

## The Columbia Urban League presents 2013 Young & Gifted Awards

Written by Staff Writer

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On February 23, 2013, the Columbia Urban League will host its 2013 Young and Gifted Awards at Brookland Baptist Church. Starting at noon, this program will begin in celebration of Black History Month and the awards ceremony is the state's largest recognition of African-American Achievement.

For the past 28 years, The Columbia Urban League has celebrated Black History Month by recognizing the achievements of African-American students. This annual program focuses on achievement as one of the most defining and transforming legacies of Black History. Marking the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, the celebration of our youth's accomplishments has even more meaning as we recognize them as our future leaders.

At this ceremony some 600 African-American high school seniors from around the state will be recognized at Brookland Baptist Church, 1066 Sunset Blvd., West Columbia, SC 29169. These high school seniors with a B average or above who were nominated by their respective schools will be recognized in the areas of academics, the arts, leadership, technical education, and athletics. Honorees will be representing the following counties: Allendale, Clarendon, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Newberry, and Richland.

"This program is so important because it recognizes the importance of achievement and promoting a culture of high expectations," said James T. McLawhorn Jr., president and CEO of the Columbia Urban League. Mr. McLawhorn continued, "Today's global economy is driven by high performance. As vice president and general manager of Boeing South Carolina, Jack Jones certainly understands the importance of hard work, dedication, and leadership. Jones epitomizes the importance of achievement in empowering communities and changing lives and

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will serve as a great example to our youth."

Mr. Jack Jones, vice president and general manager of Boeing South Carolina will deliver the keynote address.

Also, at this event Wal-Mart will present a \$125,000 check to the South Carolina Urban League affiliates to be used to assist those on public support in finding jobs. The Urban Leagues will be collaborating with the South Carolina Department of Social Services in implementing this program.

For more information about the program, contact J.T. McLawhorn, Jr. (803) 929-1040.

For more information regarding media enquiries, please contact Mrs. Cheryl Humphries at (803) 929-1036.

To learn more about our organization, visit our website at [columbiaurbanleague.org](http://columbiaurbanleague.org)