African-American Male Achievement Initiative & Y-PLAN

Last year, the African American Male Achievement Initiative (AAMA) partnered with Y-PLAN to build leadership skills of 100 young men who are students in the Oakland Unified School District. The project relied on Y-PLAN’s project-based, civic learning and action strategies and tools to tackle real-world issues in their communities. The AAMA leaders, also known as “Kings,” were enlisted by BART to undertake a community engagement project to answer the question: “How can BART better connect the Coliseum station to the surrounding community?”

With the mentorship and support of Cal undergraduates (who were enrolled in a city planning class), the Kings successfully completed their consultation project for BART. The King’s work included: meeting with BART staff, touring stations, conducting SWOT analyses, creating cognitive maps, brainstorming recommendations, and creating posters to illustrate their projects and their recommendations. The Kings developed proposals for community and youth-friendly, transit-oriented development that includes kid-friendly “parklets,” walkable streets, affordable housing, healthy eateries, wifi and solar powered stations and trains, plans for increased safety and security, and art and murals. The Kings presented their findings to BART Managers in Quarterly Managers meeting and to the Oakland City Council and Mayor. Seven Kings interned with BART, selecting a local muralist to bring their vision to life at the coliseum BART.

(For more information visit: y-plan.berkeley.edu and kingmakersofoakland.org/about/aama-program)

Richmond Promise & Center for Educational Partnerships

Richmond Promise is a community-wide college scholarship fund and college success initiative dedicated to building a college-graduating culture in Richmond, CA. More than 70% of Richmond Promise scholars are first generation college students.

The Center for Educational Partnerships at UC Berkley plays a key role, providing support to ensure the Richmond Promise Scholars are ready and resourced to access college and succeed once they arrive. Other partners in the work to remove barriers and created pathways to college access and success include the City of Richmond, West Contra County Unified School District, Contra Costa College, and the UC and CSU systems. 1-on-1 college advising, college prep, and other support are provided by Early Academic Outreach Program, Destination College Advising Corps, and Upward Bound, who work with district administrators, high school counselors, and Richmond Promise staff to support 150+ students in 6 WCCUSD high schools. This year, 28 Richmond Promise scholars were admitted to Cal. The Richmond Promise scholarship is made possible by a 10-year, $35 million seed-investment from the Chevron Corporation’s Environmental and Community Investment Agreement with the City of Richmond.

(For more information visit: richmondpromise.org and cep.berkeley.edu)
Chancellor’s Community Leaders Breakfast Background

Thank you for joining us at the 8th Annual Community Leaders Breakfast. The Chancellor’s Community Leaders Breakfast gives members of the campus and community an opportunity to come together to recognize and celebrate exemplary public service projects and initiatives in our neighboring cities. The projects we are honoring today are making a difference in the lives of community members in Berkeley, Richmond and Oakland who have been disconnected from opportunity and basic needs that are essential to health and success.

We are proud that these important projects draw on the university’s greatest resource: our students, faculty and staff. We thank our community partners, and the many others, who each year provide our campus community with opportunities to demonstrate UC Berkeley’s commitment to public education and further the public good through urgently needed community projects.

We invite you to take a moment to learn more about the partnerships that will be recognized today. We also encourage you to introduce yourself to someone new. Attendees include student leaders, elected officials, a diverse array of campus staff and faculty, and leaders from local businesses, community groups and neighborhood associations. You are sure to find someone who is as passionate about community change as you are.

People’s Park & Telegraph District Partnership

Since 2005, Eve Ahmed (City of Berkeley) and Devin Woolridge (UC Berkeley) have played instrumental roles in the development of a unique city/campus/community partnership that responds to the needs of the homeless men and women who live in People’s Park and the Telegraph District. The Telegraph Business Improvement District (TBID) and several non-profit organizations provide leadership and essential services to the men and women who seek the team’s support.

The Outreach and Response Team that Ahmed and Woolridge lead, in partnership with TBID Executive Director Stuart Baker, meets weekly to share information and coordinate support for individuals. This team includes representatives of City of Berkeley’s Housing and Community Services, Mental Health, Public Works, Police, UCPD, the TBID’s Block by Block Ambassadors, and other non-profit services organizations.

This morning we are giving special recognition to Devin, who through his position UC Berkeley’s Facilities Services, and Eve, who in her role as Social Worker, have provided support for our less fortunate neighbors for 20 years and 24 years, respectively.

(For more information visit: www.telegraphberkeley.org & www.cityofberkeley.info/homeless-entry)