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YMCA Seeking Nominations for Black Achievers Honorees

For 30 years, the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati has been honoring accomplished, caring and civic minded professionals who are committed to giving back to a younger generation. Adult YMCA Black Achiever honorees have positively impacted the lives of more than 5000 students. The YMCA Salute to Black Achievers Gala has grown into one of the area's largest recognition programs bringing together impactful adults to inspire and encourage youth toward paths of success.

Businesses and organizations are encouraged to sponsor a nomination of an outstanding professional of color to be among the 2008 YMCA Salute to Black Achievers adult honorees. Honorees will be recognized at the 30th Anniversary YMCA Salute to Black Achievers Gala on June 6, 2008. (Featured speaker will be Dr. Bernice A. King.) They are expected to work with the YMCA Black Achievers Program and serve as mentors for youth participants throughout the year. Nominations are being accepted through March 1, 2008.

"Greater Cincinnati is home to so many really talented professionals who are contributing to the community through their career achievements and civic involvement. They 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 Black Achievers recognizes these adult leaders and strives to encourage 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 2008 to 2009 goal is to serve over 500 students in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky communities.

For nomination, sponsorship or banquet information, please call Ms. Miles, executive director of the Black Achievers program, at 513-362-YMCA (9622) or email her at tmiles@cincinnatiymca.org; or visit www.myy.org.

Editor's Note – This year, in celebration of the program's anniversary, the YMCA is organizing a reunion get-together just prior to the banquet, and is also looking for teen and adult alumni. They are also encouraged to contact Ms. Miles at the YMCA.

The YMCA is the largest non-governmental, non-profit community services organization in this area that is committed to helping everyone reach their God-given potential in spirit, mind, and body – regardless of their ability to pay. Each year tens of thousands of people from children to seniors are able to participate in YMCA programs and services because of financial assistance, including health and wellness, active older adult programs, youth and teen camp, swimming and water safety lessons , teen achievers, college readiness, and job preparedness. With 60 locations, the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati is also the largest provider of child care programs, that in 2007, served nearly 10,000 kids on YMCA scholarships. The annual Strong Kids Campaign helps make that possible.

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