SIU-CARBONDALE YOUTH LEADERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

Youth from the Metro East mentoring programs are being hosted by Southern Illinois University Carbondale to help develop their leadership skills, build character and to cultivate and develop lifelong learning and leadership lessons at the Paul Simon Public Policy Insti-
tute’s “Youth Leadership Weekend.” This award-winning program started over a decade ago under the guidance of Dr. Linda Renee-
Baker with the support of SIU Carbondale and Organizations across the metropolitan area joined forces with this team to recruit young men from various organizations to participate. COVID slowed us down, but we are back in full force resuming career building mental strength for those young men.

This year’s leadership weekend, November 4-5, will feature Mayor John Smith, the nation’s youngest African American mayor, hosting Earle Arkansas. This youngest black mayor in the history of the United States has demonstrated commitment leadership and deter-
nination. The youth will also participate in workshops and panel discussions envisioning designed to enhance the leadership qualities of African American young men maintaining positive guidance, improving team building skills with an introduction to collegiate academics. They will network and use the value of mentorship. This year’s theme “Emerging Leadership: Young Men: ‘Be Extraordinary’” focuses on team building skills with an introduction to collegiate academics.

The event planning team consisted of local educational institutions, fraternal organizations and other community-based agencies, Baker with the support of SIU Carbondale and Organizations across the partnerships with this community and we are excited to host these students on campus.” SIU Carbondale Chancellor-Antoni Luke.

Many of the students attended previous conferences have gone on to enroll in colleges and universities and returned to leadership roles in their communities. Oliver Keys, an East St. Louis native, participated for four years and attended SIU on a full scholarship and earned his degree in automotive technology from SIU Carbondale. Keys was formerly service and parts area manager with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) and helps plan and participate in the annual event, inspired by institute founder, the late U.S. Sen. Paul Simon, D-Illinois. Keys cur-
cently serves as Assistant Professor Automotive Technology SIU Car-
bondale. “The youth leadership weekend” was foundational for me. It helped me to cultivate leadership skills beyond my imagination said Keys. As a shy kid from East St. Louis, I never dreamed that I would accomplish my career academic and professional achievements. During my years of participating in the program, I was encouraged to be great. This is what I give back to this program today to help the next generation on their path to achieve greatness.”

The institute used a 1994 report by the Illinois Commission on Af-
American Males as an inspiration for the leadership weekend. Former Illinois Attorney General and SIU Carbondale alumnus Ro-
land W. Burris chaired the commission. “When we first sat down with Paul Simon, his goal was to find a way of building African American male leadership in the Metro East area,” Linda Renee Bak-
er, institute/university professor and project director, said. “We cer-
tainly believe we have met and exceeded those expectations because we have been tracking these students for years and we can see the impact this program had in helping them chart successful careers and meaningful lives.”

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In our future success. Institute directed past and present -Mike Law-
salute those who helped in our early beginnings and continue to help humanity, “ Mitchell said. “Today’s young males are bombarded with negativity, unfavorable temptations and disillusionment while Youth Leadership Weekend spurs dreams, plants the seeds of possibil-
ity, and helps secure the promise of a better future.” With gratitude we salute those who helped in our early beginnings and continue to help in our future success. Institute directed past and present - Mike Law-

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DURING THIS WEEKEND RETREAT, METRO EAST YOUTH WERE HONORED TO HEAR FROM MARTIN LUTHER KING, III, (FRONT ROW CENTER), HE IS FLANKED BY SOME OF THE LOCAL VOLUNTEER LEADERS FEATURED IN THIS PICTURE: STAN FRANKLIN, REGINALD RIDDLE, THE LATE HANNAH BROWN, BERNICE HOWZE, JASON RAY, KAPPA ALPHA PSI; AND JASON RAY, KAPPA ALPHA PSI; AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS.

SENATOR DICK DURBIN SHARES THE VISION WITH YOUTH.

STAN FRANKLIN, REGINALD RIDDLE, THE LATE HANNAH BROWN, BERNICE HOWZE, JASON RAY, KAPPA ALPHA PSI; AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS.

BETRO CAPTAIN WILLIAM “BILL” BOWDOULD UNITED AIRLINES WITH METRO EAST YOUTH LEADERSHIP PARTICIPANTS.

YOUTH TRAINING WORKSHOP: ON TEAM BUILDING

A SEGMENT OF THE WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES AT SIUC INCLUDES VOLUNTEERS SHIRLEY VAUGHN OF TLOD; CEDRIC MITCHELL, OMEGA PSI PHI; AND JASON RAY, KAPPA ALPHA PSI; AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS.

VOLUNTEERS AT THE AWARDS LUNCHEON FOLLOWING YOUTH LEADERSHIP WEEKEND INCLUDES JACKIE SETTLES, BERNIE HOWZE, DR. LINDA BAKER, SHIRLEY VAUGHN AND KAREN WINGS. FULL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, REGINALD WINGS (SECOND LEFT BACK ROW).