



Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Urban League Receives 21st Century Learning Center Grant

OKLAHOMA CITY – July 15, 2010 – The Urban League was recently awarded a \$1.5 million 21st Century Community Learning Center grant from the Oklahoma State Department of Education by authorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. The program entitled Perfecting Education and Academics for Kids (PEAK) is a five-year partnership with Oklahoma City Public Schools and will be offered at Douglass Middle and High Schools.

PEAK is designed to enhance classroom work through out-of-school hours supplemental educational services, character development, parental training and cultural enrichment. Program objectives include: providing a learning environment that is safe, drug-free and conducive to learning; providing homework assistance and tutoring that is focused on college readiness standards; providing students and parents with a health and wellness curriculum to promote healthy bodies, minds, and habits; providing support to reduce barriers to school attendance; and providing civic, social studies, and arts activities that are innovative and designed to enhance learning.

The program will also employ of number of enrichment activities to further stimulate the learning process. Students will engage in an arts curriculum, athletic summer camps, financial fitness training, robotics, aeronautics education, and nutrition and wellness activities. Enrichment activities will be led by Urban League staff and community partners such as, EatWiseOKC, KISS Institute for Practical Robotics, Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Allied Arts, and Sodexo.

“We are very excited about PEAK,” stated Valerie Thompson, PhD, Urban League president and CEO. “As part of our *Opportunity Agenda*, we focus on increasing academic performance especially with students in high poverty schools. Based on our history in implementing educational services with other schools, we know that it is an effective program that helps students to succeed.”

In 2003, the Urban League implemented a similar program with Rogers Middle School and Star Spencer High School. Efforts resulted in decreased absenteeism, improved academic performance, improved test scores, increased parental participation, and the removal of both schools from the state at-risk list.

The Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City Inc., an affiliate of the National Urban League, is a non-profit, United Way agency partner established in Oklahoma City in 1946. The League’s mission is to assist African Americans, other minorities and the poor to achieve social and economic equality. Visit www.ubranleagueok.org for more information.

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