

Buffalo Urban League Inc_Aspire Challenge

Due: February 12, 2017

Contact:

Buffalo Urban League, Inc., Brenda W. McDuffie- 716.250.2400- bmcduffie@buffalourbanleague.org

Organizational Background:

The Buffalo Urban League is a not for profit 501(c)3 organization that has existed since 1927 to bring positive change and opportunities for a better future to hundreds of thousands of individuals and families in the Buffalo-Niagara region. Our mission is to empower African Americans, other minorities and disadvantaged individuals in securing economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights; including those who were/are incarcerated. We conduct research, engage in advocacy and provide direct services annually to approximately 15,000 individuals through programs in family support and stabilization services, adoption, foster care, education, scholarships, job training, employment, financial literacy, housing, health and wellness education, business technical assistance and lending. The Buffalo Urban League has operated an adult re-entry employment and GED attainment program (2009-2014), a youth re-entry employment and GED attainment program (2012-2015) and currently operates a youth mentorship program.

Additionally, the Buffalo Urban League continues to operate a small business, economic empowerment and loan program which has been in existence since 1995. Partners include the County of Erie, the Small Business Administration (SBA), Small Business Development Center (SBDC); Woman's Business Center at Canisius College (WBC), Entrepreneurial Assistance Program (EAP), Pathstone (PS), the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC) Innovation Center; which includes 43 North (43N) - the world's largest business plan competition, Launch NY- a venture development organization and Z80 Labs- an internet start-up incubator based in Buffalo, New York.

Background of Management Team:

Michael E. McCarley, Sr.: Coordinator/Small Business Educator

Mr. McCarley has worked for, within and through the small business community for more than 36 years. He has secured and implemented contracts providing management and technical assistance for entities including the City of Buffalo and the Federal governmental (i.e. U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency- Minority Business Development Center (USDOC/MBDA-MBDC)), assisting businesses with growth and access to financing.

Ken Colon: Case Manager/Entrepreneurial Leader

Mr. Colon has worked within the correctional community for more than 14 years working in positions from Re-entry/PACE Program Case Management to Vice-chair of the Erie County Community Corrections Advisory Board. In working with current and recently paroled inmates, Mr. Colon monitors and mentors these individuals and helps them make better life choices by helping them gain entry into educational, vocational or drug rehabilitation and mental health programs, in order for them to make an easier transition into society. Additionally, Mr. Colon is a serial entrepreneur, providing expansive knowledge and options to those he mentors.