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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**WHAT: OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS  
RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AT  
18TH ANNUAL DUQUESNE LIGHT AFRICAN-  
AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

**WHEN: Monday, Feb. 25, 2008, 6 – 8 pm**

**WHERE: WQED Studio A, 4802 Fifth Avenue in Oakland**

PITTSBURGH -- WQED once again partners with Duquesne Light to showcase the extraordinary accomplishments of those who influence the success of the African American community in western Pennsylvania.

The Duquesne Light African-American Leadership Awards honor four outstanding individuals or organizations in four categories: arts, culture and recreation; civic, community and humanitarian; business and government; and education. Four outstanding local high school and college students are also honored with \$5,000 scholarships from Duquesne Light to fulfill their educational aspirations.

Over the past 18 years, the Duquesne Light Black History Month Celebration has honored over 100 leaders and has given more than \$100,000 in scholarship monies to area African-American youth to empower and nurture future community leaders. WQED has hosted the awards since 2001.

WQED's Emmy Award-winning Chris Moore (host of *Black Horizons* and *Off Q*) will interview the student awardees from the studio during the reception for that evening's *OnQ* live broadcast at 7:30 p.m. on WQED-TV.

The awardees are featured in television messages on WQED-TV, on WQED Interactive at [www.wqed.org](http://www.wqed.org), and in a segment of *OnQ*, WQED's nightly live news magazine show.

Honorees for this year's African-American Leadership Awards:

### **ARTS, CULTURE, RECREATION**

#### **August Wilson Center for African American Culture**

The August Wilson Center for African American Culture preserves, presents and interprets the art, culture and history of African Americans in western Pennsylvania and people of African descent throughout the world. The mission is realized through an engaging schedule of visual and performing arts presentations, as well as education and public programs.

### **CIVIC, COMMUNITY, HUMANITARIAN**

#### **Reverend Glenn G. Grayson, Senior Pastor/Wesley Center AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Zion Church**

Reverend Grayson is Senior Pastor at Wesley Center AME Zion Church and serves as Presiding Elder of the Pittsburgh District. Under his leadership the church has grown physically, financially, and most of all, spiritually. In 2000, Reverend Grayson founded The Center That C.A.R.E.S. (Children/Adult Recreational & Educational Services). The Center That Cares is noted for its after-school tutorial program and serves hundreds of families throughout Pittsburgh's Hill District.

### **BUSINESS/GOVERNMENT**

#### **Yvonne Cook, President, Highmark Foundation, and Vice President of Community and Health Initiatives, Highmark, Inc.**

Yvonne Cook is responsible for the management of the day-to-day activities of the Highmark Foundation, a private corporate foundation with assets totaling \$100 million. She also is responsible for the development, implementation, administration and evaluation of innovative and effective community and health initiative activities that assist in the fulfillment of Highmark's social mission strategy. She is responsible for the exploration and evaluation of marketplace needs and directs the corporation's involvement in public health and social service activities.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Imani Christian Academy**

Imani Christian Academy's philosophy is that children cannot grow unless they have first been loved. Children come to Imani with many different needs, and the Academy facilitates within them a new vision to reach their potential. Imani transforms children spiritually, academically, physically, and socially.

### **The 2008 Duquesne Light Scholarship Awardees are:**

#### **Kemar Anthony Leamy**

#### **California University of Pennsylvania, graduate of Mt. Lebanon High School**

Kemar was born in Jamaica and brought to the United States by his father when he was seven years old. He has been in a series of institutions, foster homes, and group homes and has always been motivated for success. He is a Sports Management and Marketing major at California University of Pennsylvania and his goal is to be a market analyst or athletic director for a major sports apparel organization.

#### **Talisa Barnes**

#### **Community College of Allegheny County**

Talisa says that her time at Three Rivers Youth was the best thing that happened to her. She is a graduate of Peters Township High School, attends Community College of Allegheny County and is working toward her Associate Degree in nursing. She is a native of Pittsburgh and has lived in Washington, D. C. and Maryland before moving back to the Pittsburgh area.

#### **Corranda Cain**

#### **Bradford School of Business**

Corranda is a graduate of Oliver High School and attends Bradford School of Business as a computer programming major. She plans to continue her education at Robert Morris University to earn her Master's Degree in computer programming. She would like to be an entrepreneur. She is a native of Philadelphia.

#### **Riccubono Cobia**

#### **Mt. Lebanon High School**

Ricco was born in Philadelphia, currently attends Mt. Lebanon High School, and will graduate this year. His hobbies are rapping, dancing, singing and sports. He would like to attend college at the University of California at Los Angeles or University of Southern California.

## **About Duquesne Light Company**

Duquesne Light Company is a leader in the transmission and distribution of electric energy, offering superior customer service and reliability to more than half a million customers in southwestern Pennsylvania.

## **About WQED Pittsburgh**

WQED Pittsburgh, honored with the 2007 and 2006 Mid-Atlantic Emmy Award for Station Excellence and 12 other Emmy Awards, was founded in 1954 as the nation's first community-supported broadcaster. WQED creates, produces and distributes quality programs, products and services to engage, inform, educate and entertain the public within its community and around the world. WQED Pittsburgh is one of the first broadcasters in the country to be fully high-definition (HD) in its studio and field production capabilities. It is the parent company of WQED-TV (PBS); WQED-DT; The WQED Neighborhood Channel; WQED-HD; WQEX-TV (A Shop NBC affiliate); WQED-FM89.3/Pittsburgh; WQJ-FM89.7/Johnstown; a publishing division that includes PITTSBURGH magazine; local and national television and radio productions; WQED Interactive ([www.wqed.org](http://www.wqed.org)); and the WQED Education Department.

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