

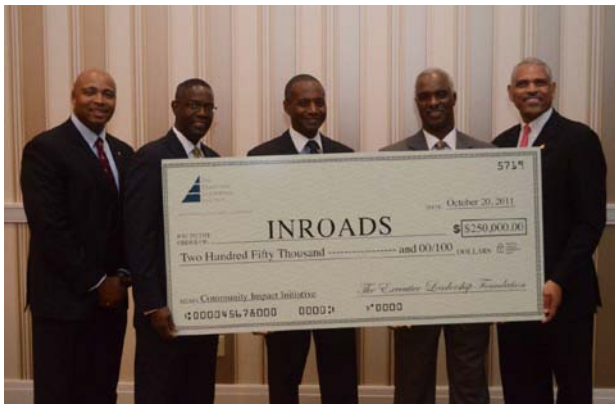


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INROADS AWARDED \$250,000 EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION GRANT FOR PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAM

Provides Career Development & College Prep for 200 Washington, DC & Chicago Underserved Youth

Washington, DC, October 20, 2011— The Executive Leadership Foundation (ELF), non-profit affiliate of the Executive Leadership Council (ELC), awarded INROADS the 2011 Community Impact Initiative Grant for \$250,000 for African American students to participate in INROADS College Links Program. College Links prepares promising high school students from underserved communities, in the first stage in their career life cycle, for successful transition to college and then to careers through: Career emersion, college prep, life skills, leadership development, and mentorship by the ELC members and INROADS Alumni, followed by INROADS College Internships. INROADS, the nation’s largest nonprofit source of paid corporate internships, has graduated 24,000+ Alumni from Internships into management careers in business and industry. The Executive Leadership Council is the nation’s premier leadership organization comprised of the most senior African-American corporate executives in *Fortune 500* companies, representing over 380 major corporations. Laysha Ward, President of Community Relations & TARGET Foundation and ELF Chair, presented the Grant to INROADS. Among the many notables attending the Gala were award recipients Ursula Burns, Chairman & CEO, Xerox Corporation, Hazel O’Leary, President of Fisk University, and accepting for PwC, their Chairman, Dennis Nally. The ELC 25th Anniversary Gala hosts were NBC’s Al Roker and ABC’s Deborah Roberts, at the Gaylord National Hotel, National Harbor, MD.



(Picture above, from left to right: David P. Bozeman, vice president, Integrated Manufacturing Operations, Caterpillar, Inc.; Lynton Scotland, executive of Sustainable Star; co-chair of ELC’s Community Impact Committee; Jeffery Perry, Americas Operational Transaction Services Practice Leader, Ernst & Young LLP; Forest T. Harper, Jr., president & CEO, INROADS, Inc.; Arnold Donald, president & CEO of the ELC)

In her awards presentation, Laysha Ward noted, “INROADS is an outstanding organization working on the front lines of education. For over 40 years, they have been at the forefront of exposing talented and underserved students to practical experience in the workplace. Many INROADS students are the first in their families to go to college, but they won’t be the last. These promising young students are the best and the brightest and the business and community leaders of tomorrow.”

(Awards video link - INROADS starts at 46:36: <http://dinner.elcinfo.com/>)



(Pictured above: Laysha Ward, Laysha Ward, President of Community Relations & TARGET Foundation, and ELF Chair)

The Extreme Need for ELT to Partner with INROADS College Links: African American high school students are 50% less likely than Caucasian students to graduate high school, enroll in college, and graduate college to enter professional careers, based on U.S. Department of Education statistics. The grant will provide African American students interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) business careers the opportunity to participate in College Links to gain training and career exploration to develop their career paths. Over 41 years, INROADS Alumni, now executives and several CEOs, launched careers via INROADS pre-college programs followed by INROADS College Internships



including: Steve Davis, CEO/Board Chair for Bob Evans Farms (Photo above right mentoring Interns), Teri P. McClure, General Counsel for UPS and ELC member, and Jeffery Perry, Americas Operational Transaction Services Practice Leader for Ernst & Young, LLP and an ELC Member.



INROADS President and CEO, Forest T. Harper, Jr. stated, “We deeply appreciate the ELF’s grant and the chance to have a measurable impact on African American youth through The College Links Program. The ELC and INROADS share a common purpose to **‘Transform Corporate America’** through diverse and inclusive leadership, fueled by early career development for underserved youth. The College Links Program meets this objective by starting the executive leadership preparation process at the high school level, thus creating an earlier pipeline for the emerging generation of diverse executive leaders.”

“The INROADS model is a natural complement to the ELC’s work in building the pipeline of the next generation of African American corporate executives and board directors,” said **Arnold Donald, president and CEO of the ELC**. “INROADS College Links Program is so closely aligned with ELC’s pipeline development efforts that we hope to continue this relationship beyond the term of our grant,” said **Lynton Scotland, an executive with Sustainable Star and co-chair of ELC’s Community Impact Committee**, along with **co-chair Susan Chapman of American Express**.

About INROADS

The Mission of INROADS is to develop and place talented underserved youth in business and industry and prepare them for corporate and community leadership.

Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s landmark "I Have a Dream" speech, Frank C. Carr, the late founder of INROADS, left his executive-level corporate day job and committed to taking swift and decisive action both to give minority students the training and tools to be successful professionals, and to increase representation by ethnically diverse employees in management throughout Corporate America.

INROADS, Inc. is the nation's largest non-profit source of salaried corporate internships. INROADS recruits, trains, coaches, provides executive networking opportunities, and places diverse, talented, underserved college students with major corporations. INROADS has touched over 150,000 students throughout its history, providing students with the skills and competencies necessary to be successful in advanced careers. With over 35 offices throughout the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, and a UK partnership, INROADS has consistently been named one of “America’s Top 10 Internships” for over 15 years. INROADS 230 Corporate Partners are largely comprised of *FORTUNE 500* Companies. Among INROADS largest Corporate Partners are United Technologies Corporation, Deloitte Touch Tohmatsu, MetLife, Kaiser Permanente, KPMG, Lockheed Martin, TARGET, PepsiCo, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

To learn more, visit <http://www.INROADS.org>

About The Executive Leadership Council

The Executive Leadership Council is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(6) corporation founded in 1986, providing African-American executives of major U.S. companies with a professional network and forum to offer perspective and direction on national and international business and public policy issues. Our programs develop future business leaders, filling the pipeline from the classroom to the boardroom. It is the preeminent organization that recognizes the strengths, success, contributions, and impact of African-American corporate business leaders. Council members – more than 440 executives, more than one-third of them women – represent more than 380 *Fortune 500* corporations. For more information, please visit www.elcinfo.com.