were tasked with solving an engineering problem. These competitions thusly pitted the ingenuity of one group against that of another. Boats, cars, robots – all were made into a friendly competition amongst peers. All were learning experiences. All were tools for bringing out the best in those competing.

The National Convention is a chance to meet new people with similar interests; to network with those in your field of profession. I went, not knowing anyone, and conversed with and befriended people I had never met. Naval and Air Force officers, high school and college students, college and company representatives – all were welcoming to me, to my peers, and to each other. The overall amicability of everyone at the convention was – and is – an integral part of the convention experience.

I would recommend that everybody should experience this event – not just those interested in engineering. The career fair, the college fair, the competitions, the workshops and seminars, the award ceremonies, the guest speakers – all the pieces that make up this NSBE National Convention put together make up this momentous annual event.

I look forward to going again.

GRANT WRITERS

Are you a grant writer? Do you know of anyone who can write grants. Retired? Lots of free time on your hands? Want to know about the best work from home opportunity, one that can affect a child's life forever. Grants along with your generosity is LEAP Forward's lifeline to implementing our ability to help our students. Become a LEAP Forward board member and help make a difference.

LEAP FORWARD and HOOKED ON NERO ESTABLISHES NSBE Jr. CHAPTER



GROUP PHOTO

On January 26th, nine charter members of the National Society of Black Engineers Jr. (NSBE Jr.) met at Ledo's Pizza in Prince Frederick, MD to establish a new local chapter.

The National Society of Black Engineers is a student operated organization that provides a pre-college initiative for youth to develop and master their science, technology, engineering and mathematical (STEM) fields. The organization's mission is to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professional and positively impact the community. World headquarters is located in Alexandria, VA and chapters exist nationally as well as internationally.

Students who participate in the newly formed chapter will be able to benefit from engineering competitions such as Try-Math-A-Lon, academic enrichment programs including mentoring and tutoring, camps and conferences such as the national conference to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana in March and free magazine subscription to the NSBE Bridge.

This new NSBE Jr. chapter was named by the charter members and will be called CASH (Creative And Striving Hard) to Succeed. Shanell Nero who is an electrical engineering graduate of Morgan State University and is the CEO of Hooked On Nero, a math tutorial company, will spearhead efforts with Rhonda Thomas. Rhonda Thomas and advisor Wilson Ennis Jr., are electrical engineering graduates of Tennessee State University and Board Members of LEAP Forward. Numerous other minority engineering professionals who have roots in Calvert County are also on tap and eager to participate.

Nero and Thomas feel that this targeted organization will provide, much needed inspiration, encouragement, and pride to our youth. Membership is still open and all 6-12 students are encouraged to join, as they will benefit both from the exposure and to the new and different opportunities.

For additional information on membership, and to inquire how you can be that bridge into some child's future, Rhonda is anxious to answer any questions:

301.509.3872 or email her at Leapforwardinc@yahoo.com

CONCERNED BLACK WOMEN HARRIETT TUBMAN AWARD



Left to right: Co-Founder Doris Spencer Rhonda Thomas, Co-Founder Annette Funn

Harriet Tubman was born a slave, in Maryland around 1820. She escaped to her freedom at the age of 29. Rather than resting on her laurels and the joys that came along with her freedom, she made it her dreams and goals to help the disadvantage of her people achieve the same freedom she had attained. Harriet Tubman ventured back into slave country time and time again, at her own peril, to secure the freedom of over 300-slaves. She worked through the Underground Railroad and and boasted, "I never ran my train off the track, and I never lost a passenger".

After graduating from Tennessee State university a member of the Eta Kappa Nu engineering honor society, Rhonda went on to earn dual masters degrees: Masters of Science Systems Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and a Masters of Science Degree from the University of Southern California. As with Harriet Tubman, she could have easily rested on her laurels. Take her well earned fruits and live the life of riley. But the drive that many of us will never understand burn within people like Rhonda and Harriet Tubman. If they could sit down and talk, one day they will, the can attest to the times they felt as if the hardships of their struggles were futile. How they used as a litmus test, one success at a time. Their need to help others enjoy the fruits they themselves have been granted, can be an all consuming task. Many times questioning the paths they have chosen.

The Concerned Black Women of Calvert County awarded Rhonda Thomas in recognition of her unselfish acts in laying the foundation for the disadvantaged of our community, so that they may have the same opportunity to set ambitious and attainable goals. And for realizing real change takes place one child at a time:

The Harriet Truman Award for Community Service Woman of the Year-2012

Matthew 6:6

15th ANNUAL YOUTH SUMMIT ON TECHNOLOGY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY



GROUP PHOTO
Chaperones Left to right front row: Maurice Irvine,
Beatrice Brown, Rhonda Thomas, Juanita White

Twenty-five students along with their chaperones anxiously await the festivities of the Youth Summit at Bowie State University. The Summit's purpose was to get students 5-12th grades interested in STEM careers. The day's activities would began with a Mix & Mingle breakfast and would be full of science exhibitions, hands on displays and engineers who are eager to help peak a child's interest towards challenging STEM opportunities. After lunch the day would include computer building competitions, the infammous Patro-Tech Game show and speeches by military, government and private industry. Intern opportunities were made available by several corporations. Several students said it was, 'cool'.

LEAP FORWARD ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINMENTS



Left to right front row: Larry Davis, Rhonda Thomas, Maurice Irvine

LEAP Forward would like to announce new appointments within the organization. An old friend to LEAP Forward, Larry Davis comes from Motorola. He also has a strong Civil Service background as an electrical engineer with Strike at the Naval Air Test Center and EEOC participation. Board member Maurice Irvine has been appointed to VP.

1st ANNUAL MOTORCYCLE RALLY AND RIDE FOR EDUCATION



LEAP FORWARD Board volunteers Pam Berry and Kim Thomas register bike riding participants

On Saturday 14 April, 60 motorcycles and their passengers participated in the Calvert County Bikers United first annual charity ride supporting **LEAP Forward**. This was the first fund raising event for 2012 the **LEAP Forward** organization. The motor-cycles departed the Prince Frederick Shopping Center at 11:00 am and headed North on Rt.4 with a police escort provided by the Calvert County Sheriff Department. The planned route took the bikers through Calvert, Anne Arundel, Prince Georges and St Mary's counties. The final destination was Vera's Beach Club in Lusby, Md. The ride took approximately 1 hour 45 minutes. While at Vera's, a number of door prizes were given away.

Special thanks to Alma Thomas and the Southern Maryland Spinners Motorcycle Club for planning this event. The event had the support and participation from the Calvert County Joy Riders MC, Eclispe Sport Riderz MC, Too Deep MC, All About Family MC and many other clubs and independent bikers from as far away as Baltimore and Virginia. We need to also thank Kim Thomas, Pam Berry and Dorissa Johnson (Eclipse Sport Riderz MC) for getting the bikers registered. And extra special thanks to Myra Campbell for soliciting many of the items used for door prizes from the many business in Calvert County including a one night stay at the Holiday Inn-Solomons. Also thanks to many of our involved community and Board members who provided door prizes.

THE KING MONUMENT and the One MILLION DOLLAR Ooops



LEAP Forward members take part in opening festivities for the Dr. King Memorial

It was the first monument on the National Mall to honor a non-president. **LEAP Forward** members took part in the 5-day celebration to commemorate the legacy. But, its been embroiled in controversy since design conception. Many prominent African-Americans opposed the selection of Lei Yixin, a master sculptor from Changsha in China to lead the memorial's design team. Those opposing this selection cited the large number of talented African-Americans who could have easily provided an equally high quality piece of artwork.

Recent controversy surrounding the monument involves the inscription, 'I was a drum major for justice, peace and righteousness." According to poet laureate Maya Angelou, it made Dr. King appear as an "arrogant twit". It was an abridged version of a speech made by Dr. King at his Ebenezer Baptist Church a few days before his assassination. In his speech he was responding to an earlier sermon made by J. Wallace Hamilton citing those who wanted to be in the forefront of the civil rights movement as having drum-major instincts. They basically, wanted to be the center of attention. Dr. King attempted to downplay his role in the civil rights movement by stating. "Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter'.

Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, has intervened and has announced the inscription will be removed and a full version of the quote will be engraved at a cost of one million dollars.

STANDARDIZED TESTING: HARMING MINORITY STEM STUDENTS?

Standardized testing falls under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), signed into law on January, 2008 by President George W. Bush. There is no national standard of testing but each state in order to receive federal funding must administer annually standard tests to its students. The name of the testing as well as the content of the state administered test may vary from state to state but each program must be approved by the Dept. of Education. A state can opt out of the requirement mandated by NCLB, if the state can provide a testing program that exceeds the NCLB requirements. Maryland falls under this category. J. James Popham, former president of the American Educational Research Association defines standardized test as "any test that's administered, scored, and interpreted in a standard, predetermined manner".

Those in favor of standardized testing argue that these tests are a fair and objective way to measure the students ability and ensure both teachers and schools are being held accountable to the taxpayer. Since the implementation of NCLB, U.S. schools have continued its down spiral in math, from 18th in 2000 to 31st place in 2009. As determined by the Programme for International Assessment (PISA). Many high stakes are place on these standardized tests, i.e., low scores can determine if a child advances to the next grade, if a teacher keeps his/her job and even school closings. Schools receiving funds through Section I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 are required to make an Adequate Year Progress (AYP), in which for example students, students in the sixth grade in 2011 must perform better than sixth grade students in 2012.

Standardized testing forces teachers to "teach to the test". Valuable instruction time is now being lost, preparing students for repetitive drilling. After test scores fell in New York City (2010) many schools resorted to two and a half hour daily prep sessions and test practice on vacation days in order to avoid closure. A three year study by Boston Study of Testing, Evaluation and Educational Policy, paid for by the National Science Foundation indicated that teachers in urban area, with a history of inadequate educational resources are more apt to base their curriculum around standardized testing rather than teaching the students methods of reasoning, which is the critical element when choosing STEM careers.

Organizations such as LEAP Forward must now dedicate the resources need to upgrade the skills of these disadvantaged students both through mentoring and homework labs in order that once these students enter into a college atmosphere, they can compete.

On two separate tests, New York State and Michigan, the National Assessment Educational Progress found that two thirds of the students missed the math word problems. Math word problems is based upon the actual application of a mathematical principle. Those of us who made it through the rigors of Applied Math know first hand, the need for mathematical reasoning.

NCLB has become the most important, and controversial method to gauge the students progress, the teacher's competence, the success/failure of a school as well as a states' commitment to education. With all these tangibles involved, cheating must also be factored into this equation. A 2011 study by USA today, found, this system of rewards and punishments based upon a students test performance has lead to offenses ranging from helping students correct mistakes, making facial gestures, failing to cover bulletin boards and even providing the students with actual test questions.

Some Seattle teachers, who administer the state's version of NCLB, named Measures of Academic Progress(MAP) with the support of the NAACP have boycotted the exam. The NAACP stated that the test did not reflect what the students have learned in the classroom and could produce "inequitable" results when used to select students for Advanced Placement classes. Angry parents and students in June, 2012 stage a protest against New York's version of NCLB, New York State Testing Program (NYSP). Amidst cries of "We are not guinea pigs", "I am more than a test score" and "Testing is Stressful" protesters stage their rally in Manhattan in front of Pearson Education, the exam publisher. Charges were made that parents do not have any idea as to what is being taught to their kids.

STANDARDIZED TESTING: HARMING MINORITY STEM STUDENTS? -CONT'D

We here at LEAP Forward are committed to the educational development needed by our kids to prepare themselves for the new global economy. We took direct action with the Calvert County Board of Education to have MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) as part of their PCI-(PreCollege Initiative) program. A program endorsed by NSBE-(National Society of Black Engineers) to promote academics, technology and leadership.

As a member of LEAP Forward, Maurice Irvine visited an open house in Baltimore County, New Town High, a relatively new school built in 2003. In 2010 it was honored by the Maryland Dept. of Education for performance on its version of NCLB (MSA-Maryland School Assessment). We were given a tour of the facility including going from class to class, stay for approx. 20 min. listen to the salutations of the instructor then ask questions. Upon entering into the Math classroom I noticed algebraic monomials on the board. I asked the teacher if they taught to NCLB and she replied with a smile, "Yes". I then asked what was the purpose of the half solved equations on the board, approx. (12). I was then informed this was how the children learned Math.

We at LEAP Forward urge you to visit the website below. It will provide you, on a sate by state basis, your state's response to NCLB. http://www.time4learning.com/testprep/

STEM OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS

"By 2020, this nation will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world."

. . .President Barack Obama

On March 30, 2010, President Barack Obama signed the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act. The bill allocates \$2 billion over four years to fund the TAACCCT grant program (Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training). The program strives to promotes skills development and employment opportunities in the areas of advanced manufacturing, transportation, health care and STEM careers through partnerships between community colleges and local employers. This initiative is directed towards the struggling middle class, those who have lost jobs due to outsourcing, decline in union membership and the advancement of modern technology.

The goals of President Obama are to help an additional 5 million Americans earn degrees and certifications in the next decade. On September 19, 2012 the Obama administration awarded \$500 million dollars in grants to community colleges to help promote partnerships between job training and the needs of local employers.

Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) has been selected to head a contingency of ten (10) colleges and nine (9) states: Maryland, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee and Washington, to help allocate and spend their portion of the \$500 million dollars. The combined total being \$19,730,281between the nine states. AACC in response to President Obama's challenge has established the Student Success 2020 program which will offer two new STEM programs, Mechatronics and Cyber Technology

A one-year certificate (30 credits) in mechatronics will be starting at AACC in Spring 2013. By taking AACC's eight mechatronics classes you will be getting hands-on training as you prepare for the Siemens AG certification exam. The mechatronics instructors at AACC are Siemens-certified mechatronics instructors.

Homeland Security and STEM opportunities go hand in hand. See how you can join a team of our nations top professionals in its ongoing effort to protect the nations networks against potential threats. No outsourcing of jobs, excellent wages and benefits. Need help navigating through the paper work, one of LEAP Forward's board member Maurice Irvine will be eager to assist with this terrific STEM opportunity. AACC has become a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance.

STEM OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS -CONT'D

"Now is the time to build a firmer, stronger foundation for growth that will not only withstand future economic storms, but one that helps us thrive and compete in a global economy. It's time to reform our community colleges so that they provide Americans of all ages a chance to learn the skills and knowledge necessary to compete for the jobs of the future."

... President Barack Obama

For further information how you can start a new career in Cyber Technology:

- 1). http://www.winvale.com/for government/technology manufacturers/anne arundel community colle gecybercenter/
- 2). http://www.nationalstem.org/home/cyber/

Or contact the college directly:

1). MareliseVoss: (410)777-2524

mevoss@aacc.edu

2).SusanGallagher,ProjectDirector: sgallagher5@aacc.edu

For further information on how you can start a new career in Mechatronics:

www.aacc.edu/mechatronics

Or contact the college directly:

1). Prof Joe Taylor (410)-777-2909 itaylor@aacc.edu

2). Prof. Tim Callinan (410)777-2354 tmcallinan@aacc.edu

The 'First' Black Greek President



The 42nd President hanging out with his Frat Brothers

Bill Clinton can also add to his accolades within the Black community as the first U.S. president to join a historically Black fraternity:

The Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFSDXJvBU8M http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKWupGV6oV

The Poet's Corner



Last year LEAP Forward highlighted the works of Joy Weems. This year we are proud to present for your reading, the writings of another talented African-American youth...Andrea Kelson...we hope you enjoy...See pg. 24

Andrea Kelson

Currently, I'm on my way to becoming a world renowned poet. I'm being mentored by former poet laureate of Maryland, Micheal Glaser. I believe that I am very exceptional at things such as singing, dancing, writing, and performing before an audience of several hundred or more. Last year as an incoming ninth grader I performed my most famous piece "Revolution" before an audience of about 1200 peers. I enjoy singing just as much as I enjoy writing poetry because they are both things that allow you to express your inner being without any shame or intolerance.

LEAP Forward's Partnership to Tutor Youth

LEAP Forward partners with Your Education Serves Ministry at Carroll Western United Methodist Church to provide free K-12 tutoring and mentoring services. Additionally, students are provided light snacks and exposure to workshops that includes financial management and the skill of book writing. The 3rd season of this tutoring program began in September 2012. Services are offered each Wednesday 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

Our computer area was revamped thanks to the gracious computer donations from Thurman Jones of the Patriot Technology Center, Lance Lucas of Digit All Systems, (please read the awe inspiring life story of Mr. Lucas), Thomas Contee and Doris Spencer. Many thanks also to Mark Ogletree for configuring all donated computers and Keith Brown for the actual layout and installation of the units. **LEAP Forward** and **YES Ministry** are blessed to have great volunteers Marcus Henson, Beatrice Brown, Mary Ann Bell, Beatrice Young, Glenda Fields, Lee Reed, Keith Robinson and Ken Simpson.

Additional volunteers are always needed!

ENTREPENEUR AND SAVIOUR: PROMOTES STEM



Lance Lucas

Read how Lance Lucas, owner of Digit-All-Systems walked away from a crime ridden past to become a key component in providing STEM opportunities to the previously unskilled, unemployed and disadvantaged.

(This is truly Amazing...And inspiring). His company also donated two(2) of the computers the students are now using in the tutoring lab.

Link:

http://technical.ly/baltimore/2012/11/13/lance-lucas-digit-all-systems-founder/

LEAP Forward's Student Guest Speaker-Scholarship Reception



Rididcia Mackall is currently a student at Howard Iniversity, with a major in Accounting. She is a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society and past recipient of **LEAP Forward's** Rev. Charles Lee Sr., Memorial Scholarship-2011. Riddicia was the guest speaker for our 2012 Scholarship Reception

by RIDDICIA MACKALL

(Abridged version of her 2012 Scholarship

Reception Speech)

I am Riddicia Mackall, a rising junior accounting information systems major at Howard University. First off, I just want to thank Leap Forward, Inc. for this scholarship and this invitation to come speak with you all. I truly see the importance of scholarships and community support. Every penny counts towards relieving the financial burden college students have once they have graduated. For these past two years, I truly have been fortunate and blessed to not have to stress my family and myself out financially. It gives me great joy to be here before you all to share a few words.

It stuns me how fast time really flies. It seems like just yesterday I was graduating from HHS and anticipating my journey at Howard. Congratulations to the 2012 high school graduates and as someone told me, "Welcome to the Best Years of Your Life." I am SURE that you all are very excited to start your tenure in college, but please keep in mind that college is a learning experience to build on your character, to sharpen your skills, and to be enriched in invaluable knowledge and skills in and outside the classroom.

Don't be afraid to be faced with challenges and don't be discouraged by people because with God and the loving support of others, you can accomplish anything you put your mind on. Without my family and friends, I KNOW I wouldn't be where I am today. My dad who is deaf is one of my biggest supporters and my thrive to succeed is dedicated to him as well as to be able to give back to my family and this community as they did to me.

I am a firm believer that "with education, your goals can be achieved." MY life has changed so much since coming to Howard and I could go on telling you how, but this is ABOUT YOU AND YOUR MATRICULATION in college TO BE SUCCESSFUL. START OFF STRONG, SMART, AND PUT GOD FIRST.

Now the challenge has been set, so I will you all the best of luck in all of your future endeavors. HARD WORK is the KEY to **success**. Thank you.

HEALTH MATTERS

2014 and ObamaCare









Realizing many in our community are being faced with skyrocketing healthcare costs, no insurance coverage and overzealous insurance companies. The most anticipated affects of the Patient Protection and the Affordable Care Act (Obama Care) will not go into affect until 2014. Until then, our community will get sick, jobs will still be lost and insurance policies will lapse. Heads of households will still be confronted with 'how do I provide health care for my family'. As a service to our community LEAP Forward has listed several low cost alternatives/services to help offset the staggering cost of medical care. (See pg. 14-Good Luck and Good Health!)

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF OBAMACARE:

June 21, 2010

People with pre-existing conditions can join a temporary high risk pool. Must be uninsured for the previous six months.

September 23, 2010

Insurance companies can no longer impose lifetime dollar limits on benefits.

Dependent children will be allowed to stay on parents' plan until their 26th birthday Insurance companies are prevented from excluding pre-existing conditions for children under (19)

All new insurance plans must cover preventive care and medical screenings and without co-payments, co-insurance or deductibles.

Insurance companies are prevented from dropping insured for becoming sick

January 1, 2011

Insurance companies must spend 80%-85% of premiums on health costs and claims and 15%-20% for administrative costs and profits.

September 1, 2011

Rate Review-Insurance companies must inform the public when they want to raise individual or smallrgups by 10% or more.

August 1, 2012

New plans must cover preventive services such as colostomies and mammograms without a deductible, co-pay or coinsurance.

Women's Preventive Services will be covered without cost; domestic violence screening and counseling, well-woman visits, gestational diabetes screening, sexually transmitted infection counseling, (HPV) DNA testing for women 30 and over, breastfeeding support FDA approved contraceptive methods and counseling.

January 1, 2014

Insurance companies are prohibited from discriminating against insured based upon gender or pre-existing conditions

A penalty of \$95.00 or up to 1% of income, whichever is greater for individuals not covered by an acceptable insurance policy.

Insurance companies are prevented from capping annual spending caps.

In participating states Medicaid eligibility will be expanded

Establishment of health insurance exchanges

HEALTH MATTERS



Primary Adult Care (PAC) Program



Healthcare for people nineteen (19) and over with a minimum(qualifying) income. Must be accepted into this program.

Benefits:

- · Free visits to a Primary care provider
- · Lower-price or no cost prescriptions
- Free outpatient visits to both counselor or psychiatrist Free visits to a Primary care provider
- Payment of medical emergencies, not hospital stays, emergency physician billing or specialist
- Payment of all services covered by the Maryland Planning Program with the exception of sterilization (tubal ligation)

To apply:

Call the toll-free no. at 1-800-226-2142. Request a PAC application form.

Mail application to:
PAC Program Application
P.O. Box 386
Baltimore, Md. 21203-0386

Or, visit the website:

https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/mpac/SitePages/Home.aspx

If you fail to qualify for PAC please log on to the following link. Its lists on a county by county basis health care assistance for low inocome individuals:

Guide to Health Services for Low Income Adults

https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/mpac/docs/Health_Services_Low_Income_Adults_July_2009.pdf

Guide to Specialty Services for Low Income Adults

https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/mpac/docs/Specialty_Services_Low_Income_Adults_July_2009.pdf

Need help navigating through the forms and paper work? Contact LEAP Forward board member, Maurice Irvine, and he will be eager to assist you:

Maurice Irvine: (410)522-8578

Essex.Drafting@comcast.net

Good Luck!

Owensville Primary Care

134 Owens ville Road West River, MD 20778

Ph.: 410-867-4700 **Fax:** (410)867-4934

"No Neighbor Should Ever Go Without Needed Health Care".

A non-profit organization. Quaility health care services without regard to ones ability to pay. One of eight federally qualified community health centers comprising the Priority Partners Managed Care Organization. In partnership with the Johns Hopkins Health Systems. Seasonal Allergy Shots Available!

Website: http://owensvillepc.com/

KEEPING OUR EYES ON THE VOTE

SECTION 5

Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 went directly at Congress' authority to enforce the Fifteenth Ammendment. What was so unique and effective about this piece of legislation is its "preclearance provision". Prior to the passage of this bill, it was incumbent upon the discriminated to prove that they had been discriminated against.

Section 5 specifically went after seven (7) southern states which had a history of discriminatory voting practices. These states were referred to as covered jurisdictions: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina (parts), South Carolina and Virginia. Alaska was later added. A covered state could bail out of this federal oversight by demonstrating to a federal district court in Washington, D.C that it has not provided any barriers used for racial discrimination, the preceding five (5) years, So far, only Alaska, in 1969, has been permitted to bail out..

In 2006 President George W, Bush signed into law a twenty-five year extension. Challenges to Section 5 are now before the Supreme Court. Many states feel that rather than abide by preclearance where the state must prove they have not been engaged in discriminatory actions, it would be easier to do away with this provision altogether. Challengers instead want to revert back to Article 2, which allows the after the fact enforcement, where litigants can bring allegations of discrimination after the act has taken place. Currently, there are sixteen states listed as "covered states".

An activist judge is a judge that bases his/her decision upon personal or political views. Judge Antonin Scalia , of the supreme court , along with Judge Clarence Thomas, who will rule on this argument are considered activist judges. On the very same day a statue to civil rights icon Rosa Parks was being unveiled at the White House, Judge Scalia referred to the 2006 passage of the Voting Rights Act (98-0) as a "perpetuation of racial entitlement" With the make up of the Supreme Court, proponents of the law feel Section 5 will be struck down.

To inquire more about the history of the Civil Rights Act of 1965. The causes which lead to its creation and passage we urge you to visit the attached link.

http://www.answers.com/topic/voting-rights-act-of-1965-1#ixzz2N3eJwTNG

MICHIGAN'S EMERGENCY MANAGER: DISENFRANCHISING BLACK VOTERS?



Michigan's Public Act 72 of 1990, authorizes the state to intervene in the affairs of local governments that experience financial emergencies, by electing an Emergency Financial Manager. The Public Act 4 of 2011 replaced PA 72 by giving the Manager additional authority. The voters however rejected PA 4 in the November elections..The republican controlled Michigan Legislature subsequently, in December, 2012 passed the Public Act 436 to which revived PA 72 of 1990.

The governor has the authority to appoint an Emergency Financial Manager(Emergency Manager), who has the power to take control over local governments. The manager supercedes and replaces the governing body, chief executive officer and any elected official of the local government. In addition, the manager can reduce pay, modify employee contracts, outsource work and reorganize departments. The EM has the authority to transfer failing schools to the Emergency Achievement Authority:

http://www.michigan.gov/eaa

On Thursday, March 14, 2013 Gov. Rick Snyder appointed Kewn Orr as Detroit's Emergency Manager(EM). With the appointment of the EM for Detroit, 49% of Michigan blacks will no longer have the right to elect public officials. They will live in cities where their public officials have been replaced by a single state appointed ruler.

Some civil rights leaders view Michigan as a testing ground. If a state can "legally" disenfranchise large groups of Blacks, what's to say this effort cannot be repeated.

KEEPING OUR EYES ON THE VOTE

2012 VOTER SUPPRESSION

- Shutting down registration drives by the League of Women Voters
- Shortening early registration periods targeting Souls to the Polls
- Documentation for proof of citizenship
- Restricting college students voter registration
- New voter ID laws
- Voting machines switching votes
- CEO's warning employees of lay offs if Obama was elected
- Voter intimidating billboards placed in minority communities
- Misleading robo calls
- Confusion over correct polling locations
- Disposing of valid registration forms
- · Purging of voters from voter rolls
- True the Vote, a conservative group engaging in voter suppression
- Felon disenfranchisement-voting restrictions on the formerly incarcerated
- · Inequality of election day resources
- (6) to (7) hour voting lines

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTING ACT

Is legislation that would allow states to award their total electoral votes to the presidential candidates that receives the majority of the popular vote. in all fifty states and the District of Columbia. The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) is an agreement among (8) states - California, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Vermont and Washington and the District of Columbia. The compact would be enacted when the electoral college votes of the state involved reaches a majority or 270 electoral college votes. As of April 2012, the 132 combined electoral votes of the (8) states involved in this agreement is 24.5% of the electoral college or 49% of the 270 votes needed for the compact to go into effect. The compact is based on Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution, . This would allow each state legislature the right to decide how to appoint its own electors.

RIGGING FUTURE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS



The electoral college is a system, mandated by the U.S. Constitution as the method we the people shall elect the President of the United States. Each state is given electoral college votes, based upon congressional districts. Once the popular votes has been counted for a presidential candidate, what ever candidate receives the majority of votes per that state, all of the electoral college votes from that state, will be warded to that candidate.

There is a move afoot by the Republican party spearhead by Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus, to have presidential elections decided by congressional districts, rather than the existing winner take all electoral system. Priebus recently told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, "I think it's something that a lot of states that have been consistently blue that are fully controlled red ought to be looking at."

For instance, Maryland awarded its (10) electoral votes to President Obama, for the 2012 nomination despite the majority on its congressional districts voting for Mitt Romney. Because of high progressive turnout in Prince George's County, Montgomery County and Baltimore City the popular (majority) vote went democratic. Michigan is another blue state, in which the last election cycle saw President Obama winning by nearly 10 percentage points. If this republican proposed. system were in place Mitt Romney would have received 9 of the state's 16 electoral college votes despite losing overwhelmingly. And if all (50) states were to have had this provision in place, Mitt Romney would have won the presidency by (11) electoral votes. The majority of congressional districts throughout the country consistently vote republican during presidential elections.

The effect of this, election by congressional districts, would be to limit the impact of African-American voters in urban areas, progressive voters in college communities and the union organizing efforts in swing states.

THE NEW MAJORITY

According to the US Census whites will no longer make up a majority of the people living in the United States by the year 2043. By that year, whites will make up 43 percent of the poulation, Blacks: 14.7 percent. Hispanics: currently 17 percent of the population, will almost double and will make up 31 percent, or nearly 1 in 3 residents. Asians are expected to increase from 5 percent of the population to 8 percent. The year when minority children will become the majority is expected to occur in 2019.

Economically, the rapidly increasing non-white demographic gives the U.S. an advantage over other industrialized nations, such as Russia, Japan and France. These nations are experiencing reduced growth or population losses due to declining birth rates and limited immigration. The populations of more-developed countries with the exception the U.S. has been projected to decline beginning in 2016. This is expected to increase the probabilities of budget crises as the number of working-age citizens decrease, while pension costs rise and tax revenues fall.

Socially, because of the changing demographics there are increased challenges to affirmative action programs. Community organizations such as LEAP Forward has to fill in the gaps, as increased challenges are being made for programs that seek to develop diversity in the work force. Plaintiffs now argue that special protections for ethnic and minorities are no longer viable; from college admissions to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 designed towards states that has a history of disenfranchisement.

The case of Fisher vs. the University of Texas where a white student Abigail Fisher alleges she was discriminated because she was white. At the heart of this case are programs involving work place diversity, the proverbial glass ceiling for woman as well as college admissions. This case may ultimately affect both government and private responses to minority and woman inclusion. And will further necessitate the need for organizations, such as LEAP Forward Inc. to help fill in those educational equality gaps that will occur .

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Quietly and without fan fair in 2012 President Obama signed the following Executive Orders:

Executive Order 13602

Establishing a White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities

 Signed: March 15, 2012
 Federal Register page and date: 77 FR 16131, March 20, 2012

Executive Order 13607

Establishing Principles of Excellence for Educational Institutions Serving Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, and Other Family Members

 Signed: April 27, 2012
 Federal Register page and date: 77 FR 25861, May 2, 2012

Executive Order 13621

White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African-Americans

Signed: July 26, 2012
 Federal Register page and date: 77 FR 45471
 August 1, 2012

Executive Order 13623

Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Women and Girls Globally

Signed: August 10, 2012
 Federal Register page and date: 77 FR 49345
 August 16, 2012

DECREASING SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS

The Baltimore City school system has adopted a policy to reward teachers and administrators in certain under achieving schools for decreasing the amount of school suspensions. Out -of -school suspensions for non-violent offenses will be offered as a last resort. This is a far departure from the zero-tolerance discipline policies that has been in place for years. Marietta English, president of the Baltimore Teachers Union opposes this policy citing the safety of teachers as her major concern. Some parents are raising the issues of cyberbullying. To date, the program has awarded bonuses ranging from \$5,000 to \$9,000 to 72 teachers and \$3000 to two principals. The funds are extracted from the \$695,000 **Race to the Top** federal funds awarded the city by the state to attract and retain quality educators and principals in the state's "worst" schools.

BLACK ENGINEER OF THE YEAR-2012 COMMUNITY SERVICE

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?' ... Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.











2012 Bids Farewell To These African-Americans Who 'Changed' Our Lives

They woo-ed us and they wowed us. They were the best at what they did. They overcame adversity. We emulated them. Their style. Their swagger. In 2012 we were forced to bid farewell to 'our friends' who helped shaped our lives. They reminded us of the beauty and the brutality of just being black. Let's take a pause and salute these great African-Americans.



Don Cornelius. Host of the first nationally syndicated television show, Soul Train, which predominantly featured African-Americans and was sponsored by African-Americans. On 2/1/2012 Mr. Cornelius was found in his Los Angeles home with a self inflicted gunshot wound.



Etta James. 'At Last', the Obama's danced to it, Beyonce sang it. For decades this classy blues singer gave us her all. Ms. James who alleges her father, as the legendary pool player, Minnesota Fats, on 1/20/2012 succumbed to leukemia after a long courageous fight.



Whitney Houston. Actress, model, singer, she excelled at everything she did. Guiness World records (2009)-most awarded female act in history. "I Will Always Love You", best selling female record in history. On 2/11/2012 Whitney was found dead in her Beverly Hills Hilton Hotel room.



Sherman Hemsley. Best known for the feisty character he portrayed in 'The Jeffersons', George Jefferson. The rags to riches story of a dry cleaner owner on the upscale section of New York City. Although active in the LGBT community, no autopsy was performed by the El Paso medical examiner who stated on 7/24/2012 that the actor died of natural causes. Subsequent speculations cited lung cancer as a probable cause. After a lengthy battle over the actor's estate, on 11/9/2012 a Texas judge finally authorized burial of Mr. Hemsley's body



Rodney King. A nation watched in horror as they witnessed white cops pummel a defenseless unarmed black motorist/construction worker. The nation was shocked once again at the acquittal of the white cops which precipitated a racial riot in South Central, Los Angeles that claimed 53 lives. It re-opened a scab which has permeated the black community for years, allegations of police brutality. On 6/17/2012 at the age of 47, his lifeless body was found at the bottom of a swimming pool.



Donna Summer. The "Queen of Disco"m a five-time Grammy Award winner and the first artist to have three consecutive double albums reach number one on the United States Billboard . She batted depression at the height of her career. One such bout the hotel maids intervened during a suicide attempt in time to save the pop icon. On May 17, 2012 , the legendary performer died due to a non-smoking form of lung cancer.

2012-THE YEAR IN REVIEW





MOTORCYCLE RALLY: A RIDE FOR EDUCATION





15th ANNUAL YOUTH SUMMIT ON TECHNOLOGY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY



2012 SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION



NSBE-CONVENTION PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

OUR CONTRIBUTORS...you shared your time, your money, your sweat and your prayers...to help our children realize their dreams...Thanks!

Nate Lovett Yamilee Dambreville **Rhonda Thomas** Carleen Adams **Denise Brown** Pamela Thomas Berry Kim Thomas **Dorien Minor** Jessica Brooks Tammie Owens Dawn Tucker Monroe Henson Calvert County Bikers Marseta Adams Dill Josephine Whipple Doris Spencer **Gregory Woods** Charles Lee Jr Conrad White Bill Ball

Wilhemina Greene

Betty Linney Lvndon Gross Michelle Brooks Naleshia Spencer Mrs. Carol Lee Gloria Parker Grace Parker Irene Williams Sir Shadow Tron Gantt Bill and Blanche Finch Gregory Key Eleanor Hinton Melissa Hawkins **Bobby Harris Delores Sewell Dorothy Gomes** Nancy Reynolds Sheila Barnes Fred Jones Denise Brown

Major Brenda Lee Janae Moore Laurretta Grier Michael Torbert **Shirley Perry** Matthew Kennedy Dean Holland Jerry's Pizza and Subs Jake and Al's Captain's Table Rudy Duck Wistar Withers Myra Campbell Phyllis Lester Bea Brown Yamilee Dambreville Maurice Irvine Nina Harris Harley-Davidson Minority Business Association

Demitrus Henson

...won't you join us...circle your calendar

LEAP FORWARD INC. 2013 Scholarship Reception

Where: Mt. Olive United Methodist Church 811 Dares Rd. Prince Frederick, Md. 20678

When: July 28, 2013

Our program will commence at 4:00pm

...scholarships, food, futures

Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward, INC.

Opportunity Knocks! Give! Combined Federal Campaign

CFC #91127



LEAP Forward ... Making A Difference in the Lives of Our Youth

www.leapforwardinc.org

Through education and exposure our goals are to increase the pipeline of the next generation of minority scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians solving world problems.







Won't YOU invest in OUR Children's Education?



Can we place your name on our 2013 Donor Page?

Mail your check to:

LEAP Forward Inc. 2290 Adelina Rd. Prince Frederick, Md. 20678

Or go online (cut & paste the following link):

https://www.paypal.com/us/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd= flow&SESSION=sYX4FM603C 34LC18kB900
tvagEpUHC8si5lwfGecr0Cblmk8KM2jhzW5ZS&dispatch=
5885d80a13c0db1f8e263663d3faee8d96fc0752e9614158
f04872d2f2ae25dc

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

Phone

E-mail

Amount enclosed:

Or scan our QR code (it will direct you to our website):



We proudly accept:







What I Didn't Deserve

By: Andrea Kelson

I let it go

The first black eye And I was dumb enough

To take your make up bull****

I let it go the first split lip

And I was crazy enough to believe you were sorry I let it go

The first slap across the face And I was naive enough

To accept another apology

I let it go

The first scar and the second

I took it all bloody noses, split lips, and black eyes But

I'm no longer letting it go

No longer taking pain and believing

I deserved it

I'm done and

Well so are you



featuring the works of... $ANDREA \ KELSON$

I Cry for You

By: Andrea Kelson

Every day and every night

I cry for you

All my sleepless nights

I cry for you

In all my dreams you are slowly slipping away from me

And out in a new place you call home

I cry for you

You leave me in my own personal living hell

Empty and afraid

Lonely and angry

Crying tears of frustration and anger

I cry for you

Dear I cry for you

I cry for me and all you took away
Walking down a lonely road

Tears freely flowing down my hollow face

I cry for you

As I lay in bed at night

Cold and lonely with no one to hold me

The darkness closes in

And I cry out for you

Hoping you'll hear and come to save me

I no longer cry for you

I am no longer trapped under your wicked power

You may have left me

But you didn't break me; you made me stronger

Every time

I cried for you