



2011 YGB Press Release:  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **THE 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL YOUNG, GIFTED, & BLACK (YGB) ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARDS ANNOUNCES ITS 2011 RECIPIENTS**

New York, New York ---(November 17, 2010) In observance of Black History Month, commemorative plans are in full action as the Young, Gifted, and Black (YGB) Entrepreneurial Awards are expected to honor several key individuals within the private, corporate & government sectors on **Wednesday, February 23, 2011** in New York City. The YGB Entrepreneurial Awards, which has been given out to more than one hundred plus honorees since its inception in 2006, was created by **Carl O. Gray, President and CEO, The NetLinkz Group, Inc., and Founder of Unified Network of Business Professionals** with one goal: To highlight the paths each honoree has taken throughout his/her life towards **The Continued Pursuit of Success**. The 2011 program is focused on “building bridges to make future goals attainable across all business lines” which is the theme stated by Mr. Gray. The selection process has developed into a more structured approach since inception. The former year honoree(s) are first right to recommend a new recipient for the following year's award; should there be no acceptance or no recommendation for the award by the most recent honoree, the default selection is done by the founder and committee in addition to public nominations which are also taken into consideration. The individual(s) making the nomination must have some type of personal connection with the nominee whether as a friend, business acquaintance or associate. The process is simple: a peer-to-peer acknowledgement and appreciation of that individual's drive for success—from where he/she has been in life to where he/she is now as an ambassador of the entrepreneurial spirit.

Continuing a tradition of honoring brilliant business leaders, the YGB Awards is set to introduce the **Millennium Business (M.B.) Awards**; a brand new category which will acknowledge individuals that have accumulated over 20 years in business impacting their industry, profession and/or community. Mr. Gray states, “The M.B. Award is inspired by the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) annual MDG Awards which I had the pleasure of attending in 2008. I felt that on a business level the YGB program needed to now acknowledge some of our key business leaders who continue to exemplify hard work and perseverance.” A few of those recipients to receive this new acknowledgement includes Buzz Willis, President & CEO of The Paradise Events & Entertainment Group and business partner to Robert “Kool” Bell of the legendary group Kool & The Gang in addition to producing one of the highest grossing events in Radio City Music Hall history “The Divas With Heart” concert which featured Patti LaBelle, Chaka Khan, Diana Ross & Gladys Knight will receive the **M.B. Award in Music & Entertainment**; **Marva Layne**, restaurateur and founder/owner of Negril Village, will receive the **M.B. Award in Hospitality Services** for continued success in providing a nu-Caribbean cuisine and sustaining business in such a competitive market and recessionary climate.

Based on last year's success, the **Estate of Nina Simone** will again brand with the YGB Awards program to present the **Nina Simone Artistic Excellence Award** based on the recipient's sheer talent and creative abilities. The **Nina Simone Artistic Excellence Award in Photography** will honor noted celebrity photographer and founder of



Nubuzzphoto, **Johnny Nunez**; who is responsible for capturing the true essence of hip-hop events and elite members, such as Russell Simmons, Damon Dash, Sean “Diddy” Combs, Jennifer Lopez, and Mary J. Blige. Also, Rock & Soul singer/songwriter, **Afua Richardson**, Comic Book Creator, will receive the **Nina Simone Artistic Excellence Award in Arts and Illustration** for her expansive portfolio of comic book illustrations & graphic designs; she’s also the only female black comic book artist who has worked for Marvel, DC & Image Comics, which are the top three major companies within the comic book industry. Ms. Richardson states “as artists we bear the responsibility and joy of tempering and igniting dreams as someone has done for us.”

The YGB Entrepreneurial Awards will also acknowledge other key individuals such as Grammy Award winner, songwriter/singer, **Gordon Chambers**, will also be recognized for his production of classic hits-performed by musical greats such as Anita Baker, Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin, and Beyonce Knowles. Former NBA Community & Player Development Programs representative, **Will Kirkaldy**, now tours the country mentoring young people about self improvement & life management, will receive the **Mentorship Award**. The program will also honor with the **Women in Business Award**, Dr. Keneca Boyce, Sr. Director of Program Development with Inwood House. These are a just few of the 2011 recipients who have strived for excellence within their profession and industry. Congratulations to all!

The 2011 YGB Awards Program non-profit fiscal partner/sponsor is the **Chris Rose Community Empowerment Campaign ([www.crcec.org](http://www.crcec.org))** a certified NYS 501 c (3) charity. The YGB Awards will make a 10% donation to CRCEC from all sponsorships and payments made on behalf of the program. In addition, the YGB Awards program is also committed to making donations to **The American Foundation for the University of the West Indies ([www.afuwi.org](http://www.afuwi.org))** scholarship program; when making payments, **make all checks payable to: YGB AWARDS** and indicate on your check whether you would like a portion of your proceeds donated to the respective charities.

**Save the date: Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2011, 7:00PM – 11:00PM in New York City.** More information will be presented over the next few months in regards to event updates. For sponsorships, advertisements and/or donations in addition to questions or inquiries, contact us at the YGB Awards service line at **347. 559.4YGB (4942)** or send an email to: [ygbawards@gmail.com](mailto:ygbawards@gmail.com) or submit a request on our contact page at: [www.ygbawards.com](http://www.ygbawards.com) .

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## 2011 Young, Gifted & Black (YGB) Entrepreneurial Award Recipients

<p><b>Aziz Gueye Adetimirin,</b>  Founder &amp; Publisher, <b>The Network Journal</b>  <b>Professional Services in Media Award</b></p>	<p><b>Marva Layne,</b>  Founder &amp; Owner, <b>Negril Village Restaurant</b>  <b>Millennium Award (M.B.) Award</b>  <b>in Hospitality Services</b></p>
<p><b>Dr. Keneca Boyce,</b>  Senior Director of Program Development, <b>Inwood House</b>  <b>Women in Business Award</b></p>	<p><b>Johnny Nunez,</b> Founder, <b>Nubuzzphoto</b>  <b>Nina Simone Artistic Excellence Award in</b>  <b>Photography</b></p>
<p><b>Jeff Broom,</b>  Co-Founder, <b>Making A Difference (M.A.D) Team</b>  <b>Multi-Level Marketing Award</b></p>	<p><b>Juan Perez,</b>  CEO, <b>Highbrid Outdoor Inc.</b>  <b>Professional Services Award in Marketing &amp;</b>  <b>Advertising</b></p>
<p><b>Ewart Burton, Jr.</b>  President &amp; CEO, <b>Reggae Carifest / Temptations Nightclub</b>  <b>Millennium Award (M.B.) Award</b>  <b>in Event Management &amp; Concert Production</b></p>	<p><b>Jevante Quirshawn,</b>  President &amp; CEO, <b>Elique Group, Inc.</b>  <b>Professional Services Award in Publication &amp;</b>  <b>Graphic Design</b></p>
<p><b>Gordon Chambers,</b>  Singer, Producer, &amp; Grammy Award Songwriter  <b>Professional Services Award in Music</b>  <b>Entertainment</b></p>	<p><b>Tanyka Renee,</b>  <b>Holistic Health Counselor &amp; Nutritionist</b>  <b>Motivator Award</b></p>
<p><b>George Crooks,</b>  President &amp; CEO, <b>Jammins Entertainment</b>  <b>Millennium Business (M.B.) Award</b>  <b>in Event Management &amp; Concert Production</b></p>	<p><b>Afua Richardson,</b>  Freelance Comic Book Creator  <b>Nina Simone Artistic Excellence Award in</b>  <b>Illustration &amp; Arts</b></p>
<p><b>Nicole Duhaney,</b> President &amp; CEO, <b>DNZ Productions</b>  <b>Professional Services Award in</b>  <b>Broadcast Communications</b></p>	<p><b>Kenneth Smaltz,</b>  Owner, <b>K Smaltz, Inc./Keeper of the Coins</b>  <b>Millennium Business Award in Investment</b>  <b>Strategies</b></p>



<b>Lawrence Dunlap</b> , President & CEO, <b>The Dunlap Group</b> <b>Professional Services Award in Business Networking</b>	<b>Lloyd Strayhorn</b> , Astro-Numerologist & Author, <b>Numbers and You</b> <b>Professional Services Award in Astrological Sciences</b>
<b>Daniel Gutzmore</b> , Vice President, <b>Highbrid Outdoor Inc</b> <b>Professional Services Award in Marketing &amp; Advertising</b>	<b>Denise Warren</b> , Founder, <b>Body by Denise (BBD)</b> <b>Millennium Business (M.B.) Award in Instructional Fitness</b>
<b>Wilfred Kirkaldy</b> <b>Life Management &amp; Motivational Speaker</b> <b>Mentorship Award</b>	<b>Buzz Willis</b> , President & CEO, <b>Paradise Events &amp; Entertainment Group</b> <b>Millennium Business (M.B.) Award in Music &amp; Entertainment Management</b>
<b>Natalie Lamming</b> , President & CEO, <b>Natken LLC</b> <b>Event Planner Award</b>	

**About YGB:** Founded in 2006 by Carl O. Gray, President and CEO, The NetLinkz Group, Inc., and Founder of Unified Network of Business Professionals, in honor of Black History Month, The Young, Gifted & Black Entrepreneurial Awards is designed for peer-to-peer acknowledgement for their Talent, Ambition and Achievements toward the “Continued Pursuit of Success.”

**About NetLinkz:** The NetLinkz Group, Inc. is an organization making a conscious effort to bridge concepts, ideas, lifestyles, professions, likes and passions within a professional and entertainment forum.

**About CRCEC:** The Christopher Rose Community Empowerment Campaign seeks to fight youth violence by raising community awareness and creating solutions by offering positive alternatives. CRCEC intends to mobilize the community to increase community awareness of the factors that contribute to youth violence; occurrences of violence; the impact of violence; and strategies for preventing delinquency of adolescents that leads to youth gang involvement and community violence. The Christopher Rose Community Empowerment Campaign is a New York Not-for-Profit corporation with registered 501(c) 3 status. The interim acting governing body of CRCEC is the Family Coordinating Committee. The acting executive body in New York is the Brooklyn Steering Committee and in Pennsylvania, the Bushkill Steering Committee. The committees are composed entirely of volunteers and are actively seeks committed new members.

**About AFUWI:** The AFUWI serves as the primary vehicle for The University of the West Indies in its Capital Campaign and fundraising efforts in the United States. This is done by organizing special events, locating funding sources, facilitating research programs and developing strategic partnerships with American corporations, foundations, alumni and other organizations in order to sponsor projects, scholarships and academic programs which



benefit students and faculty in the 4 campuses serving the region .This includes –three main campuses in Jamaica-Mona , Barbados-Cave Hill, Trinidad & Tobago-St Augustine and the Open Campus in the 12 University Centers located on the islands of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Montserrat, St Kitts’s, St. Lucia and Nevis, St Vincent and The Grenadines. While fundraising is the Foundation’s primary mission, it also seeks to establish long term strategic relationships with other institutions, organizations and individuals who share the desire to positively impact the educational offerings of the University and by extension improve the socio-economic structure of the Caribbean region. The Foundation has more recently intensified its focus on supporting the University so that the institution can continue to expand to meet the dynamic demands of a global environment while remaining relevant to the societies it serves

For more interview requests and press credentials, please contact **Donnet Bruce** at [donnetbruce@gmail.com](mailto:donnetbruce@gmail.com) or **954.903.8228**.

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