



## DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS,

**2014 was a phenomenal year!** We are thankful for a good year and for our financial contributors who continued to give in spite of dwindling support for nonprofits nationally. We are also thankful for those who volunteered their time and talents to our many initiatives.

- ◆ 23 Scholarships awarded and the Harris and Parran Family Scholarships initiated
- ◆ NSBE Jr. CASH progressed and grew to 58 members
- ◆ Six NSBE Jr. CASH members pursue STEM college degrees
- ◆ Anti-substance abuse posters designed and placed in every Calvert County school
- ◆ Students completed college tours completed and attended STEM conferences
- ◆ Multiple educational outings conducted
- ◆ Support received from the Dominion Foundation, Best Buy, Wal-Mart, Food Lion and SMECO!

LEAP Forward is grateful to be a part of the movement that introduces and exposes youth to new perspectives, concepts, ideas and options for successful lives. As you review our newsletter, know that your gifts made it all possible. We had a record year for contributions! Please continue to sow in good soil – we are an investment that will yield dividends to the world and yield a generation excited about learning, exceling, achieving, performing, exploring and rising (LEAPERS).

**LEAP Forward is Working with our Youth to help them:**

**LEARN** all they can. **EXCEL** beyond their own belief.

**ACHIEVE** consistently in their school work.

**PERFORM** as best they can. **EXPLORE** new subjects, places, ideas.

**RISE** to the next challenge!

*Thank you, Rhonda Thomas (Founder and President)*

### 2014

#### LEAP Forward Highlight Calendar

**January**—Anti-Substance Abuse Sessions

**February**—SAT Workshops

**March** —LEAP Forward attends the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Conference in Nashville, TN

**April** —NSBE Award Program and USA Science and Engineering Conference

**June**— STEM display at the Calvert County NAACP Festival, Tri-County Youth Intern Program, and Dominion Foundation STEM RIDES Grant received.

**July**—LEAP Forward's Annual Scholarship Award Ceremony

**August**—National Nite Out Program

**September**—College Tour

**October** – Destined 4 Success initiated at Calvert High School

**November**— NSBE Regional Conference in Pittsburgh, PA

**December**—Best Buy Grant for TECHOPS

### Inside this issue:

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## LEAP Forward Scholarships are provided in memory of.....



**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, establishes and administers 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 to many families and current minority professionals, he directed many students into college. 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.



**Clifton Morsell.** A highly decorated veteran of World War II for his heroism, his 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 Morsell, was a devout husband and exemplified the meaning of 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.



**Randolph Adams.** Son-in-law of Mr. Clifton Morsell. As with Mr. Morsell, Mr. Adams was that giant upon whose shoulders his children stood in order to pursue their dreams. He was a hard working, blue collar African-American who sensed the urgency of an education. He aspired to have his children to 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. We, at **LEAP Forward**, would like to applaud the humanitarian action by both Marseta and Baron Dill for both establishing this scholarship, and in keeping their legacy of "giving back" with us. Thank you ,also, to Rantessa, Mae and Tim!



**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, the late Carol Carruthers Lee, and sons – Charles and William.



**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 led by example and expected only the best from 'her children'. Mrs. Parker celebrated and boasted in overcoming challenges, strides made and academic advances met by each of 'her children'. Mrs. Parker saw the value of education, along with her unwavering lifetime commitment of helping others; gave freely. Contributions from the Parker Family make this scholarship possible.



**Raymond Harris.** A consummate businessman used his assets to quietly bring about change in his community. He always encouraged others to be the best they can be. A Brooks HS graduate, he also completed one year of college at the UMES. He honorably served his country in the U.S. Army from 1960 to 1962 and was a member of the American Legion Gray-Ray Post #220. Despite operating his successful business, he always found time to devote to youth, as he helped with the start-up of a baseball team and provided the uniforms and transportation. **LEAP Forward** celebrates and thanks his daughter Rose Bourne and his wife, Rosalie Harris for continuing to give, to inspire and to encourage youth.



**Fernande Personna.** A native of Jacmel, Haiti. She migrated to the U.S. in 1971 and worked as an Assistant Nurse in Thiells, NY. After retiring from the healthcare industry, Mrs. Personna became a well-respected business owner in Haiti. She was a driven and hard-working woman who was a role model to her family and her community in the U.S. and in Haiti. It is with great pleasure that **LEAP Forward** sponsors this scholarship and that her daughter, Yamilee Dambreville's efforts allow the spirit and legacy of Mrs. Fernande Personna to continue to bless and uplift others. She gave a lot of herself to the world.





## New 2015 Leap Forward Scholarships



### 2015 Parran Memorial Scholarship

***It is with great honor that Leap Forward, in conjunction with the Parran Family, sponsors this scholarship in memory of Hamilton Parran Sr. (1917-1982) and Alice Parran (1923-2006).***



Hamilton Maurice Parran, Sr. and Alice Annie (Jones) Parran, both Calvert County natives, were committed to the academic excellence of not only their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, but to all who knew them. Mr. and Mrs. Parran, known affectionately as "Big Daddy" and Big Momma," were very active in Plum Point United Methodist Church and their community and were fervent supporters of various Parent Teacher Associations. They cheerfully provided spiritual and financial support to anyone in need. They consistently motivated the youth in their family, church and community to continue their education and to reach their fullest potential. After the death of Mr. Parran, Mrs. Parran continued their ministry through her prayers, encouraging words, and "giving a little piece of change" to youth as she encountered them. Mrs. Parran always said "God is not finished with me yet" because she still had "a lot of work to do IN THE NAME OF JESUS." It is with this sentiment that we honor and continue their legacy by awarding the Hamilton Sr. and Alice Parran Memorial Scholarship to a deserving student.

### 2014 Fernade Personna Memorial Scholarship Recipients



On April 3, 2014, in memory of Fernade Personna, six scholarships totaling \$5000 were awarded to students attending the State University of New York Albany: Taina Wagnac, Shanice Brown, Nerissa George, Karina Soler; Bethzaida Rivas, and Sabrina Fernandez. We honor the desire of Yamilee Dambreville to give back in memory of her mother.



### IN MEMORIAM—MRS. CAROL RAE CARRUTHERS LEE (AKA)

With deep sympathy, LEAP Forward acknowledges the passing of Mrs. Carol Lee on November 22, 2014. Mrs. Lee was a dedicated supporter of LEAP Forward and our scholarship fund and established a memorial fund in memory of her husband, the Rev. Charles Lee Sr.

At 82, Mrs. Lee graced us with her presence at our scholarship program in July. She is pictured above front and center in yellow.

It was her pleasure to provide financial support to youth seeking a college education. She valued education and was the valedictorian of her class at Phyllis Wheatly High School in Houston. Mrs. Lee received a scholarship to Talladega College and graduated with her B.A. in Elementary Education. She received an M.A. in Early Childhood Development from Texas Southern University. She taught in Atlanta Schools and was a teacher and administrator for the San Francisco Unified School District for 21 years. We are grateful to have known and loved her and are appreciative of the students she helped to obtain a college education through her generous scholarships.





### Launching Educational Assistance Program Forward Inc.

#### 2014 CHARLES H. LEE, SR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Reika D. Haskell**  
**University of New Haven**  
**Forensic Science and Chemistry**

"As a Forensic Scientist, I will be making an impact in our society to help it become a safer place or people to live. Ambitiously, I will utilize all of my resources, abilities and career to impact our world."



**Dillon A. Longo**  
**Calvert High School**  
**Liberty University**  
**Kinesiology and Sports Injury**

"As a pioneer in my field of sports injury treatment, my work in the field would be recognized as a household name. I'd like for my name to hold such respect and character that the kids that come after me will see me as a positive inspiration."

#### 2014 VIOLET PARKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Juwan Hawkins\***  
**Huntingtown High School**  
**Electrical Engineering**  
**North Carolina A&T State University**

"I hold within my heart and soul the perseverance, confidence, and willpower to be the best engineer and individual that I can be."



**Martese LaMonte Johnson\***  
**Patuxent High School**  
**Mechanical Engineering**  
**Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University**

"My career goal is to eventually have my own engineering firm. I strive to gain the opportunity to build my own youth recreational center...that encourages educational success and gives the next generation's youth a place to hang out, receive academic help and stay out of trouble."



**A'Miya Noelle Williams**  
**Patuxent High School**  
**Accounting and Financial Analysis**  
**Johnson and Wales University**

"I am a motivator. It is my purpose in life. I cannot idly sit by and watch people suffer and not try their best. I want to see my community flourish."

**\*SITEC Consulting, LLC funded recipients**



University of  
New Haven

LIBERTY  
UNIVERSITY



North Carolina  
Agricultural and Technical  
State University

Virginia  
Tech

JOHNSON & WALES  
UNIVERSITY  
**100**  
1914 - 2014



### 2014 RAYMOND HARRIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Kayla Vandia Bush**  
**Calvert High School**  
**University of Maryland Eastern Shore**  
**Criminal Justice**

"Ultimately, I want to be a child psychologist and work extensively with the court systems offering up my expertise in cases which children are involved."



**Trinity Mitchell**  
**Huntingtown High School**  
**Johnson and Wales University**  
**Sports/Entertainment/Event Management**

"Changing the world one person at a time is possible, and, it is something I want to make a focus in my life. Perfection is nonexistent in many things in the world, but we can all achieve something that is perfect for us."



### 2014 ADAMS-MORSELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Eric Gross Jr.**  
**University of Maryland Eastern Shore**  
**Hotel and Restaurant Management**

"Every bit of money helps in my eyes and I'm very grateful for whatever comes my way. I ALWAYS say, I am going to finish what I started and I will be walking across the stage with a degree!"



**Anthony Deshawn Jefferson**  
**Patuxent High School**  
**College of Southern Maryland**  
**Nuclear Engineering Technology**

"Wanting something does not guarantee receiving it without work. Working at the Nuclear Power Plant seems like an excellent way to contribute to society, by providing electricity in a safe and efficient environment."





### 2014 ADAMS-MORSELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Kadesha Mitchell**  
**Calvert High School**  
**Anne Arundel Community College**  
**Physical Therapy**

"I want to give the best care to patients and the education I gain in college will help me contribute amazing care to people who are in the most need."



**Malik T. Washington**  
**Patuxent High School**  
**Livingstone College**  
**Business Management**

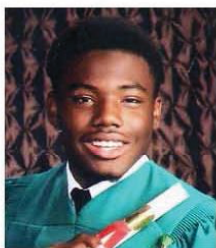
"All my life, I didn't believe I needed higher education but my life has turned around for the better, I know this is a necessity."

### 2014 WALLACE LEEPER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Iysha Dent**  
**Northern High School**  
**University of Delaware**  
**Early Childhood Education**

"I would have my contribution to society be to instill the value of education in young people, so that when the day comes that I no longer can, someone else will."



**Kevin L. Jackson Jr.**  
**Patuxent High High School**  
**College of Southern Maryland**  
**Engineering**

"I wanted to get into a career that would help others and make things easier... The field that I thought would help me achieve this goal is engineering."



**Beth Mead**  
**Patuxent High School**  
**Computer Science/Marketing**  
**College of Notre Dame of Maryland**

"Fearlessness is not just hope; fearlessness is the refusal to accept defeat, and the ability to change the odds."



## 2014 WALLACE LEEPER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS (continued)



**Jabrena T. Milburn**  
Chopticon High School  
Delaware State University  
Special Ed/Computer Science/Biomedical  
Engineering

"Because my family believes higher education is the key to success, those same values has been instilled in me and my life has been driven by achieving high goals."



**Simone Gabrielle Nicholes**  
Calvert High School  
North Carolina A&T University  
Biology/Epidemiology

"Many of my skills and characteristics will help others to live a fulfilling life. Through data and research, I will be able to provide proficient health care and cures for future patients."



**Bryan Mack \*\***  
Archbishop Carroll High School  
Tennessee State University  
Architectural Engineering

"When I accomplish my dreams of getting a degree and becoming an Architect, it will put me in a position where I can help others less fortunate just like myself who are from similar neighborhoods in DC."



**Dymond Estep**  
Great Mills High School  
Bennett College  
Computer Science

"I constantly try to go beyond the call of duty of life to not only better myself but I want to help others do the same... Before I die, I want to leave a positive impact on the world. This will be my legacy!"

\*\*Funded by Tennessee State University Alumnus April Taylor



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## 2014 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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LEAP Forward presentations and seminars promote the profession of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). We prepared educational materials to provide students with a “visual” presentation of STEM and presented these visual aids in engineering exhibits throughout area schools and community events to stimulate interest among youth toward higher education and technical career options.

**January – August,** LEAP Forward conducted numerous anti-substance abuse seminars for youth in our mentoring and tutoring program. We were the recipient of a small grant from the Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse. Seminars and presentations were conducted during weekly sessions allowing the students to design and create anti-substance abuse materials. Posters and flyers were generated. A “Too Smart” campaign was initiated that led to professional posters placed within every public school in Calvert County. LEAP Forward was awarded the Above and Beyond Award.

In **January**, LEAP Forward and its Founder, Rhonda Thomas were awarded the Maryland State Education Association Award for Community Involvement. LEAP Forward’s board members served and provided student recognition during the annual Dr. MLK Jr. program.

From **January to June and October to December**, LEAP Forward partnered with Carroll Western Church (Your Education Serves (YES)) to provide weekly tutoring and mentoring for K-12 students throughout the school term. Students obtained homework help and access to computers.

During the school term **January – May**, LEAP Forward conducted weekly sessions at the local Calvert High School. LEAP Forward teamed with others to provide an on-site lunch hour support to address diverse student needs and interests such as essay reviews, college selections, and resume assistance.

In **February**, LEAP Forward Board President attended the Black Engineer of the Year Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference provided networking opportunities and information about potential jobs and internships for our youth. LEAP Forward provided a very informative presentation and exhibit for the Calvert County Board of Education STEM Fair held at Calvert Middle School. The exhibit highlighted the contributions of African-Americans to science and technology. LEAP Forward Board members (engineering professionals) interfaced with students and provided them a chance to sign up for the Calvert County NSBE, Jr. Chapter. LEAP Forward participated in a STEM policy seminar held at George Washington University. LEAP Forward transported students to SAT workshops held at Prince George County Schools where world-renowned John Swann taught them test taking strategies. Additionally, extra SAT materials were collected and distributed to students not able to make the sessions. LEAP Forward videotaped the session, made copies and distributed them to other students to aid them with their exam preparations.

In **March**, LEAP Forward, in conjunction with the FAA and “Where Dreams Take Flight” outreach program participated in STEM Day activities at various local schools. LEAP Forward presented and conducted presentations, exhibits, and hands on activities.

In **April**, LEAP Forward participated in a career fair at Thomas Stone High School in Waldorf, MD and highlighted STEM careers. We held our third motorcycle ride fundraiser to benefit our STEM programs.

In **May**, LEAP Forward served as a judge for a cyber-security competition conducted by the Patriots Technology Center.

In **June**, in conjunction with Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, LEAP Forward participated in the summer youth program and provided employment and training for a youth who provided administrative and management services for the organization. LEAP Forward provided a STEM exhibit and literature at the Annual African American Family Community Day event at Patterson Park. LEAP Forward supported the Southern Maryland Black Chamber of Commerce during its annual dinner and program.

In **August**, LEAP Forward participated in the HUD Center for Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnership Capacity Building Series in Hampton, VA. LEAP Forward in conjunction with the Tri-County Youth Services Bureau conducted a book giveaway, provided a STEM exhibit and held STEM hands-on activities for area youth in the community during the National Night Out event.

In **October**, LEAP Forward supported the Concerned Black Women anniversary event with a program booklet advertisement. LEAP Forward participated in the Patuxent Partnership STEM Information Exchange event in St. Mary’s county. Destined 4 Success was initiated at Calvert High School.

In **November**, LEAP Forward participated in three Combined Federal Campaign Fairs to solicit funding for the organization.

In **December**, LEAP Forward provided small gifts to students in our tutoring and mentoring programs and to NSBE Jr. Chapter members.

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## 2014 —THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### College Tours

LEAP Forward conducted and/or facilitated college tours at Tennessee State University, University of Pittsburgh, Bowie State University, and North Carolina A&T. The tours provided the opportunity to encourage students to appreciate the university environment and to get a precursor to college life and gather information to make informed college choices. In October 2014, LEAP Forward co-sponsored a college tour to an open house event held at Morgan State University for students participating in Destined 4 Success and Minority Achievement Committee (MAC) Scholars programs.

### Scholarships

LEAP Forward administered the Wallace Leeper Memorial Scholarship Fund, Charles Lee Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Violet Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund, and the Clifton Morsell and Randolph Adams Memorial Scholarship Fund in 2014 to offset the cost of college for our youth. In 2014, we incorporated two new scholarship programs: Fernande Personna Memorial Scholarship and the Raymond Harris Memorial Scholarship. LEAP Forward presented twenty-three awards. The established scholarships served as a means to award underrepresented, underprivileged, and economic disadvantaged students with financial assistance for college. We have awarded over 100 scholarships!

**The LEAP Forward Scholarship Reception** was held on July 13, 2014 at the Mount Olive United Methodist Church in Prince Frederick, MD. To date, we have provided over 100 scholarships in the Southern Maryland and Metropolitan Washington D.C. community. The theme for the evening was, “Celebrating the Success of our Next Generation.”

The keynote address was delivered by guest speaker Mr. Kevin Coby, the President and CEO of SITEC Consulting LLC. Mr. Coby graduated from Tennessee Union City High School in 1986 and joined the U.S Air force working in Military Intelligence. After nine years of active duty, he left the Air Force in 1995. The years after his service, he served as a systems engineer, project and program manager in support of federal government contracts with various Fortune 500 companies. In 2003, he began his career as an entrepreneur, operating a small consulting firm, which later achieved corporation status in 2006. He was able to obtain nine NSA contracts and managed a business with a net worth of 13 million dollars. His main interest is giving back to the community and mentoring others with an interest in business. Mr. Coby’s inspirational message to the 2014 recipients provided many words to live by. He stated “get an education but don’t leave out the grace and favor of God”. He asked the students “what is success” and continued to define it as being on a path towards a goal and pursuing your dream. If you have a vision and a dream and you put forth the hard work – success is relevant. Mr. Coby’s message centered around three main points. **First, he told the recipients to have faith in God. He reiterated multiple times to the recipients that it is important to have faith in God because, with faith in Him, He will bring positivity and opportunities. Secondly, he wanted the students to work hard. With the faith in God and hard work, nothing should stop them from reaching their goals. Lastly, he wanted the students to dream big. From his past experience of being a product of a single parent home and living in poverty, he did not know how to dream bigger than what was around him. Once he met his wife, he was pushed to dream big and to make his visions happen and now lives in abundant prosperity. He challenged the recipients and the audience to start to dream big and to start to create their vision for the future. From having faith in God, working hard, to dreaming big, the recipients will be empowered to accomplish their goals once the vision is set.**



Musical selections were provided by the

phenomenal violinist, Kendall Isadore.



## 2014 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### Creative and Striving Hard (CASH) to Succeed National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Jr. Chapter

Our Calvert County Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Jr. Chapter continued to thrive. NSBE is a student-run organization with over 30,000 members nationally and internationally. Our enrollment reached 58 student participants and 11 professional advisors. LEAP Forward's campaign STEM RIDES (Raising Interest and Delivering Excitement about Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM)) continued to progress. CASH NSBE Jr met monthly at a local community center and in September moved meetings to a local church to take advantage of internet availability and more space. Students ran the organization and held offices. Workshops on leadership, engineering, classroom and homework tips, technical hands-on activities and fellowship were conducted. Highlights include the following:

In **January**, Mr. Al Byrd from Novelis Inc. presented to our NSBE Jr Chapter. Novelis is a global Aluminum Rolling and Recycling company.

In **March**, the St. Mary's NSBE Jr chapter provided a robotics presentation and demonstration in preparation for a competition in Nashville, TN. Additionally, CASH NSBE Jr. participated in the annual conference of the National Society of Black Engineers held in March in Nashville, TN. Our NSBE Jr. President and three other members represented the chapter at this conference. The students participated in a wind energy competition. The team received high marks for technical skills but fell short on their presentation. (They did not win but the experience was invaluable). During the conference, our members followed the event's pre-college initiative track and participated in workshops, hands-on demonstrations, science fairs, luncheons with dynamic guest speakers, general sessions, and college and career fairs. This forum also allowed participants to interact with and to meet professional engineers in career fields desired by our students. Participants gathered materials and information to share with other NSBE Jr. Members unable to attend.

In **April**, CASH NSBE Jr. held a car wash and raised \$700 and conducted a Rita Card fundraiser. On April 19, NSBE Jr. President Juwan Hawkins was honored with the 2014 Young Leader's Award from the NSBE Washington DC Professionals Chapter. Mr. Kevin Coby, owner of SITEC Consulting, pledged \$2000 for scholarships to LEAP Forward. On April 26, NSBE Jr. chapter members traveled to Washington D.C. for the USA Science and Engineering Festival. Students were exposed to numerous exhibits and hands-on activities.

In **May**, articles about the Young Leader's Award were published in the Washington Afro-American newspaper and the Calvert Recorder. Articles were also featured on [www.nsbe.org](http://www.nsbe.org) under NSBE profiles.

In **June**, an informational session was conducted by Guest Speaker, Mr. Aaron Dotson from the Food and Drug Administration and was followed by an educational jeopardy game.

In **July**, LEAP Forward served as a judge for the NSBE Summer Engineering Experience for Kids. LEAP Forward provided a STEM exhibit for the Thingamajig Conference held at the Showplace Arena in Upper Marlboro, MD. Hundreds of students in support of the YMCA attended and explored diverse industries and technologies.

In **September**, with the financial support received from the Dominion Foundation, CASH NSBE Jr. incorporated engineering is elementary and snap circuit kits into our STEM program. A college tour of Tennessee State University in Nashville, TN was conducted.

In **October**, CASH NSBE Jr. chapter members toured the John Hopkins Robotics Lab in Baltimore. CASH NSBE Jr. members also participated in a local STEM conference at the Naval Academy in Annapolis. Naval midshipmen led the sessions and tours.

In **November**, CASH NSBE Jr. members participated in a robotics workshop led by the phenomenal Dr. Renee Jenkins from the College of Southern Maryland. Students constructed robots and ran different movement sequences. Nineteen CASH NSBE Jr. members traveled to Pittsburgh, PA to attend the NSBE Fall Regional Conference for the weekend. Students interfaced with college students and professional engineers, witnessed technical competitions, visited mobile laboratories, attended workshops, participated in hands on activities, and toured the University of Pittsburgh School Of Engineering.

In **December**, LEAP Forward's STEM TECHOPS Program was funded by Best Buy! The program allowed CASH NSBE Jr. to participate in the National NASCAR Ten80 program. Students participating in the YES tutoring program attended a holiday theatre production.

**Thank You to our CASH NSBE Advisors and Volunteers!**





## 2014 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### LEAP Forward's Community Involvement

LEAP Forward assisted youth through other community programs. We provided financial donations to the all-male organization MAC Scholars at two area high schools (Calvert and Patuxent).

LEAP Forward also provided support for a student to attend the World Championship of Performing Arts.



COMMUNITY PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL NITE-OUT

### NEW PROGRAM ESTABLISHED AT CALVERT HIGH SCHOOL “DESTINED 4 SUCCESS”



Destined 4 Success was initiated in October. LEAP Forward teamed with retired Calvert High teacher Juanita White and Businesswoman Cynthia Carter of SMART Ride to provide informational sessions to young ladies in grades 9 to 12 during the lunch periods at Calvert High. Our objective is to increase the social and emotional well-being of all participants through specific programs that demonstrate and expose the students to leadership, service, academics, culture, motivation and fun.

#### SUCCESS QUOTES

*“Whether you are born to win or determined to reach the finishing line, the journey to success is as unique as any individual. Only you will know when you’ve got there.”* Reference Book “The Meaning of Life”

“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”  
**Colin Powell**

“For everyone of us that succeeds, it’s because there’s somebody there to show you the way out. The light doesn’t always necessarily have to be in your family; for me it was teachers and school.”  
**Oprah Winfrey**

“Life is a succession of moments. To live each one is to succeed.” Coretta Scott King



## 2014—Pictorial Highlights of a Year in Review

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Visit to the John Hopkins University Robotics Lab — Baltimore, MD

Congresswoman Donna Edwards' College Fair — Annapolis, MD

Morgan State University Open House and College Tour — Baltimore, MD





## 2014—Pictorial Highlights of a Year in Review-

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**Terror Zone STEM Conference at the Naval Academy — Annapolis, MD**



**Your Education Serves Tutoring Program (Anti-Substance Abuse Program and Social Outing)**



**2014 USA Science and Engineering Festival—Washington, DC**

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## 2014—Pictorial Highlights of a Year in Review





## BEST BUY FOUNDATION MAKES \$5,000 CONTRIBUTION TO LEAP FORWARD, INC.

LEAP Forward, Inc. is proud to announce that it received a \$5000 contribution from the Best Buy Foundation through its Community Grants program.

The donation helped LEAP Forward to continue to support its Technology Opportunities (TECH OPS) program to enrich and expose students to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

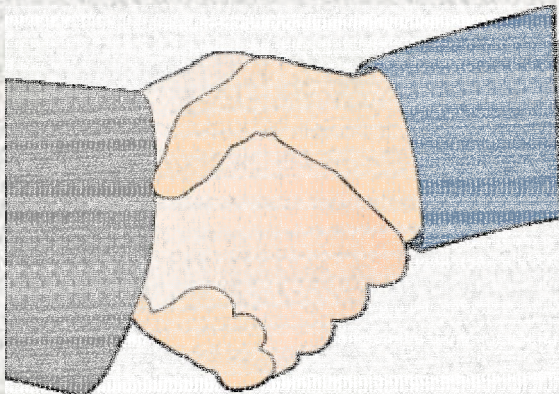
“We are honored to partner with Best Buy to provide STEM educational opportunities for underrepresented students in Calvert County,” said Rhonda Thomas, LEAP Forward President. “We are looking forward to seeing the positive impact the donation will have on our students as we provide hands-on activities to increase awareness and understanding of STEM career options.”

The Best Buy store located in Waldorf, Maryland contributed the money to LEAP Forward through the Best Buy Foundation. The gift is made possible through the contributions of Best Buy Co., Inc. retail store operations and special event fundraising. The community grants support programs that give teens across the country access to opportunities through technology.

### *About Best Buy Inc.*

Best Buy Foundation supports programs that help bridge the Digital Divide and help teens develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to prepare for college and careers. Since 1995, Best Buy has invested nearly \$300 million in communities nationwide.

See more at: <https://corporate.bestbuy.com/community-relations-overview/>



## DOMINION FOUNDATION MAKES \$10,000 CONTRIBUTION TO LEAP FORWARD

LEAP Forward is proud to announce that it has received a \$10,000 contribution from the Dominion Foundation through its Community Grants program!

Funds were provided to support our STEM RIDES program executed through the Calvert County Creative and Striving Hard to Succeed National Society of Black Engineers Jr. Chapter.



The Dominion Foundation, is dedicated to improving the physical, social and economic well-being of the communities served by Dominion companies. Dominion and the Foundation annually award about \$20 million to causes that protect the environment, promote education and help meet basic human needs. Foundation grants are funded by shareholder dollars and are not borne by customers.



LEAP Forward is pleased to announce 2014 contributions from the Walmart Foundation—\$1500 and SMECO—\$200 and a \$100 Gift Card from Food Lion!

*Thank you Dominion Foundation, Best Buy, SMECO, Walmart, and Food Lion for supporting Destined 4 Success, CASH NSBE Jr. and our tutoring program, Your Education Serves (YES)!*



## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



**Congratulations** to Founder Rhonda Thomas on receiving the 2014 *Maryland State Education Association (MSEA) Honors for Outstanding Achievement In Community Involvement* on January 18, 2014. Thank you Iris Harris and Oreal Morsell for the nomination.



Pictured above: Left, Elizabeth Weller MSEA President, Rhonda Thomas, and Jocelyne Jones, Minority Advisory Committee

### SOUTHERN MARYLAND BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SMBCC exists to make the community a better place for all. The SMBCC is a proponent for business growth, as well as economic development and empowerment. It is an organization managed by a volunteer Board of Directors and Officers, established to promote civic, commercial, and industrial progress within the community. The cornerstone of their work is advocacy, access to capital, entrepreneurial education and contraction. They represent issues that greatly impact the growth of Black-owned businesses in the Southern Maryland region. SMBCC is chaired by Ms. Doris Spencer. Ms. Spencer has provided invaluable support to LEAP Forward and we acknowledge and appreciate her selfless giving. LEAP Forward is a member of the SMBCC.



### CHURCHES GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

LEAP Forward is thankful for the support received from the following churches in 2014! Thank you for giving back to the community and supporting our efforts to serve our youth.

Initiated in 2009, Your Education Serves tutoring and mentoring program meets each Wednesday during the school year at Carroll Western United Methodist Church. The church is serviced by Pastor Roland Barnes and services are held each Sunday at 10:00 am.



For the past four years, LEAP Forward has held its annual scholarship reception at Mt. Olive United Methodist Church. The church has provided a welcoming venue each July for us to showcase our scholarship recipients and to provide a reception for the community. The church is serviced by Rev. Dana Jones and services are held each Sunday at 10:00 am.



CASH NSBE Jr. found a new home in the Fall of 2014 to conduct our meetings and workshops. The Calvert County Baptist Church opened its doors to us monthly, providing conference rooms and internet service. Special thanks to Deacons Henderson Benjamin and Henry Nicholes for their support. The church is serviced by Pastor Darryl Godlock and services are held each Sunday at 10:00 am.





## Black History Spotlight—Ruth Inge Hardison

**Ruth Inge Hardison** (born February 3, 1914) in Portsmouth, VA is an African American sculptor, artist, and photographer, known particularly for her 1960s busts (or sculpted portraits) entitled "Negro Giants in History".

Her 1983 collection called "Our Folks," which features sculpted portraits of everyday people, is also of note. Hardison's artistic productions largely surround historical black portraiture, and she is especially interested in creatively representing the unspoken voices of the African American past.

Hardison was the only female in the Black Academy of Arts and Letters. Before completing her education, Hardison acted in the Broadway Productions of George Abbott's "Sweet River" and "Country Wife," opposite Ruth Gordon. During her brief career in the theater, she began sculpting as a hobby. When she took part in the yearlong "What A Life" production, she even created a sculpture of its cast, later displayed at the Mansfield Theatre. She studied at Vassar College, at the Art Students League of New York and Tennessee State University.

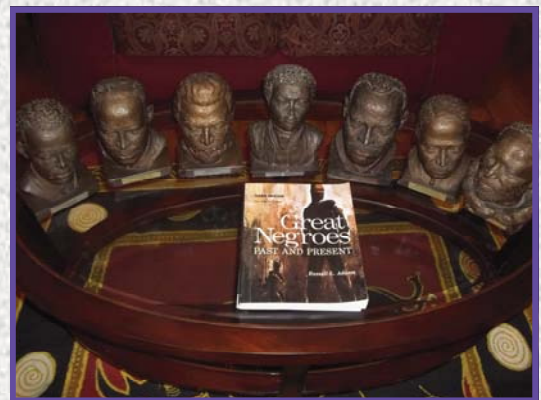
Hardison's works largely begin as clay, wax, or plaster molds, and are later cast into cast stone or bronze. Hardison began "Negro Giants in History" (a series of cast iron busts) in 1963. Her first bust in that series was of Harriet Tubman, and she has also created busts of W. E. B. Du Bois, Paul Robeson, George Washington Carver, Frederick Douglass, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Sojourner Truth, and Mary McCleod Bethune, among others. Her bronze Douglass bust, for example, was unveiled at Princeton's Firestone Library in 1983. Other public works include a 7-foot abstract figure called "Jubilee" which stands on the campus of Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, a series of 18 children on an outdoor wall of I.S.74 in Hunts Point in the Bronx, and a five-foot Mother and Child given to Mount Sinai Hospital in 1957 in gratitude for their help in delivering her only child, Yolande, in 1954.

She also created a series of Ingenious Americans, little known black inventors and other notables commissioned and sold by Old Taylor Whiskey in the late 1960s. The series of nine busts included Benjamin Banneker, Charles Richard Drew, Matthew Henson, Frederick McKinley Jones, Lewis Latimer, Garrett Morgan, Norbert Rillieux, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams and Granville Woods.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruth\\_Inge\\_Hardison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruth_Inge_Hardison)



***LEAP Forward is grateful to Mr. Charles Lee, Jr. and family for the seven donated inventors bronze statues. The statues are used in our STEM exhibits and presentations to educate audiences about the contributions of African Americans to science and technology.***







## How You Can Help Us?



**Federal Government Employees designate**

**CFC#91127 for LEAP Forward!**

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the largest and most successful workplace fundraising campaign in the world. Over the past fifty years, the CFC has raised \$7 billion to help neighbors in need around the corner, across the nation and throughout the world. The Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area (CFCNCA) is the local campaign for federal employees in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

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## Volunteers Needed

Looking for an organization to share your gifts and talents? We are in need of board members, chaperons, tutors (K-12), persons with fundraising, marketing, administrative, finance, accounting, photography and videography and organization skills. Social media experts, grant writers and proofreaders are also desired. We are also in need of local engineers who want to share and volunteer with our NSBE Jr. chapters. Social media experts are also desired. For more information about volunteer opportunities, email us at [leapforwardinc@yahoo.com](mailto:leapforwardinc@yahoo.com) or Facebook: LEAP Forward INC and Calvert County NSBE Jr. CASH. Twitter#LEAPForwardLEAP or call 301.509.3872



## 2014 Contributors

*THANK YOU for your time, talents and financial support!*

Annestan Boyd	Iris Harris	Janae Moore	Carroll Western United Methodist Church
Baron Dill	Renee Ashton	William Ball	Jessica Brooks
Marseta Dill	Phyllis Lester	Violet Williams	Ernestine Brooks
Lady Enterprises	Martine Blamby	Deardra Campbell	Mt. Olive United Methodist Church
Bill and Blanche Finch	Shirley Perry	Valerie Queen	Pamela Berry
Wanda and Wilson Ennis	Susan Harris	Kevin Douglas	Sheila Barnes
Carleen Adams	Mary Ann Bell	Dorothy Gomes	Terrell Mackall
Timothy Morsell	Waverly Parker	Jackie Brigmon	Calvert County Minority Business Association
Gregory Woods	Evan Kanon	Jocelyn Berry	Rick Gibson
Jeffery Hobbs	Pamela Jackson	Destiny Dillion	Maurice Irvine and Sheilah Gray
Rhonda Thomas	Carol Lee	Amailia Parran	Samatha Parran
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Kimberly Thomas	April Taylor	Wilbur Robinson	Mark Ogletree
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SMART RIDE, Inc.	Conrad White	Joshua Stubbs	Food Lion
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Myra Campbell	Sheila Harris	Juwan Hawkins	Janet Ciccel
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Henderson Benjamin	Michelle Brooks	Jahamaya and Shanell Nero	Derek Fulford
Martese Johnson	Calvert County Baptist Church	Eric and Nicholas Wilson	Monique Nelson
Dorien Minor	Southern Maryland Black Chamber of Commerce	Southern Maryland Spinners	Deltricia Boyd
		Calvert County Joy Riders	Sherri Barber
		Eclipse Sports Ryderz	Juanita White
		All About Family	
		Dominion Foundation	
		Best Buy	
		Walmart	
		SMECO	



## Student Interest Form

### Student Interest Form

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

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Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Classification (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior)

Interested in

\_\_\_\_\_ Engineering

\_\_\_\_\_ Scholarships

\_\_\_\_\_ College Tour

\_\_\_\_\_ Math and Science Career Options

\_\_\_\_\_ College Assistance

\_\_\_\_\_ Literature

\_\_\_\_\_ Academic Support



Mail to

LEAP Forward Inc.

P.O. Box 373

Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Or email information to

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



# Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward, Inc.

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**WWW.LEAPFORWARDINC.ORG**

*About LEAP Forward, Inc.*

LEAP Forward is an independent, non-profit organization that is poised to inspire, engage, educate, and expose youth to a better and productive future. The organization is passionately committed to helping youth make better life and career choices; encouraging youth to excel in school; promoting STEM careers; and striving to increase the participation of underrepresented youth in the technological jobs pipeline.

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS/Phone Number

**Thank You!**

## 2015 Contributions

**Yes, I want to invest in our children!  
Please accept my tax-deductible  
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**Mail to: LEAP FORWARD**

P.O. Box 373

Prince Frederick, MD 20678 or Paypal Option is  
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