



Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc.

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**Urban League CEO Named 2011 Oklahoma's Most Admired CEO**



**OKLAHOMA CITY – February 21, 2011** – Urban League president and CEO, Valerie Thompson, PhD, has been selected as *The Journal Record's* 2011 Oklahoma Most Admired CEO in the category of nonprofit under \$10 million.

This special recognition program honors talented business and nonprofit leaders throughout our state who consistently demonstrate strong leadership, integrity, values, vision, commitment to excellence, financial performance and commitment to community and diversity. Eight awards are given to CEOs of public, private, and nonprofit organizations.

Thompson is the first African-American to receive the award and joins an impressive class of 2011 CEO honorees including Dr. Paul Sechrist, Oklahoma City Community College, Bliss Morris, First Financial Network, Shirley Hammer, Hammer

Construction Company, Thomas Legan, Coppermark Bank, Bill Cameron, American Fidelity Assurance Co., Cathryn Hibbs, Deaconess Hospital, Randall White, Educational Development Corp., and John Richels, Devon Energy Corp.

For the past 10 years, Thompson has brought her unique skills to the Urban League's mission of achieving social and economic equality. Her leadership has led to such recent accomplishments as moving the agency from a 5,000 square-foot to a 25,000 square-foot facility, receiving the highest ranking possible on the National Urban League's affiliate performance assessment, and completing construction on \$12 million dollars of affordable housing in northeast Oklahoma City. Thompson has also been a passionate advocate for issues that affect the underserved by serving on local and national boards and commissions such as MAPS Trust and the JPMorgan Chase National Advisory Board.

"We are extremely proud of Dr. Thompson," stated Rep. Jabar Shumate, Urban League board chair. "Dr. Thompson continues to be a tremendous asset. Her leadership ability, commitment, and passion drive the Urban League on its mission to bring economic self sufficiency to families in this community every day."

The Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City Inc., an affiliate of the National Urban League, is a non-profit, United Way partner agency 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.urbanleagueok.org](http://www.urbanleagueok.org) for more information.

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