



The
Urban Alliance
Foundation, Inc.

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DC Youth Reflect on Program that Challenges through Employment

Washington, DC – This Friday, over 100 young people from across the city will face what ranks as the biggest fear for adults – *public speaking*. These students will climb in front of a panel of community judges, turn on a PowerPoint, and speak about their experiences as professional interns in major corporations and government offices. And, *no*, these aren't the countless college students who converge each summer on DC for internships. These students are DC's own public high school graduates who seized a chance to work at places like Advisory Board Company, E*Trade, Fannie Mae, Mayor Fenty's Office, and the World Bank.

These youth have participated in a rigorous internship and youth development program run by the local DC nonprofit Urban Alliance. Through this year-long program, youth have the opportunity to earn almost \$6,000 while receiving vital support via adult mentors and life-skills workshops. Each student is challenge to learn critical job skills while placed in a professional office. The culminating event is the 7th Annual Public Speaking Challenge on Friday, August 10th at the George Washington University School of International Affairs. On Friday, the students are able to showcase their hard work, dedication, and newly acquired skills for a panel of community judges. For many of these young people, it will be the first time in front of an audience.

After the presentations, the students' efforts will be awarded with a luncheon focused on their accomplishments. The theme of public speaking continues, with speeches made by current and recently graduated students. Additionally, students who had outstanding presentations and those with perfect work attendance throughout the summer will be awarded with pay bonuses. Finally, the luncheon will conclude with the awarding of the 2nd Annual Mentor Excellence Scholarship and the first ever induction into the Urban Alliance Alumni Society.

If you would like to learn more about the Public Speaking Challenge, contact Natalie Zundel at nmoran@urbanalliancefoundation.org.

About Urban Alliance – *Employing Youth. Inspiring Excellence.*

Urban Alliance, a local nonprofit dedicated to youth development, has been employing DC youth for over a decade, and to date has placed over 850 youth in meaningful, paid internships year-round. Their work has been made possible by partnering with over 100 business partners in the DC area. But it's not just about a paycheck. The goal is to expose high school students to the professional work-world and prepare them for life after school through adult mentoring, life-skills instruction, post-high school planning, and financial literacy workshops.

*Employing youth works. Students in the program have defied the odds facing those living in under-resourced, urban areas by graduating high school and getting in to college. For the past four years, UA students have had a **96% high school graduation rate, and over 9 out of 10 have enrolled in college.***

"My UA experience was valuable because I have developed skills that I never knew I had. Being around so many caring, professional people has really impacted my life."

Samantha Palmer

2007 Eastern Senior High School Graduate & Presenter at the 7th Annual Public Speaking Challenge