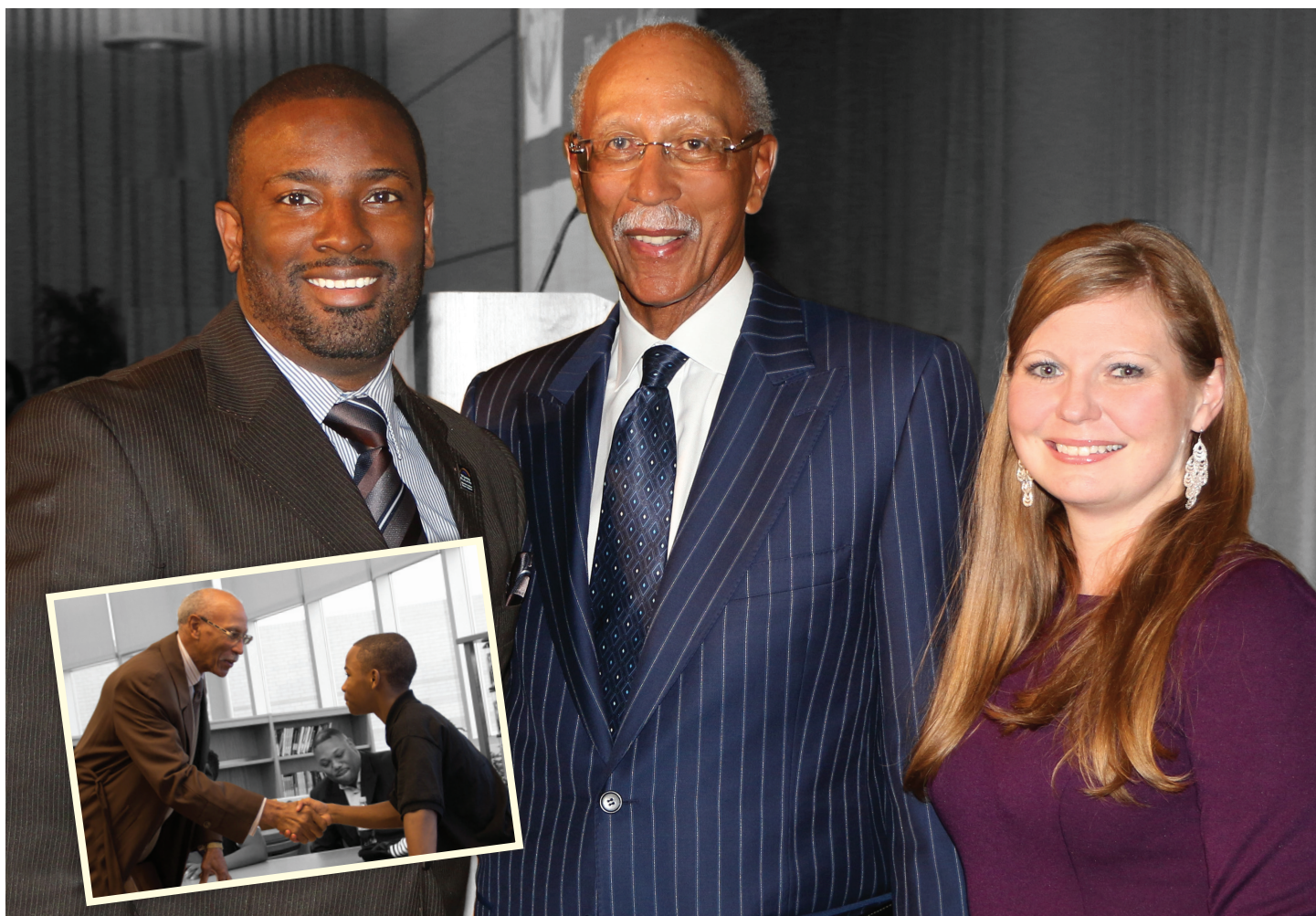




THE VISION

The Official Newsletter of Winning Futures



WINNING FUTURES COLLABORATES WITH DAVE BING

Winning Futures is excited to announce its collaborative partnership with BINGO Mentoring, a new program founded by Detroit Piston, NBA-All Star, and former Mayor of Detroit, Dave Bing. BINGO, which stands for Boys Inspired Through Nurturing, Growth and Opportunities, is a mentoring program of African-American men mentoring African-

American boys intended to “unlock the unlimited potential of urban young men”. This program matches each mentor with a mentee recruited from select Detroit Public Schools. Given its similarity with our mission, it was only natural that we collaborate with BINGO to advance our mutual objective. Using our evidence-based award winning curriculum and fun

team activities, Winning Futures adds a vetted structured group component to the BINGO program. Winning Futures will provide BINGO matches with a “tool kit” that these young men can follow on their path to academic success. We are excited that together BINGO and Winning Futures will work together to empower youth throughout metro Detroit.

2014 IMPACT

1,873
STUDENTS
IMPACTED

99% of students gained job readiness skills through creating budgets, learning financial literacy tips, practicing networking and having mock interviews

86% of students attained skills necessary to create a detailed five-year plan that incorporated their values, short/long-term educational, career and personal goals and overcoming obstacles

86% of students' self-esteem increased by participating in Winning Futures

5,792 youth across the country learned from the Winning Futures workbooks

16,431 Volunteer Hours

21,286

Hours of service
provided to
youth



Winning Futures' Alum Receives Sam Cupp Impact Award

On February 7, 2015 Winning Futures presented the prestigious Sam Cupp Impact Award to two amazing individuals: Jim Comer, the founder and owner of Comer Holdings, and Jason Gordon, Business Development Manager for AlliedBarton Security Services. They were selected for their success in business and for their spirit of philanthropy for others.

Jason is a shining example that it is possible to turn adversity into success. Growing up in Warren, Jason's life was not always easy. At the age of 12, his mother went to prison and shortly after his father died. In 1999, Jason enrolled in Winning Futures. Through the program he created a five-year plan for success, surrounded himself with a positive support team, and won a Winning Futures scholarship in 2002. Jason went on to earn his associates degree in criminal justice and in 2005 attained a position at AlliedBarton as site supervisor.

Through his incredible work ethic and can-do attitude, he quickly moved up the chain of command to Development Manager. Jason never forgot where he came from and those who helped him find his way. He exercises his strong work ethic and drive by giving back to multiple organizations. Jason is active in The Building Owners and Managers Association, the Downtown Detroit Partnership with Suits for Soldiers, and the Detroit Crime Commission. Jason has also returned to Winning Futures as a volunteer mentor and is making a tremendous impact at his Alma matter, Warren Mott High School. Jason helps students realize their dreams of graduating from college, so they can give back to their communities.

Jason Gordon and his mentees at Warren Mott High School.



“

“This year is one of the best years I had in high school. Without Winning Futures and the help of my mentor I probably would have quit.” - Warren Mott Student

Willie Davis Proud First Year Mentor

There comes a moment in everyone's life when they can no longer stand on the sidelines as an observer, but they must personally get involved. This is why I chose to mentor with Winning Futures.

I meet weekly with three great young men and, after just four short weeks, I can honestly say I have embarked on one of my life's most rewarding endeavors. Our interactions have been very open and revealing. I have shared with them many of the thoughts, questions, and fears I had about my future, career, life, and adulthood. They in turn have asked me for advice

on the process they should implement when making difficult decisions. These young men have collectively given me permission to be one of their life coaches. That to me is priceless!

The Winning Futures program makes communication and transparency easy for both me and my mentees. The sessions help build bridges that breakdown the natural barriers that exist between adults and teenagers. Recently, one of my mentees sent me a one-sentence email that simply read "I am proud to have you as my mentor". Now what can be better than that?

I wholeheartedly believe the



philosophy Winning Futures has been demonstrating from its inception. The most important investment an individual can make is in the life of another person.

Looking for Companies Like Yours

Did you know that successful companies large and small use mentoring to increase employee retention and improve workforce productivity? Why? Because mentoring promotes professional and personal growth, it helps attract, motivate, develop, and retain talent.

Engage your employees while connecting with the community by signing up to become a Mentor Champion like Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Kelly Services, General Motors, Lear, Hamilton Chevrolet and Extra Credit Union.

For more details contact lindsey@winningfutures.org or 586-698-4077



Amy Persyn of Extra Credit Union (center) with mentees

Ben and Dan

This school year has been a rollercoaster already. I can honestly say that the person I can rely on the most to give me advice is my mentor Dan. He has had a lot of experiences and looks at the big picture. Dan is always smiling and keeps a positive attitude, even on a bad day, Dan shows me the light at the end of the tunnel. Either with school or

personal problems, he always points out the positives. Dan does his best to help us understand the qualities companies are expecting. He sets an example for us to be as professional and prosperous as possible. Dan's commitment to us encourages me to strive to be my best and push for success and happiness by overcoming my own struggles.



Community High student Ben and his mentor Dan Hanagan

If you would like to volunteer as a mentor contact: Lindsey@winningfutures.org or visit www.winningfutures.org

Planned Gift

Remember Winning Futures in your planned giving. Planned gifts to Winning Futures are bequests or gifts made through a will or trust. A gift may be small or large in amount, but all are important to our organization.

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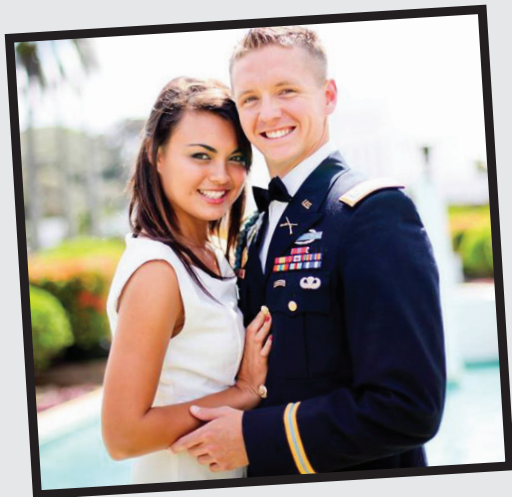
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Standing Out - Mary Innes' Alumni Story



In 2011, I participated in the Winning Futures program at Warren Mott High School. The organization teaches many principles that students need more in-depth knowledge of in order to be successful after high school. Through Winning Futures I learned to have a vision for my future and to prepare a plan to be successful. These principles are still benefitting me now!

To this day I still carry my five-year vision statement in my wallet. Much to my surprise my reality did not meet my expectations, rather reality exceeded my expectations. I accomplished many things I never dreamed of doing. For one, I met and married the love of my life, a West Point graduate and military officer, while studying in Hawaii at Brigham Young University. The second milestone I achieved is that I was recently selected in a nationwide modeling contest by retail company Lucky Brand to be featured in their spring ad campaign in Los Angeles. To top it all off, my husband and I are returning to Hawaii to complete my degree in Marine Biology and carry on with new career paths.

What I love about the principles taught by Winning Futures is that if you want something, go and get it. Don't let anyone tell you what you are or are not capable of, and if you have the drive to achieve something, you can make it happen.

When I have vision and set goals, it gives me a feeling of confidence and being in control of my future.