



...Education Matters

www.leapforwardinc.org

APRIL, 2016

10th ANNUAL EDITION

LEAPERS

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter...Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

SUPPORT OUR HBCU'S...
WHERE GREAT MINDS ARE NOURISHED



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I reflect on 2015; it was a year that was defined by politicians campaigning on platforms and promises to eliminate the Dept. of Education, rising student loan debt and Wall St., increased voter restriction stemming from a Supreme Court ruling on Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act and challenges being made to the continued justification of affirmative action. Any one of these events alone would serve to strengthen the resolve of LEAP Forward to continue its struggle to educate our youth. Of course, we are encouraged by the support of our community. Of course we need the support given by our business community, which realizes the future economic impact of an educated youth. LEAP Forward is only as strong and viable, as the pillars that continue to support our organization. If along the way our community no longer feel the need to have their names placed on our donor list, no longer further feels the need to volunteer their energy, time and resources in an effort to educate our youth. If our businesses community no longer feel the need to partner with organizations trying to financially empower a community, then organizations such as LEAP Forward would have ran its course. But if along the way, if we would have helped but a handful of youth realize their full potential. If we have succeeded in helping one woman crack one glass ceiling. If our organization could say, that Dia Brown's and the Kyle Hutzler's are the norms rather than anomalies, then my organization would have met its objectives.

The year 2015 was phenomenal, as LEAP Forward continued to:

- Expose youth to (STEM) science, technology, engineering and math
- Provide needed financial support to students who know that education will define their lives
- Mentor and tutor youth and share knowledge so that they 'CAN' make choices
- Get their junior engineers get involved in exhibits and competitions

...And winning a science competition, by making a last minute design change is just as euphoric as hitting a 3-point jump shot on a buzzer beater

RHONDA THOMAS

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Launching Educational Assistance Program Forward Inc. 2013 WALLACE LORENZO LEEPER MEMORIAL 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.

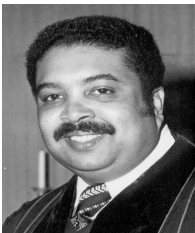
THE VIOLET PARKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



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.



Mrs. Carol Lee, At 82, Mrs. Lee graced us with her presence at our scholarship program in July 2014. 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. Thank you Charles and William for starting this scholarship in your Mom's memory.



1929-2011

THE RANDOLPH ADAMS AND CLIFTON MORSELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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.



1947-2007

THE RANDOLPH ADAMS AND CLIFTON MORSELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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**

THE FERNANDA PERSONNA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



1943-2013

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 **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

THE RAYMOND HARRIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



1939-2005

Raymond Harris graduated from Brooks High School and completed one year of college at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. 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.

Mr. Harris developed very strong ties to his community and felt the strong need to give back. He served in many capacities including master of Carroll/Victoria Masonic Lodge #71, NAACP, CAASA, 40&8 club, and was business manager of local union #832.

LEAP Forward, Inc. joins the family and friends in celebrating the life of this remarkable man. We thank you for letting this great man, who gave in life continue to give, to help the youth that he loved and help to them to realize their dreams.

THE HAMILTON AND ALICE PARRAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



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. LEAP Forward thanks Tonya and Kevin Wilkerson and the Parran Brothers for their willingness to start this scholarship.

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

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

**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
for your Scholarship will be 100% tax deductible!**

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!***

2015 HAMILTON & ALICE PARRAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Joshua Bell
Calvert High School
University of Maryland Baltimore County
Biochemistry

"I plan to go through medical school, a residency and a fellowship in order to hold a career as a pediatric endocrinologist. I am self motivated. I hope that I will continue to change the lives of those around me far into the future."



Moriah Avery
Calvert High School
Temple University
Journalism

"As a journalist major, I want to become an author and write for public media. I believe that I am confident and able to achieve my goals that I set out to accomplish."

2015 WALLACE LEEPER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Karissa Fenwick
Patuxent High School
University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
Nursing

"I realized my education is very valuable path to achieve success and happiness for me, and more importantly others. My aspirations are to become a nurse and do mission trips to improve the quality of life for people in need."



Brianna Mason
Calvert High School
College of Southern Maryland
General Studies

"Education is extremely vital to me. Life gets tough but you have the control to not let it defeat you. You should never give up on education no matter how tough it gets."



Madison Tonic
Calvert High School
University of Florida
Animal Science

"I hope that, after my years of higher education study, I will be an accomplished veterinary orthopedic surgeon. I am hopeful, optimistic, and extremely excited. I believe that I am well prepared to face whatever it has in store for me.."

Launching Educational Assistance Program Forward Inc.
2015 CHARLES H. LEE, SR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Sydney Buckmire
Calvert High School
College of Southern Maryland
Nutrition and Dietetics

"It was at one of my mom's PT visits where my desire to become a physical therapist was fueled... I decided this type of field is what I really want to do for my career because I can visualize myself excelling in this career and enjoying it"



Breona Buck
Calvert High School
Lycoming College
Criminal Justice (Forensic Chemistry)

"I see a challenging situation not as a problem, but rather as an opportunity to learn. This philosophy keeps me focused and motivated."

2015 ADAMS-MORSELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Ryan Adams
Northern High School
Accounting
Loyola University - Maryland

"Why Not?" "These two simple words for a question that resound in and motivate me daily. My mind is my most valued asset. I will establish my own accounting firm."



Joseph Berry III
Calvert High School
Computer Science
Coastal Carolina University

"My career choice is a computer scientist with emphasis on cyber security. I know that my education and skills will be a help to our country and I want to help and protect others."



Shala Thomas
Northern High School
Communications
Hampton University

"I have earned the privilege of attending college; I intend to make an impact academically as well as in outreach. College will continue to broaden my views politically, socially, culturally as well as open doors of opportunity."

2015 ADAMS-MORSELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Erik Haskell

Daniel Webster College

Aviation Management/Air Traffic Management

"I would like my contribution to society to be my leadership and service to the community. I will be a positive role model and mentor students."

2015 VIOLET PARKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Monae Mackall

Calvert High School

Towson University

Nursing

"By attending college and becoming a nurse I will contribute to my society immensely. Becoming a nurse isn't just a desire that I have for myself but an objective that I have set to benefit others around me every day of their lives."

2015 RAYMOND HARRIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Autumn James

Huntingtown High School

Spelman College

Political Science

"For as long as I can remember, I have dreamed of becoming an attorney. I will do everything I can to make sure I become an attorney and eventually own my own law firm... I am excited to begin my studies."



Chardae Gross

Huntingtown High School

Stevenson University

Biology

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. I hope to one day be an Anesthesiologist... With my experiences to date it has helped me to believe that anything is possible; no matter how hard it will be to achieve my goals I know I can not give up."

THE EDUCATION FORUM



AFTER 60 YEARS...

HAS AMERICA ABANDONED BROWN vs. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ?

Brown v. The Board of Education, is a settled case, it rejected the practice of dual education systems as being considered separate but equal. However, the same arguments, or justifications leading up to this monumental ruling over sixty years ago was again challenged by activist Supreme Court Judge Antonin Scalia.

While hearing oral arguments on the affirmative action case, Fisher v. University of Texas, Judge Scalia commented that Blacks performed better while attending less advanced, slower paced schools. He pointed out that the majority of the black scientists do not come from fast paced schools like the University of Texas, but from lesser schools where they are not being "pushed" into classes that are more challenging.

Judge Antonin Scalia was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1986, by President Reagan. Conservatives tout him as one of the greatest legal minds ever to hold that position. Many though, view Scalia's remarks as challenging the Supreme Courts ruling on separate but equal educational systems.

But was this great legal mind correct in his observation, do we in fact have a dual education system. That same question still is that "800 pound gorilla in the room" , has the issues which lead to Brown v. the Board of Education, ever been satisfied?

After the unrest in Ferguson Missouri, several organizations, magazines and think tanks tackled the issues which were the precursor to the violence which came to a head following Michael Brown's death; health, criminal justice and education.

National Center for Education Statistics: The U.S. spends more on education than any other OECD countries.(Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) In 2010 The U.S. spent 39 percent more per full-time student for elementary and secondary education than the average for other countries in the OECD. However more money spent does not "trickle down" evenly to create a completely unified and equal educational systems. It has been the goals set forth, by LEAP Forward Inc., to help bridge the gap which still exist in our separate and unequal educational system.

Essence Magazine : If the endowments of all 105 HBCUs were added up, they'd still amount to less than 10 percent of Harvard University's endowment, which at upward of \$30 billion is the wealthiest of any college in the world."

LEAP Forward Inc.: Throughout the year, writes grants, solicits donations from the community, donors and education friendly business to offset the financial costs of education. Businesses such as Walmart Prince Frederick, SMECO-Southern Maryland Electric Co., Best Buy Co. Inc., Applebee's-Solomon Island Rd. and Jack and Jill of America, have step to the forefront in helping disadvantaged students actually envision education and careers in the growing world of STEM opportunities.

Child Trends: A non-profit and non-partisan research center that tracks vital data about children reported that Black parents, most of whom are less educated than the white parents studied, do not expect their students to attain as much education as white parents expect. These lower expectations by the parents in turn, leads to lower expectations from the student, less-positive attitudes toward school and fewer out-of-school learning opportunities.

LEAP Forward Inc.: Has set up numerous post school activities both to fill any educational gap and also to instill that positive sense of net worth. LEAP Forward in addition to a computer lab, a homework and tutoring/math lab, has established a youth group of students who have demonstrated high academic prowess as well as community service. The CASH students are a self -ran group, and members of the National Society of Black Engineers, (NSBE, Jr.) . This talented group organizes educational forums, workshops, tours and exhibits. They also allocate time to "rap" about current affairs which affect their everyday lives...and yes, they even on rare occasion ask the old timers for

US News: In seventh and eighth grades, blacks make up 16 percent of students, however account for 10 percent of students taking Algebra 1 and 9 percent of students passing the course. Nearly one in five white students took Calculus in high school, while one in 15 black students took Calculus. Fewer black students have access to a full range of courses to adequately prepare them for STEM careers(Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

LEAP Forward Inc.: Took on the Calvert County Board of Education and prevailed. The Calvert County school system has implemented a full PCI-Pre-College Initiative program, with an emphasis on STEM enrichment courses to better enable students within their jurisdiction to compete with the more prepared schools districts, for placement in those fast paced schools cited by Judge Antonin Scalia.

Does Pre-K Really Matter?

**Did you know:

- Pre-K students achieve at higher levels in Math and Reading than their peers who never attended Pre-K
- Pre-K students repeat grades less often
- Pre-K students need special education at far lesser rates
- Pre-K students are more likely to attend college
- Pre-K students tend to earn more money over their lifetimes

In addition, research from the Montgomery County Public School system results indicate students who attended a full day Head Start Pre-K Program excel greater in both Math and Reading than those students enrolled in the Pre-K MCPS half-day courses.

**The High/Scope Perry Preschool Program: Cost-Benefit Analysis Using Data from the Age-40 Followup," *Journal of Human Resources* 41, no. 1 (2006)

PRESIDENT OBAMA AND EDUCATIONAL REFORM



Standardized testing falls under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), signed into law on January, 2001 by President George W. Bush. The law did not require any national standard of testing but each state in order to receive federal funding must administer annually standard tests to its students. No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requires all public schools receiving federal funding to administer a statewide standardized test annually to all students. Each state may have a different name associated with the bill. Schools that receive federal funding through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 must make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in test scores. For example, each year, fifth graders must do better on standardized tests than the previous year's fifth graders. NCLB has become the most important, and controversial method to gauge student's progress, the teacher's competence, the success/failure of a school as well as a state's commitment to education. With the stakes being so high, cheating must also be factored into this equation. A 2011 study by USA Today, found, this system of rewards and punishments based upon a student's test performance has led to offenses ranging from helping students correct mistakes, making facial gestures during testing, failing to cover bulletin boards and even providing the students with actual test questions. Educators and administrators from Atlanta were recently given harsh prison sentences for their involvement in a NCLB cheating scandal, where test scores were erased and changed, even though this practice has become widespread.

In a rare show of bi-partisanship, both houses in congress came together to pass President Obama's educational reform legislation. The proposal, known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) cleared the Senate on December 10, 2015 by a 85-12 vote margin but will not go into effect until July 1, 2017.

This is the biggest rewrite of our education laws in 25 years," Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) commented upon passage of the President's bill. "This shows what we can do when both parties work together."

The legislation reduces the federal government's control over the nation's public schools by transferring decision making power back to state and local governments in areas such as school performance and accountability. The bill also will allow local jurisdictions more influence over setting educational goals, school ratings and setting standards for struggling schools.

Two aspects of the legislation which will draw the attention of community based groups such as LEAP Forward Inc. is its community based initiatives to:

- require districts to provide programs for homeless and neglected students
- community support for school success.
LEAP Forward is way ahead of this mandate, in that our organization challenged and prevailed against the Calvert County Board of Education to establish a Pre-College Incentive program as part of its curriculum and more recently the establishment of a Junior chapter of the National


Another aspect of ESSA organizations such as LEAP Forward will embrace is the establishment of a STEM Master Teacher Corp.

Commenting on the passage of this monumental bipartisan legislation the President joked "We should do this more often."

THE WORLD ANXIOUSLY AWAITS LEAP FORWARD'S LATEST SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT DIA BROWN



By DIA BROWN

Hello, I am Dia Brown, a Junior at Huntingtown High School. I have always had a drive to make a difference in the world, but it was never truly put into action until 7th grade year when I met my mentor, Ms. Fallica who aided me with history fair in the performance category and helped me to get to the state level in the competition. Since then, I have made it to the national level of the competition and have  many awards for my performances. The most impactful performance to my life was my performance on Harriet Elisabeth Brown, a former teacher and principal in Calvert County who fought for equal pay in the 1930's with the help of Thurgood Marshall, a young lawyer for the NAACP at the time. I have continued to perform this script since my freshman year and have met many people and gained the most awards for this project. I eventually branched off of the history fair path and began doing public speaking at the end of my freshman year. At this time I was also planning an organization that I wanted to start, Crochet for the Bay. Sophomore year hit and not only was I speaking at large events such as the Women of the World Conference, but my organization was flourishing. Crochet for the Bay is currently an organization working in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and we have still been working on obtaining non profit status. We go to various events in Maryland and sell a variety of crafts; the money donated goes to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for Bay conservation and restoration. We also do advocacy events by teaching environmentally friendly crafts to the kids or doing beach sweeps while also educating the public about environmental issues that we currently face. Recently my public speaking and environmental advocacy have mixed with a student leadership expo coming up April 24th at the Chesapeake bay foundation where I am the keynote speaker. With all the extracurricular activities I do I still find time to exceed academically by taking rigorous AP courses and still being in the top percentile of my class and receiving all A's. Today I still write scripts for different organizations and plan to do history fair one last time before college. It has been an honor to serve my community so early in my life and I will continue to do so for years to come.

LEAP FORWARD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT GIVES BACK -OUR NEXT OBAMA?



Kyle Andrew Hutzler graduated from Yale in 2014 with a B.A. in Economics. At Yale, he was involved in a number of roles on campus including editor of a magazine on US-China relations, leader of the community service group ReadySetLaunch, and president of one of Yale's debating societies. Since graduating, Kyle has worked at the consulting firm, McKinsey & Company. At McKinsey, Kyle has primarily worked on healthcare- and government related projects, such as helping states reform their Medicaid programs. These innovative reforms will help to improve health-care quality and reduce the cost of care. In August 2016, Kyle will begin a year-long Master's program in Beijing as one of 100 students selected worldwide for the prestigious Schwarzman Scholars program. After participating in the Schwarzman program, Kyle intends to pursue an MBA. His long-term aspiration is to be a public servant, using his passion for international business and economics issues to advance prosperity for Americans here at home. He remains very grateful for the support **LEAP Forward Inc.** provided while in college and the organization's continued impact.

GIVING ONE FOR THE GIPPER

Retired? Sometimes Bored? Know how to write grants... or do you know anyone who can write grants? Feel as you still have something offer? Are you apprehensive direction our youth are headed? Do you have that knack for listening.? Can you establish trust ? Are you into community service, proud of your community and want to leave it better than when you inherited into it? you believe in counting your Blessings? Got an hour a week you can spare?

Guess what, you're **Pre-Approved**. You are our newest volunteer.

E-mail me, or call me and tell me a little about yourself and let me know how you see yourself fitting in:

Maurice: Mechdesign03@aol.com, (410)522-8578

2016 Attachment A for Local CFC Application

Organization Name: LEAP Forward, Inc. (Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward Inc.)

Substantial Local Presence: Our office is physically located in Calvert County, MD. The services we provide are for youth in the Southern Maryland and Washington Metropolitan region. Our scholarship program in the past has been extended to youth in Baltimore, MD. Our services (outside of meetings) are held as community outreach events and are conducted away from the home office.

Actual Services, Benefits, Assistance, or Program Activities and how they affect Human Health/Welfare:

Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward (LEAP Forward), Inc. was conceived in 1998 and granted nonprofit status in 2001. The current board members consist largely of 1970s alumni from Calvert Senior High School in Calvert County, Prince Frederick, MD. (All of whom hold engineering and technical degrees). The board will be re-vamped in 2015, to add more diverse professions and skills. During the 1970s, Mr. Wallace Leeper served as a high school guidance counselor and was instrumental in guiding over 20 African-Americans to engineering and technical career paths. He was someone who really cared, and his devotion and dedication to his students was exceptional! It is in the memory of and with Mr. Leeper's dedication and commitment that LEAP Forward pays it forward to other minority youth by educating and exposing them to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) career fields.

Program Activities and How They Affect Human Health/Welfare

Our services comply with our mission to encourage disadvantaged and underrepresented ethnic youth to Learn, Excel, Achieve, Perform, Explore and Rise. Our focus is for youth to dream beyond their immediate environment, succeed with their education endeavors (K-12), pursue higher education and consider technical career options. LEAP Forward believes that education is the prime opportunity to gain a **high quality of life and our program activities promote the value of a good education**

"In a speech in North Carolina, the President of the United States of America singled out just one profession to spur the economy: engineers. He called for the training of 10,000 additional new engineers-every year-to fill and create the high tech, problem-solving jobs of the future. He knows that engineers will run the engine of future economic development; that they are the lifeblood of companies like Intel, Apple and Facebook-but what's more, that they are the lifeblood of the next Intel, Apple and Facebook." (Dean Yortsos USC School of Engineering).

Through education and exposure, LEAP Forward's goals are to increase the pipeline of the next



L aunching E ducational Assistance Programs Forward, INC.



Opportunity Knocks! Give!

Combined Federal Campaign

Federal Workers PLEASE Contribute!

Use : CFC #91127

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

www.leapforwardinc.org

What can you share with our youth ?

***if your skill or contribution is not listed,
let us know**

- **Community Fund Raising**
 - **Grant Writing**
 - **Tutors**
 - **Chaperones**
 - **Graphics**
 - **Market Development**
- **Technical Presentations**
 - **Donations**
 - **Prayers**
- **Car Mechanics (our van is accumulating miles)**
 - **Web page design and maintenance**
- **BUSINESS OWNERS-WANT TO GIVE BACK?**

Cut & paste your way to a child's future:

- **SELECT HOW YOU WANT TO HELP FROM THE LIST ABOVE**
 - **E-mail to our board member below**

He will gladly get back to you!!!!

Mechdesign03@aol.com.....Maurice

2015-A YEAR IN REVIEW...WITH LEAP FORWARD INC.

Presentations/Seminars/Events/Activities

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

1. In February 2015, 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.
2. In February 2015, LEAP Forward provided a very informative presentation and exhibit for the Calvert County Board of Education STEM Fair held at Calvert High School. The exhibit highlighted the contributions of African-Americans to science and technology. LEAP Forward Board members (engineering professionals) interfaced with students. A hands-on activity using snap electrical circuits was made available for participants and was led by our NSBE Jr members (engineering club).
3. In March 2015, LEAP Forward, in conjunction with the FAA and “Where Dreams Take Flight” outreach program participated in STEM Day activities.
4. In March 2015, LEAP Forward participated in a career fair at Thomas Stone High School in Waldorf, MD and highlighted STEM careers.
5. In April 2015, we updated our STEM exhibit and continued to highlight contributions of African Americans scientists and inventors. Through a generous donation, our exhibit now includes bronze busts of several inventors and scientists.
6. In May 2015, LEAP Forward supported the Calvert Collaborative for Children and Youth event.
7. In May 2015, LEAP Forward participated in the Senior Awards Ceremony held at Calvert High School. Scholarship award notifications were presented during the ceremony by our Board President and NSBE Jr. Advisor.
8. In May 2015, LEAP Forward supported the Southern Maryland black Chamber of commerce membership meeting on Crowdfunding.
9. In June 2015, students participating in the Your Education Serves program attended an end of the school year block party.
10. In June 2015, LEAP Forward supported the NSBE Professionals Washington DC Scholarship Fundraiser and 25th Anniversary Awards Gala.
11. In June 2015, our NSBE Jr. President was awarded a scholarship from the NSBE Professionals.
12. In June 2015, in conjunction with Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, LEAP Forward arranged summer employment for two Destined for Success participants.
13. From January 2015 to June 2015 LEAP Forward partnered with Carroll Western Church (Your Education Serves (YES)) to provide tutoring and mentoring for K-12 students throughout the school term. Sessions were held weekly and students obtained homework help and access to computers. In November 2015, the program was modified to address access to technology gaps. Computers, printers and internet services are being made available to students and to the community.
14. In July 2015, LEAP Forward provided an exhibit and hands-on activity for the Thingamajig conference in Upper Marlboro, MD. Students engaged in circuit design activities.
15. In July 2015, LEAP Forward supported the Circle of Angels seminar: Getting Ahead of Tomorrow - Jobs Today.

2015-A YEAR IN REVIEW...WITH LEAP FORWARD INC.- CONT'D

16. In July 2015, LEAP Forward supported the Southern Maryland Black Chamber of Commerce (SMBCC) Maryland Aviation Administration Briefing for BWI airport. Information was shared about business and job opportunities.
17. In July 2015, LEAP Forward supported the Back to School Supply Drive with a financial donation.
18. In August 2015, LEAP Forward was a participant at the NSBE DMV Pre-College Initiative Summit where brainstorming sessions were held to obtain more support for our K-12 students.
19. In August 2015, LEAP Forward in conjunction with the Tri-County Youth Services Bureau, provided an exhibit and held STEM hands-on activities for area youth in the community during the National Night Out event.
20. In September 2015, LEAP Forward attended the Board of Education and Calvert County Commissioners combined meeting where computer access for students were discussed.
21. In September 2015, LEAP Forward attended the 3rd annual Tri-County United Forum – closing the Achievement Gap for Minority Students Part Two.
22. In October 2015, LEAP Forward supported the Concerned Black Women Gala in support of their scholarship fundraisings efforts.
23. In October 2015, LEAP Forward joined the People for Change Coalition with a nonprofit membership.
24. In October 2015, LEAP Forward was a participant and recipient of the Jack and Jill American Foundation Southern Maryland Wine Tour Fundraising Event.
25. In October 2015, LEAP Forward initiated and sponsored an open house – “Tackling the Technology Digital Divide in Education” to propose and establish a computer at Carroll Western Church.
26. In October 2015, LEAP Forward attended the Calvert County Minority Business Association (CMBA) Fall Meeting – “Calvert Department of Economic Development”
27. In November 2015, LEAP Forward attended the League of Women voters Annual Legislative Evening with the Maryland State Delegation. Literature was provided about our programs. LEAP Forward also supported the Education Curriculum Fair held at Calvert High.
28. In November, LEAP Forward participated in a CFC Fair to solicit funding for the organization.

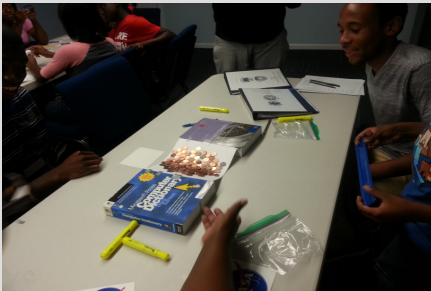
2015-A YEAR IN REVIEW...WITH OUR FUTURE ENGINEERS



**LAST MINUTE DESIGN CHANGES
DURING COMPETITION**

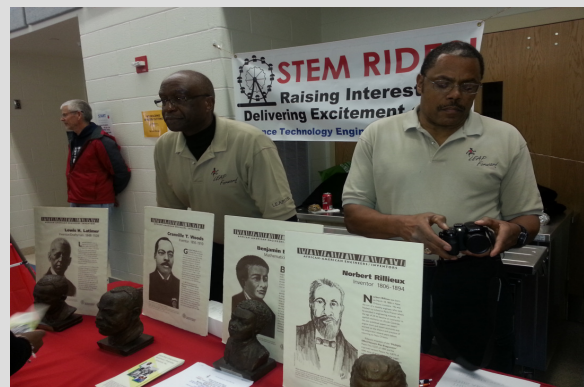


A+ MOTIVATION



"HANDS ON" INVOLVEMENT: VOLUNTEERISM AT ITS BEST.

**WHERE OLD SCHOOL EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM CROSSES PATHS WITH
YOUTHFUL EXHUBERANCE AND INQUISITIVENESS**



AND WHAT WOULD THEIR DREAMS MEAN

**WITHOUT THE ASPIRATIONS OF:
BEING A ROCKET SCIENTIST?**

...NASA ROCKET SCIENTIST JAYRICK HAYES

**THE MEN OF OMEGA PSI PHI:
CONRAD WHITE (L) AND WILSON ENNIS
(R) ARE BOTH BOARD MEMBERS AND
ENGINEERS. TAKING PART IN OUR
STEM FAIR**

2015-A PICTORIAL YEAR IN REVIEW...WITH OUR FUTURE ENGINEERS



NSBE Jr. (CASH) OFFICERS AT ONE OF LEAP FORWARD'S EXHIBITS

OUR STUDENTS AND FOUNDER EAGERLY AWAIT THE OPPORTUNITY TO ANSWER THE MANY ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS FROM BOTH THEIR PEERS, AND PARENTS. IT'S ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THE CAREERS AND CHALLENGES WHICH AWAIT THEM...BECAUSE OF THEIR **STEM** CHOICES



THE BLACK PILOTS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE **STEM** EVENT

THEY MAY FLY HIGH BUT ALWAYS REMAIN GROUNDED IN UPLIFTING THE EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES OF THEIR COMMUNITY...AND THEIR 'LEAD THRU EXAMPLE' ROLE MODELS

2015-A YEAR IN REVIEW...WITH OUR FUTURE ENGINEERS''



ENGINEERING DAY AT THE BUILDING MUSEUM`



DESTINED FOR SUCCESS: ATTENDING "AKEELAH AND THE BEE" AT THE ARENA STAGE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



CALVERT **STEM** FAIR`

THE CALVERT CRUISERS

CONFERENCE ON BULLYING



Students discuss one of the painful side affects on the paths and careers they have chosen to pursue, 'Bullying' It will be one of the many obstacles in which these students must overcome as a consequence of their pending success.

Bullying takes on many forms; verbal abuse, intimidation, physical abuse and even demanding money. Cyber bullying is also a form of bullying. Social networking tools like Facebook and Myspace have created new weapons the bully has in his/her arsenal. Jealousy, choosing the academics over 'fitting in,' also form the basis

LEAP Forward understands many students may be embarrassed to let their parents know they are being bullied. Our organization offers student rap sessions which allows the student to confront issues they feel are relevant.

If you are being bullied or suspect your child is being bullied:

1. Get additional information, go to:
http://www.stopbullying.gov/topics/civil_violation/index.html
2. If at immediate risk call 911
3. If you feel your child is being unusually withdrawn, contact the suicide prevention hotline at 1800-273-TALK (8255)
4. If you feel the teachers are not providing a safe environment contact local school administrators (principal or superintendent)
5. If the student that is being bullied is sick, stressed, not sleeping or is having other problems due to bullying, contact his/her counselor or other health professionals.
6. If the bullying involves race, ethnicity, or disability and local help is not working contact the U.S. Department of Education's Office on Civil Rights.

MARYLAND'S NEW GOVERNOR ON EDUCATION

Gov. Larry Hogan (R.Md.) ran and was elected as on a platform to support policies that would enhance Maryland's education system, "Education is our top priority... I believe that every child in Maryland deserves a world-class education."

The BOAST (Building Opportunities for All Students and Teachers) is a tuition tax credit bill, (also referred to as the Education Tax Credit) The bill has been opposed by the MSEA (Maryland State Education Association), the NAACP, League of Women Voters, Maryland PTA and the Maryland Association of Boards of Education.

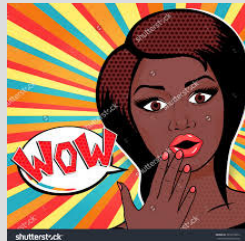
BOAST is a voucher program that would shift public, taxpayer dollars into private schools. Although the bill has been introduced perennially in many forms since 2006, it has been rejected on each occasion by the Maryland General Assembly. However, newly elected Gov. Hogan has re-introduced the BOAST legislation again. Gov. Hogan's proposal would have given tax credits to corporations for contributions made to private schools. In addition, Gov. Hogan's budget would have slashed \$144 million from public schools next year—which would mean over \$3,600 less per classroom and more than \$100,000 less per school. The budget would also cut almost \$600 million over the next four years from Maryland Education.

The BOAST bill did not pass. the General Assembly did, however, pass legislation to keep 90% of Gov. Hogans proposed budget cut, \$132 million. The governor also has refused to act on the \$68.1 million in cuts to the Geographical Cost of Education Index, that the General Assembly is trying to restore.

For more information regarding the far reaching affects of this piece of legislation please referencethe following link:

dontshortchangemaryland.com .

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT...



...The Miss Universe Blunder

Steve Harvey, TV and radio host, clothing designer and member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, caused an international uproar when he inadvertently awarded the Miss Universe crown to Miss Colombia, when actually Miss Philippine was the victor. Mr. Harvey was caught on camera at a \$25 minimum roulette wheel and insiders claim heavily indulging in alcoholic beverages, only a few hours before the pageant.

...All in day's Work

In October, Oprah Winfrey announced she was investing in Weight Watcher's. Investors responded and the value of the stocks shot up. Miss Oprah Winfrey pocketed a hefty 70 million dollars in a single day. In January, Miss Winfrey in a tweet stated that she had shed 26 pounds while eating bread every day, seven days a week while on a special Weight Watchers diet. Investors once again responded. Shares from Weight Watchers increased 20% to \$13.29 a share. The mogul profited a cool 12 million dollars.

...Say it Ain't so

For years Bill Cosby made us laugh. Philanthropist. Educator. America's Dad. He was that black father, Dr. Huxtable, raising a family with strength and pride. Our Saturday mornings were not complete without that, "Hey, Hey, Hey", Fat Albert was in the house. He came down hard on young black men, from their lack of accepting parental responsibilities, to the low wearing of their pants. He was a civil rights activist. Board of Directors. Trailblazer. He opened doors. Many are still struggling with having to take Mr. Cosby off the pedestal that we placed him on. Some are still doubting the rapes actually occurred.

...Thanks for the Memories?

Picked by Peter King of Sports Illustrated to go all the way to the Super Bowl, the Baltimore Ravens hobbled across the finished line with a 5-11 record with twenty-two players on injured reserve. It was the first losing season in the Harbaugh-Flacco era. Many of us around the water coolers are wondering out loud if Ray Lewis and Ed Reed can still play.

...Coming to America

Pope Francis visits the United States. First on the Pope's agenda was a meet and greet with President Obama and his family. The pontiff's visit also included a historic address to congress, and a religious service at ground zero. His six days was highlighted with his sermon about "the miracles of love", which he delivered to hundreds of thousands in Philadelphia. The "People's Pope" also broke bread with, and fed the homeless in Washington DC... "Well done my good and Faithful servant".

African-Americans who left us in 2015...they 'changed' our world!



Moses Malone, Basketball Star

(March 23, 1955–Sept. 13, 2015)

“The Chairman of the Boards”



B.B. King, 89, musician

(Sept. 16, 1925–May 14, 2015)

Raised in a sharecropper's shack,
The thrills you gave us will never be gone



Julian Bond, 75, Civil Rights Leader

(Jan. 14, 1940–Aug. 15, 2015)

Civil Rights icon, writer, educator, politician. Established SNCC-Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee. National President of the NAACP. First President of the Southern Poverty Law Center. President of Lincoln University. Organized civil rights and voter registration drives throughout the south. He continued the legacy of his friend and mentor, Dr. Martin Luther King until the end



Natalie Cole, 65, Singer

(Feb. 5, 1950–Dec. 31, 2015)

Multiple Grammy Award winner.
You like your father, will always be
“Unforgettable”.



Edward Brooke, 95, Senator

(Oct. 26, 1919–Jan. 3, 2015)

Republican senator from Massachusetts.
First African-American to be popularly elected
to the U.S. Senate.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS...OUR COMMUNITY...OUR FRIENDS*we are only here because you care!**YOU showed you cared about the education of our youth thru your time, your kindness, your money...and your prayersThanks*

Fred and Kathy Johnson
 H.L. Jones
 David Harmon
 Yamilee Danberville
 Toxi Clark
 Gralen Young
 Mae Morsell
 Dill Marseta
 Sheilah Harris
 Monroe Henson
 Myra Campbell
 Maurice Irvine
 Jacob Lebowitz
 Phyllis Lester
 Erik Hemby
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 Jessica Brooks
 Edsel Brown
 Del Boyd
 Monique Nelson
 Gregory Woods
 Janae Moore
 J.B. Moore
 Timothy Morsell
 Kimberly Thomas
 Rodney Gross
 Valerie Queen
 Wilhemina Greene

OUR BUSSINESS COMMUNITY AND CIVIC LEADERS*Who understands the future dividends of a well educated mind...**Thanks for your partnerships, your commitments and your investments****Carroll Western United Methodist Church******Bill Ball-State Farm Insurance******Ladies Enterprises******Parran Brothers, LLC.******Bithgroup Technologies, Inc.******Wal Mart******Dominion Foundation******Best Buy******Jack and Jill***

Nearly 200 people from across the region on July 19 were given a glimpse into what's possible for 15 graduating seniors and one college student who are "on the right path," according to a press release. LEAP Forward Inc., led by founder Rhonda Thomas, hosted the "On the Right Path, Headed Towards My Destiny" 2015 Scholarship Reception at Calvert High School, to present Calvert youths with financial scholarships to pursue their college education dreams. This year's theme was woven throughout the program and often sprinkled with doses of historical and present-day realities, the release states. The event also celebrated this year's accomplishments of the Creative and Striving Hard (CASH) to Succeed National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Jr. Chapter and Destined4Success, a lunch time assistance and enrichment program held at Calvert High. Former LEAP award recipients Keiva Cole (graduate, College of Notre Dame) and Dynika Gross (graduate, University of Maryland, Baltimore) teamed up to orchestrate the evening. The Adams/Morsell, Harris, Lee, Leeper, Parker and Parran families were all well represented by their relatives, who presented the memorial scholarship awards in their respective family name, the release states. As the family members took the stage one by one, each shared memories and tidbits about their loved ones passion for attaining excellence in education and personal pursuits: The recipients, from high schools across the county, will be enrolling in wide variety of programs from various colleges:

The guest speaker for the event, Baltimore resident, engineer and professor Harry Holt Jr., was in teaching mode as he presented the student audience with insights on his "getting on the right path," the release states. Holt, also vice president of operations of Bithgroup Technologies, said, as cited in the release, "You will know if you're going to be successful. You will know if you studied enough, showed-up on time for that interview. Only you will know if you did the right things to be truly successful." He then wove a tapestry of his journey: "I had a mother who pushed and wouldn't let me quit. After, I saw myself achieving, then I'd seek-out organizations that I thought would help me further on my journey. I also wanted to give back to those that helped me. And, I found it quite necessary to be rooted in God," the release quotes. Holt ended his talk with a handout on organizations that might aid them as they "headed to their destiny."

"Throughout the evening, artists shared performances in theatrics, song and poetry, reflecting pivotal moments in American history where success was achieved even in the face of overwhelming odds. These performances also pointed to today's social climate, where justice and equality issues are still being raised in forums across the nation, the release states. Huntingtown

The organization thanks Dominion Foundation, Best Buy, Walmart and Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative for financial aid and assistance of the CASH NSBE Jr. Destined4Success and tutoring and mentoring programs. The organization also thanks Bithgroup Technologies for Holt and the firm's financial donation of \$500, as well as all those who contributed to LEAP Forward this year.

THEIR SUCCESS AT BRINGING **STEM** TO THEIR COMMUNITIES RESTS WITH YOU

**LIFE'S MOST PERSISTENT AND URGENT QUESTION IS,
'WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR OTHERS?'**

...DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



*LEAP FORWARD'S FOUNDER RHONDA THOMAS POSES
WITH NSBE'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DR. KARL REID*

Mail your check to:

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P.O. Box 373
Prince Frederick, Md. 20678-3786**

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corporation that qualifies as a
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the Internal Revenue Code. As
such, contributions are tax
deductible in accordance with
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E-mail

**Amount
enclosed:**

