



The  
Urban Alliance  
Foundation, Inc.

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**Urban Alliance Foundation Obtains Funding for Youth Internship Program  
from Staples Foundation for Learning**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 30, 2005)** – The Urban Alliance Foundation (UA), a local Washington, DC non-profit organization focused on creating employment and educational opportunities for disadvantaged area high school students, announced today it has received a \$15,000 grant from Staples Foundation for Learning. This grant will fund UA’s High School Internship Program, which gives local high school students the opportunity to gain valuable work experience through paid internships at places such as Department of Treasury, Fannie Mae Corporation and the World Bank.

“Support from Staples Foundation for Learning allows us to work towards becoming a city-wide program that reaches students throughout all of Washington, DC,” said Veronica Nolan, executive director of Urban Alliance. “We hope that through actual work experience, training and support from internship staff and mentors, our students will be prepared to successfully compete and work in the professional world.”

“The Urban Alliance Foundation is filling a tremendous need by providing disadvantaged youth with career preparation and ongoing support to ensure they have increased educational and job opportunities for the future,” said Joy Errico, spokesperson for Staples Foundation for Learning. “Staples Foundation for Learning believes in supporting programs like the High School Internship program, which encourages youth to grow and reach their full potential.”

Founded in 1996 by a small group of volunteers, since then UA has provided over 500 DC youth with employment and educational opportunities. Through the year-round High School Internship Program, students work a paid internship and are assigned a professional mentor, as well as receive life skills training and assistance with the college application process. UA trains students to obtain and maintain employment, supports their aspirations for higher education, and helps them develop concrete plan towards achieving their career goals. UA students graduate at a rate of 95%, much higher than the city's average (65%). Additionally, 88% of students attend college or a job training program – more than double the national average for low-income youth. Most importantly, though, the students appreciate and utilize the opportunity presented by the program.

Launched in August of 2002, Staples Foundation for Learning, Inc. is a private foundation created by Staples Inc. to provide funding to charitable programs that support or provide job training or educational opportunities to all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. To date, Staples Foundation for Learning has awarded nearly \$4.5 million dollars in grants to non-profit organizations and is a national sponsor of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. For more information about the foundation or how to apply for a grant, please visit [www.staplesfoundation.org](http://www.staplesfoundation.org).

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