

Release At Will

Media Contact: Lisa Desatnik, 513-984-5474  
lisadesatnik@fuse.net

## **Nominations Being Accepted For 2009 Salute Gala Honorees**

June, 2009 - The YMCA of Greater Cincinnati is asking for help from local businesses and organizations to pay tribute to accomplished, caring and civic minded professionals of color. Honorees will be recognized at the 2009 Salute to YMCA Black & Hispanic Achievers Gala on November 20, 2009.

Hispanic and African American professionals who become YMCA Achievers demonstrate their commitment to giving back by volunteering through the YMCA Black Achievers (teen) Program to inspire youth toward paths of success.

Nomination sponsorships are being accepted through July 24, 2009. For nomination, sponsorship or banquet information, the public should call Ms. Miles, YMCA Black & Hispanic Achievers executive director, at 513-362-YMCA (9622) or email her at [tmiles@cincinnatiymca.org](mailto:tmiles@cincinnatiymca.org); or visit [www.myy.org](http://www.myy.org).

"Greater Cincinnati is home to so many diverse and talented professionals who have the capacity to be strong role models for youth, leading by example," said Toni Miles, executive director of the YMCA's Black Achievers program. "The Salute to YMCA Black Achievers is a wonderful opportunity to recognize these adult leaders who are encouraging young minds to follow in their path."

Since its beginning, the YMCA Black Achievers (teen) Program has awarded more than \$150,000 in scholarships, and engaged more than 3,400 adult volunteers through a network of corporate and community partners. The Program includes college prep and leadership development activities focusing on study skills/time management, interviewing techniques, financial management, team-building field trips, community service-learning projects, college tours and more. It strongly incorporates the Abundant Assets – 40 critical factors for the successful growth and development of young people – and centers around the relationships of adult professional mentors and teens. The 2009 to 2010 goal is to serve over 500 students in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky communities.

**About the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati:** As the area's largest youth and family-focused not-for-profit, the YMCA reinforces character values through assets-based programs and services to more than 143,000 individuals, kids and families annually. Adult mentors encourage young people to be caring, responsible, respectful, and honest through sports, summer camps, structured child and afterschool care, and leadership building programs. Branches offer quality time for families, resources for parents, and a variety of opportunities for seniors to be active. The Membership for All sliding scale fee structure means everyone, no matter their ability to pay, can always benefit from the YMCA. Last year alone more than 17,400 families and individuals enjoyed healthier and happier lives because generous partners helped the YMCA in its vision to be accessible to all.

# # #