

A large green leaf graphic is positioned to the left of the text "NEXUS OF EXCELLENCE". "NEXUS" is in a large, bold, orange sans-serif font, while "OF EXCELLENCE" is in a smaller, bold, brown sans-serif font. A thick green horizontal line is located below the text.

NEXUS OF EXCELLENCE

NEXT GENERATION
EMPOWERED TO SERVE
EXEMPLIFYING EXCELLENCE
USING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT
SUSTAINING THE COMMUNITY

TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE WORLD

NEXUS of Excellence Summer Youth Initiative Program Celebration

Friday, July 30, 2010

5TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI
FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND
GLOBAL WARMING
1ST VICE CHAIR
CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
REGIONAL WHP (Region 4)



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House of Representatives
Emanuel Cleaver, II

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July 30, 2010

Mid America Regional Council
Green Impact Zone – NEXUS
4600 The Paseo
Kansas City, MO 64110

Dear NEXUS Participants:

It is my honor to congratulate you on your completion of this program. You deserve enthusiastic praise for your work in our community. Your participation in the NEXUS program is directly helping to further our vision of a sustainable and successful neighborhood. We have imagined the Green Impact Zone as a shining example of sustainable living for Kansas City and the nation to follow, and with your help that idea is becoming reality.

Without the full participation of young people, the transformation of the Green Impact Zone and our economy will not succeed. You and your peers bring new ideas, new energy, new entrepreneurial spirit, and the drive to make the world better than the one into which you were born. With the nation shifting to a green collar economy, this is an exciting time to be entering your adult years. As NEXUS participants, you have been fortunate to be exposed to some of the multitude of career possibilities that, with hard work and dedication, are wide open to you.

Thank you for your contribution to your community, and congratulations on completing the program. I look forward to hearing your ideas for the Green Impact Zone, and working with you to put them into action.

Warmest regards,



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



AGENDA

- I. Staff Welcome — Jermaine Reed
- II. Student Welcome — Jazmon McLeod-McCullough
- III. NEXUS Student Affirmation — NEXUS Youth
- IV. NEXUS Program Guiding Principles — NEXUS Youth
- V. NEXUS Rap and Student Performance — Felix Maull and Ja'Kevion McLeod-McCullough
- VI. NEXUS Group Presentations
- VII. NEXUS Video
- VIII. Remarks — Cokethea Hill and Anita Maltbia
- IX. Dismissal



green impact zone
of MISSOURI



green impact zone *of* MISSOURI



The Green Impact Zone is a 150-square-block area of the urban core of Kansas City, Mo. With help from federal stimulus funds, Green Impact Zone neighborhood leaders and other partners are working to transform the zone into a sustainable community that is stronger tomorrow — environmentally, economically and socially — than it is today.

www.greenimpactzone.org



NEXUS OF EXCELLENCE

NEXUS is the juncture where education, empowerment, entrepreneurship, and sustainability meet.

The NEXUS of Excellence summer youth initiative is an intensive seven-week enrichment program designed to encourage entrepreneurship in the fields of energy and the environment. Participating teens met each day at the Metropolitan Community College Pioneer Campus. As a result of a strategic partnership between the Green Impact Zone and MCC, classroom space and a technology lab were donated to the NEXUS program.

In addition to classroom training and guest speakers, students participated in “exposure” field trips geared towards reinforcing the concept of “green business and the green economy.” Students visited urban farms, power plants, water-treatment facilities, money museums, and an environmental justice program. Several of the older teens participated in the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus Foundation conference in St. Louis. The younger students visited Camp Wildwood, an outdoor educational facility in LaCygne, Kansas. Students were also able to earn community service hours towards high school graduation.

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NEXUS staff

Jermaine Reed

Green Impact Zone Community Ombudsman
NEXUS Program Lead



Jermaine Reed is passionate about investing in our neighborhoods and communities, and about making a difference in the very community where he grew up. As a Green Impact Zone community ombudsman, Jermaine works with the Historic Manheim Park Association and Swope Community Builders. His primary focus areas are public safety and youth programming. Jermaine believes that the building blocks of a world-class city are viable, thriving neighborhoods. NEXUS students will be the next generation of community leaders.

Cokethea Hill

Green Impact Zone Community Ombudsman
NEXUS Program Co-Lead

Cokethea Hill is a native of Kansas City. As a Green Impact Zone community ombudsman she works with the Blue Hills Neighborhood Association and Blue Hills Community Services. Her primary focus areas are data and housing. As a doctoral student in educational policy, she is keenly aware that if we truly believe in education as the “great equalizer” we must be relentless in our efforts to transform disinvested communities by investing in community-based educational programs.



David Bryant

Green Impact Zone Youth Coordinator

A native of Gary, Indiana, David Bryant has lived in Kansas City since junior high school. He graduated from Central High School and was a member of the basketball team that placed third in the state championship in 1995. He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Lane College in Jackson, Tenn., and is currently working towards a master's degree in higher education administration at UMKC. His passion for urban youth continues to give him the fuel to revolutionize urban education and expand student performance.



Veronica Maull

Green Impact Zone Assistant Youth Coordinator

Veronica Maull is a resident of the Green Impact Zone. Born in DeQueen, Arkansas, she has lived in Kansas City for 10 years. She holds an associate degree from Penn Valley Community College, and is currently in the KC Teach program at UMKC working towards a bachelor's degree in science and math. She has worked with the youth in the Historic Manheim Park neighborhood for several years. As the assistant youth coordinator for the NEXUS program, Veronica has enjoyed watching the transformation of students into new leaders and change agents for our neighborhoods.



“We tell our students daily that they hold the keys to the change they wish to see in their communities.”



NEXUS students



Liauna Lamonaé Carrere

Age 14 | Paseo Academy

“I have become more aware about the challenges facing my community and I have become a better person because I control my attitude much better.”



Larry Charles Combs III

Age 13 | ACECC

“NEXUS has helped me learn how to recycle. I also have learned about the dangers of pollution.”



Raymond Ray Darkis III

Age 13 | Foreign Language Academy

“NEXUS camp has taught me to be a better leader and to be more responsible for my actions.”



Alana KneSchelle Maul Edwards

Age 14 | Paseo Academy

“NEXUS has given me the skills to work in my community to teach children about becoming green not only by recycling, but by conserving energy and water.”

I am Powerful... I am Intelligent.. I am Responsible... I am a NEXUS Scholar!!



Sean Tyler Fields

Age 18 | Paseo Academy Graduate

“NEXUS has improved my attitude and helped me to become a leader.”



Jaqual Rose Rashida Jackson

Age 13 | Southwest

“NEXUS has helped change my attitude.”



Tamara Denise Jones

Age 18 | Penn Valley Community College

“NEXUS has made me more aware of the environmental issues, and how we can stop them. The program has also taught me how to conserve water and energy.”



Felix TraVoun Maul

Age 13 | Paseo Academy

“NEXUS has taught me that I have the power in my hands to change the community”



Tra Shaun Da'Loun Maul

Age 14 | Paseo Academy

“NEXUS has helped me develop the necessary skills to become a leader instead of a follower.”



Ja'Kevion McLeod-McCullough

Age 14 | Paseo Academy

“The NEXUS youth program has taught me how my community became disinvested and that I need to help make it better. It has also made me become a stronger leader.”



Jazmon Adrie McLeod-McCullough

Age 15 | Southwest Early College Campus

“NEXUS has given me a better way of thinking about the reality of the Green Impact Zone. Also the program has assured me that I can and will be whatever and whoever I want to be.”



Khalilah Imani Parkey

Age 14 | Southwest Early College Campus

“NEXUS has helped me to learn how to recycle. I have learned how to become more comfortable speaking in front of people.”



HaQuan Sultan Khaliq Perkins

Age 17 | University Academy

“NEXUS youth group has helped me become more responsible, a better leader, and it changed my attitude towards life.”



Aericka Shannell Randle

Age 13 | Paseo Middle School

“NEXUS has helped me learn more about my community.”



Kendrel Eugene Vazquez West

Age 15 | Imagine Renaissance Academy

“NEXUS has helped me to become a stronger leader, and to be more responsible for what I have.”



RaVeonna Samantha Nicole West

Age 13 | ACECC

“Nexus has helped me channel my focus into things that will help me learn, grow, and be successful. I understand that my attitude can either help make me successful or prevent me from becoming the person I want to be in life.”



NEXUS events









**Thank you to all of our sponsors
and field trip hosts for making the
NEXUS of Excellence program possible.**

City of Kansas City, Mo.

Metropolitan Community Colleges

Missouri Legislative Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.

Wildwood Outdoor Education Center

Federal Reserve Bank

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Kansas City Power & Light

Troostwood Urban Farming

Niles Home for Children

Kansas City, Mo., Water Department

Mid-America Regional Council

