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Youth Leadership America Graduates Trailblazers Leadership Class at Kennesaw State

KENNESAW, Ga. — Youth Leadership America will celebrate the graduation of its Trailblazers Leadership Program class Monday at Kennesaw State University VyStar Arena, recognizing young participants who completed leadership training focused on personal and professional development.

The Trailblazers Leadership Program is designed to help young people from lower income backgrounds build leadership skills, personal responsibility, healthy lifestyle habits and prevocational experience. Following the ceremony, graduates will participate in a campus tour at Kennesaw State University to learn about academic programs and the value of pursuing higher education.

“Young people who participate in leadership development are more likely to perform at higher levels in school, engage in their communities, and transition more effectively from adolescence into adulthood,” said Jeff Smith, executive director of Youth Leadership America. “However, youth from disadvantaged backgrounds rarely have an opportunity to participate in leadership training experiences. That’s where our program comes in.”

The program curriculum includes communication skills, goal setting, conflict resolution, problem solving, self-awareness, prevocational skills, and developing healthy lifestyles. Through these topics, participants gain tools to support long-term academic careers and personal success.

Youth Leadership America, the legacy organization of the Ron James Foundation, provides a range of programs including sports training, competitions, summer camps and recreational opportunities for inner-city youth.

The Trailblazers Leadership Program is supported by funding partners including the Georgia Department of Labor, Kennesaw State University and the U.S. Department of Education.

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