

# 2009 African American Leadership Development Program Yearbook



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**India Barton** is an administrator for corporate operations at PathStone Corporation. India joined the AALDP class of 2009 to enhance the leadership skills she already possesses to become a more effective leader within the community. She would like to be involved in the decision making that will affect her community through volunteering and joining boards.



**Rhonda Boas-Blue** is an instructional designer at Paychex Incorporated. She joined the 2009 AALDP class because it's an opportunity to hone her civic leadership skills. She plans to be a firm voice of reason on behalf of Rochester's women and children in the area of safe & affordable housing and teen mother support services.



**Anthony Brown** is an advanced technician at Time Warner Cable. He wanted to join the program to increase his communication skills to become a more effective leader. His mission is to work with the community to ensure that everyone is aware of programs and opportunities available to them.

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**Keysha Brown** is a peer program counselor at the Rochester Psychiatric Center . She wanted to join the class of 2009 AALDP to gain leadership skills in order to become more involved in the Greater Rochester community through board and volunteer service. In doing so, she hopes to be diligent in staying adept about the challenges that face the community.



**Pamala Brown-Grinion** is the president and CEO of Totally You-nique Educational Consultants. She joined the program in order to gain knowledge on becoming an effective policy maker of the African American community, in the form of board representation. She plans to initiate steps to further promote youth & women and K-12 education, the areas she is most passionate about.



**Stacey DeJesus** is a community liaison at the University of Rochester. She joined the AALDP class of 2009 as a way of enhancing her leadership skills as well using the program to network and support one another as agents of change. She plans on becoming involved in the mentoring program through the Rochester City School District and on committees with the Community Place of Greater Rochester.

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**Ronald Dews, Jr.** is a project manager and lead engineer at Xerox. He decided to participate in the program to develop his leadership skills and become a part of the extraordinary legacy the AALDP produces. He plans on becoming a volunteer in the community above and beyond his current commitments.



**Jacqueline Dozier** is a program coordinator for the AIDS Community Health Center. She became a part of the 2009 AALDP class so she could enhance the work that she currently does in the community. She plans on serving the community by being more visible at community events and becoming more involved with community issues at large, particularly for women & children.



**Chereese Foster** is a production engineer for Arch Chemicals, Inc. She joined the AALDP class of 2009 in order to gain and strengthen the skills required to make a positive impact in her life, workplace and community. She plans on becoming involved in policymaking by serving on a board or committee in the community, volunteering and becoming a mentor.

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**Tonia Graf** is a homeownership credit restoration counselor for Providence Housing Development Corporation. She joined the AALDP class of 2009 to gain networking tips from past and future community leaders and to effectively advocate for financial literacy. She plans on serving the Rochester community by seeking out community agencies that will advocate her mission of improving financial literacy and will seize every opportunity to volunteer her services.



**Dr. Tomicka Green** is in education administration at the Rochester Institute of Technology. She joined the program to develop her leadership skills and to network with other black professionals. Upon completion of the program, she hopes to serve on boards, commit, volunteer and speak to youth motivating them “to be the change we want to see.”



**Tausha Hill** is a team leader at Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection. After just recently receiving this position, she joined the 2009 AALDP to assist her with her transition, rediscover her voice and help her get involved in the community. She would like to immediately volunteer more and hopes to eventually end up on a board.

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**Kerrance James** is a unit director at the Boys & Girls Club of Rochester. He joined the 2009 AALDP to increase networking, gain a meaningful understand of the professional field of human services and improve his leadership skills. Upon graduation, he plans to volunteer, join committees and boards, attain further education and facilitate workshops.



**Cheryl Johnson** is a program coordinator at Roberts Wesleyan College. After reading literature about the program, she became a part of the AALDP class of 2009 because she felt the curriculum would be a great asset in her development. She plans to volunteer in oneortwo agencies that were presented through the program and look for opportunities to get involved in community events.



**Diedra Livingston** is a senior staff assistant for the Rochester Institute of Technology. She joined the program in order to improve her leadership skills so she can take a visual position in the community. She will be joining several organizations as a volunteer in hopes that she will be able to serve on a committee and eventually a board.

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**Garfield Martin** is a budget analyst for Action for a Better Community, Inc. He decided to join the 2009 AALDP class to gain the skills and awareness needed to better serve the community. He plans to seek out committees and boards to volunteer and serve the community.



**Darcey McFarland** is a customer service supervisor for Verizon Wireless. She wanted to become more involved in the community by volunteering and advocating for people of color and hoped by joining the AALDP class of 2009, this would be her stepping stone. Upon graduation, she would like to volunteer for organizations that provide services to inner city youth and teen/young adult single parents. In the future she would like to participate on a board.



**Lanette McKnight** is director of Human Resources for the Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross. She had heard so many great things about the program and wanted to be a part of something great. She plans on using the skills she's acquired to serve her community by being active on boards, participating in community activities and anything dealing with the politics and educational needs in the community.

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**Judie Myers-Gell** is a human resource manager for Champion Photochemistry, Inc. She is passionate about building a strong generation of leaders. Since this is a primary part of AALDP's mission, she knew this program would help her gain insight as well as a greater knowledge of the resources available within the community. Her plan is to continue involvement in youth organizations such as Boy Scouts Explorer Program. She wants to extend her vision to include the community at large.



**Michael Newson** is the community habilitation manager for the Epilepsy Foundation. By joining the 2009 AALDP class, he wanted to enhance his leadership skills, learn more about the role of a board, find opportunities to volunteer and make a difference in the community. Upon graduation, he plans to take the skills he has learned and apply them to his professional and personal life.



**Samuel Noel** is a personal banker for Xceed Financial Credit Union. He became a part of the AALDP class of 2009 because he knew it was a highly effective leadership program for grooming leaders within the community. He would like to volunteer and advocate in the areas of: youth, education, mentoring, housing and family matters.

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**Ellis L. Randall, Sr.** is a youth advocate for Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection. He joined the program because he had been told he was a leader but needed to know how to identify and actually do it, not just talk about it. Upon graduation he plans to join a board that deals with youth advocacy.



**Edith Diane Reynolds** is a human resources payroll specialist. Her participation in AALDP was to become a transformative leader in the community, enhance her leadership skills and to become more proactive and less reactive in her community. She hopes to partner with community leaders to assist in addressing issues that have had a negative impact on Rochester. She wants to find a solution and implement change.



**Peggy Robinson** is an administrative assistant and office manager for the Rochester City School District. She joined the AALDP class of 2009 in order to become a more effective leader in her workplace and in her community. She plans to serve her community by empowering, informing and motivating those less fortunate and less confident. She wants to be an advocate for individuals, by being their voice, at levels where they can't compete.

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**Francine Scott** works for the Rochester City School District. She participated in the AALDP to broaden her knowledge and skills in leadership and volunteerism, in the community, that will bring about positive change in her neighborhood/work environment. Upon graduation, she plans to become actively involved in the community on a larger scale, by participating with her neighborhood association, becoming a mentor through the American Red Cross and sitting on committees and boards to advocate for the community.



**Kevin Sizer** is a police officer for the City of Rochester Police Department. He joined the class of 2009 AALDP to improve on his leadership skills to assist in his current job. He looks forward to joining a board and assisting the agency with good choices for the community. He also plans on getting involved with volunteering.



**Peggy Snow-Tyson** is the invoicing and adjustment coordinator for Birds Eye Foods. Her participation in AALDP was geared toward gaining an awareness of volunteerism opportunities within the community and to make a difference therein. She plans to volunteer with several agencies that are of interest and to also renew monetary contributions to charities.

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**Catherine M.A. Thomas** is director of volunteers & patient education/resources for the University of Rochester. She joined the 2009 AALDP class to improve her leadership skills based on community evidence based practices. She is planning to be an effective member on boards & wants to improve advocacy.



**Na'Keya Thomas** is the founder/executive director of Amodestri Girls Club, Inc. and a property manager for Providence Housing Development Corporation. She participated in AALDP to learn more about the program and learn the history of Rochester (community, education system and health systems). She plans to continue to educate, inspire and motivate others to realize their full potential and to get involved.



**Tori Toliver** is an executive assistant at the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency. She became a member of the 2009 AALDP to gain more knowledge on how to have an impact on the Rochester community. Upon graduation, she plans to stay connected with her fellow peers and join a board to assist with policy making decisions.

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**Christopher Williams** is a case manager at Baden Street Settlement. He decided to join the 2009 class of AALDP in order to enhance himself, the community and others in professional development. Upon graduation, he plans on serving on various boards and sharing his knowledge and skills with others to deal with pressing issues in the community. His goal is to advocate for those who may not be able to advocate for themselves.

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**Monique C. Adams** is a pricing and tariff analyst at Frontier Communications. She joined the 2008 AALDP class to develop her professional relationships through networking, which will benefit the AALDP program and the community. She plans on being an “Agent of Change” by being an instrumental part of the development of the NextGen philanthropic vehicle for young professionals in the Rochester area. This group will work together to learn about community issues and find solutions.



**Wayne Alexander** is a business system integrator at Eastman Kodak Company. He joined the 2008 AALDP class because it’s an opportunity to become more engaged in the Rochester community and he wants to develop his leadership skills. He believes that the biggest problem in Rochester is crime. He would like to mentor youth.



**Janie Anderson** is a senior help desk analyst at Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. She wanted to join the program to increase her knowledge in leadership skills. She plans on being an “Agent of Change” by taking a leadership role in her own life and being ready when opportunities are presented to her. Her mission is to work with the community to ensure that everyone is aware of programs and opportunities available to them.

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**Richard G. Anderson** is a residence manager at Lifetime Assistance. He wanted to join the 2008 AALDP class because throughout his career, there have not been any minority leaders in upper management making decisions crucial to the components of the organization. He would like to bring back the skills that he learns in the class. He hopes to get to the root cause of high school dropout.



**Kenny Baptiste** is a chemist at Eastman Kodak Company. He joined the AALDP class because he always worked for programs that facilitate his education and provide opportunities to develop leadership skills that directly engage the African American and Caribbean communities. He plans to work with the youth of the community to improve college enrollment and advise on careers in science.



**Sandra S. Brannigan** is an accounts payable manager at Birds Eye Foods, Inc. She wanted to join the 2008 AALDP class to learn more about the program and how its involvement in the community had made a difference. She hopes that her participation will encourage her company to get involved in the African American Community. She wants to become involved in the community and offer her time, love and effort to children who are less fortunate. AALDP helped open her eyes to volunteer opportunities and has helped her become an important part of an inspiring group of African American professionals.

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**Shawanda Denise Brown** is a program coordinator at Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection. Participating in this year's program fostered her growth as an African American professional. The program will also provide her with the necessary tools to engage in other community-based organizations, committees and boards in order to contribute to the strengthening and growth of the African American community. She hopes to focus her new leadership skills on education and mentoring.



**Christina Marie Christman** is a branch customer-service representative at HSBC Bank USA, N.A. She became a member of AALDP because she wants her community to become a better place and wants to be involved in that process. She wants to learn how to become involved and learn how the process works. She wants to focus on violence and personal safety, low graduation rates and keeping businesses in the area.



**Roshawn Lanita Cole** works at Rochester Gas & Electric. She came to the conclusion that it's not productive to complain about issues if she doesn't make an effort to positively impact the community. The program will help her build on the skills she already has and make her more comfortable with being involved in the community on a larger scale. She hopes to volunteer at a youth organization and a homeless shelter or food kitchen.

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**Carolyn Coney-Johnson** is a graduate studies course coordinator at University of Rochester. She wanted to become a member of the 2008 AALDP class because she has always wanted to give back to the community and thinks that Rochester needs positive minority leaders. She hopes that going through the program will help strengthen her ability to make a difference and help give her the confidence and knowledge she will need. She is interested in getting involved with the Urban League and other youth organizations..



**Tanya Lynn Davis** is a senior financial analyst at Birds Eye Foods, Inc. She joined AALDP because she has a strong desire to utilize her talents to support community agencies. Also, interacting and networking with other local leaders is critical for her to develop her current leadership skills, observe other styles and broaden her skill set. She will focus her attention on arts, mental and physical health and well-being, and economic development



**Winona Dixon** is a research analyst at Greater Rochester Enterprise. She feels that the theme surrounding 2008 is change, and she wants to be a part of that change locally. She hopes to prepare herself to be used as a vessel to help improve the community in which she was born and raised. Upon completion of the program, she would like to focus her volunteering efforts on young children and literacy.

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**Radiah Drayton-Scott** is a manager of recruitment at Unity Health System. She joined the 2008 AALDP class because she believed that it would help strengthen her current skills and offer additional ones to her as a new leader in the community. She is interested in job advocacy programs for youth and adults.



**Calvin Daniel Eaton** is an education projects coordinator at the University of Rochester. He joined AALDP in his quest for continued professional and personal growth. He feels that this program will provide him the opportunity to become a more proficient and effective leader. Upon completion of the program, he hopes to work with youth to help them understand the value of education. He hopes to help young people navigate the college applications process, improve their communication and interviewing skills, and become mature, responsible members of the community.



**Cassandra Edmonds-Kelley** is a benefits manager for Action for a Better Community, Inc. She feels that minorities are under-represented on many boards and in leadership positions because they lack the proper training, development and networking opportunities. That is why she decided to become a member of the 2008 AALDP class. She would like to focus on community organizations in the health sector.

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**James H. Hawkins, Jr.** is an IT project manager for the City of Rochester. He became a member of the AALDP class because it's an excellent learning experience. He is excited to learn alongside people like him and to develop skills that will benefit him professionally and give him an approach to community development. He would like to work with the youth of our community.



**Sharon Lakesha Jones** is a general accounting supervisor at Birds Eye Foods, Inc. She became a member of the 2008 AALDP class because it would allow her to gain exposure to the Rochester community and its needs. For her, being a part of this year's program will open new opportunities for her to make an impact. It will also allow her to improve on her leadership, decision-making, and communication skills. She wants to put her new skills to work with youth. She believes that time and commitment to developing them at this stage in their lives is an important aspect of our future.



**Bridgette Jones-Waters** is a program coordinator and project coordinator for volunteers and an alumni relations liaison for Wilson Commencement Park. She feels that if she is working in the community, she should better understand the community. She will focus her attention on volunteering with youth. She believes that youth need and should have more positive role models, and that there can never be enough positive influence in a youth's life.

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**Lionel T. King-Lynch** is a sales and marketing financial services regional vice president for Primerica. He joined the 2008 AALDP class because it is a great personal honor to associate himself with a program that focuses on building and developing exceptional leadership in the African American community. It also helped him expand in the Rochester area as an African American business leader. He is focusing his attention on housing, youth services, education and city government.



**Ponnella Kittles** is a claims supervisor at Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. She became a member of the 2008 AALDP class to build personal development and enhance her leadership skills. She will utilize her training in the workplace and in the community. Her goal is to be the additional voice heard, understood and positively represented.



**Walter Larkin, Jr.** is an assistant principal and track and field coach for the Rochester City School District. He joined AALDP because he wanted to give back to the community that has given him so much. He is focusing his efforts on education, athletics and wellness.

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**LaRhonda D. Leonard** is an IT portfolio lead at Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. She joined AALDP because she is always looking for ways to continue to grow and learn, and the AALDP program is a perfect way to do that. She will utilize her technical and management skills to help support programs and activities that are geared toward fostering and supporting the youth of the Rochester community.



**Horace Little** is an environmental services supervisor at Highland Hospital. He joined the 2008 AALDP class because as an African American male, he would like to be involved in the decision-making process that affects our community and children. He will work with young adults, as they are our future. He feels that if he can do something that effects change in just one person, it will be well worth the time he has invested.



**Candice A. Lucas** is the assistant director for C.A.S.H. Coalition-Empire Justice Center. She joined because she feels that she still has a lot to learn and would like to take the steps to enhance her leadership skills to better serve the community. She will use her newly learned leadership skills to address generational poverty and to help local African Americans build successful careers through networking.

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**Deborah B. Manns** is the supervising claims auditor for the Rochester City School District. She joined the 2008 AALDP class because she felt that the program would benefit her as she grows in her new career. She wants to be a servant leader to this community. She will be working with young people preparing them for corporate life and elderly people who need companionship.



**Herman Lee McKinney** is a supply chain supervisor at Highland Hospital. He joined the 2008 AALDP class to refine his leadership skills and to translate into a positive asset to the community. He will be focusing his new skills on working with Rochester youth or wherever he is needed the most.



**Linda Mae Morris** is an accounting bookkeeper at the University of Rochester. She wanted to join the 2008 AALDP class because she wanted to become more active in the community as well as bring back what she learned to her workplace. She will be focusing her attention on the health care setting for the elderly.

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**Dr. Phyllis Anita Moss** is the resource manager for The Salvation Army. Her position has recently changed and she believes that going through the AALDP program will help with the transition. She is planning on working with the Rochester City School District.



**Collette A. Noel** is a secretary at the University of Rochester Center for Community Health. She hopes that she can make a difference in the Rochester community and have a greater impact. The program would both strengthen and foster for her a greater involvement within the community on many levels through leadership participation. As a proud graduate of the AALDP class, she is looking forward to playing an expanded role in community-building at both the grassroots and policy level.



**Tanya Simone Poyser** is a teacher in the Rochester City School District. She already has a passion and love for helping to rebuild the African American community, and the program will only enhance her technical leadership skills. She will be focusing on education.

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**Everton Ray Sewell** is the assistant controller for mergers and acquisitions for Eastman Kodak Company. He joined AALDP to develop skill sets to be able to participate more actively in the community developmental activities so he can make a difference in the community. He will be focusing on public education.



**Mark L. Simmons** is a police officer in the Tactical Unit of the Rochester Police Department. He joined AALDP because he is interested in becoming educated in ways that he could improve his leadership and communication skills. He also would like to become more involved in community projects outside of his role as a police officer. He will put his new skills to use by becoming a friend or mentor to young at-risk males in an effort to help steer them on the path of becoming contributing, law-abiding community members.



**LaTanya R. Sinclair** is a team leader for Datacenter for Eastman Kodak Company. She became a member of the 2008 AALDP class because she wanted to develop her leadership skills and share those skills with a community organization. She will be focusing on working with an agency dealing with social issues and training.

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**Marquita D. Smith** owns a clothing boutique. With the AALDP program, she believes she will discover qualities that she didn't know existed as well as fine-tune the ones she already possesses. She wants to learn more about volunteer options and get involved in them. The program will help her to better herself as a leader and an African American woman. She will be focusing on making life better for women in domestic abuse situations, as well as self-esteem and safety awareness.



**Wanda Diane Snow** is a development assistant and special events coordinator for Rochester Childfirst Network. She joined AALDP because she wanted to become more involved in the community as a contributor, role model, leader, listener and speaker for the empowerment of her African American brothers and sisters. She will be focusing on education.



**Dianne Snowden-Johnson** is the CEO of Miss Sweet Potato Pie, Inc. She joined AALDP because she believes that the program would enhance her leadership skills and increase her knowledge of African American leadership. As an AALDP graduate and community volunteer, she expects to gain tools of leadership in order to be a greater advocate for Rochester's youth.

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**Tiffiney C. Taylor** is the Medicaid service coordinator and program manager for Epilepsy Foundation. She joined the AALDP program because she believes it offers her a diverse perspective and further enhances her leadership skills as a female African American leader in the Rochester community and beyond. She will put her leadership skills to use by addressing women's Issues; education; spiritual, mental and physical wellness; and unifying the family structure.



**Avis R. Williams** is the business development manager for Eltrex Industries, Inc. She became a member of the 2008 AALDP class to develop her leadership skills so that she can participate in leadership roles in the Rochester community. She would like to develop an ambassador program to bring back successful individuals who grew up in Rochester to tell their stories and inspire youth.



**Beryl Joseph Wilson** is the Administrative Assistant, Contract Assistant and Office Manager for V Weis Construction Solutions, LLC. She wanted to learn new things and to share her talents on a broader scale, and AALDP helped her do that. She will be working with Rochester Sickle Cell Disease Association, Pillars of Hope and Center for the Arts.

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graduates would be a great match  
for your organization, contact  
Rodney Young at  
242-6556 for more information.**

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