



FALL 2022

## NEW SCHOLARS ACADEMY ANNOUNCED

The Akron Urban League Scholars Academy has been redesigned to provide a more robust program and allows high school seniors to attend workshops to prepare them for success. The workshop sessions include Self Care/ Mental Health Awareness, Financial Literacy, Emotional Intelligence, Time Management, and a National Pan Hellenic Council Divine Nine Step Show. The Scholars Academy is open to all Summit County seniors graduating in 2023 with at least a 2.5-grade point average who plan to attend an accredited college, university, trade or technical school. **The application window is through October 14, 2022.**

25 scholars will be selected for the Scholars Academy program. All students selected for the program are guaranteed a scholarship. The scholarship awards will range from books, room, and board to full scholarships. [Find out more!](#)



## This issue:

Scholars Academy  
PAGE 01

MBAC & WFD Outcomes  
PAGE 02

Event Focus  
PAGE 03

In The News  
PAGE 04

25 Things You Don't Know  
About Me  
PAGE 05

Updates  
PAGES 06-07

## MINORITY BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER (MBAC)

January 1 through to August 31, 2022

State of Ohio Certifications  
obtained by MBAC Participants:

- 19 MBE Certifications
- 16 EDGE Certifications
- 10 WBE Certifications
- 02 VBE Certifications

Facts:

- 160 New MBAC registrations
- 151 Jobs created and/or retained
- \$655,000.00 access to capital infusion obtained
- \$1,047,882.72 dollar value of contracts secured

The Minority Business Assistance Center (MBAC) is one of seven centers across the State of Ohio supported by the State's Minority Business Development Division (MBDD). The MBAC Akron region includes nine counties: Summit, Stark, Wayne, Richland, Ashland, Carrol, Harrison, Holmes, and Tuscarawas. The MBAC's goal is to service small, disadvantaged, minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses.

The MBAC team implemented the "Grow your business with GrowthWheel" sessions to help business owners focus, set goals, make decisions, and take action. GrowthWheel is an online platform that offers a decision-making toolbox for business advisors to engage entrepreneurs after taking a 360-interactive screening of their business. The screening allows the business owner to decide which areas of their business they should focus on first, and the framework encourages them to work ON their business and not just IN their business.

From January to August 31, 2022, the MBAC Team conducted 44 Workshops/Trainings with a total of 415 participants. Sessions included a 6-week Business Plan Writing course, monthly Business Focus and Funding information sessions held every first Friday, Website Development, QuickBooks Training, Navigating Your Cash Flow, Access to Capital, Business Credit and You, Business Banking Roundtable, You're Certified, Now What? and the GrowthWheel sessions.

If you are interesting in attending our workshops, check out [our workshop calendar](#). Anyone can attend for free!

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Summit NEXT - is for individuals who experience a reduction in public assistance benefits due to an increase in income, commonly known as the "benefits cliff." Since the program's inception in October 2021, members have earned \$121,000 in cash incentives. Earnings were based on members achieving various financial, training, and employment milestones. In the last 11 months:

- 106 members are active in the program
- 80% of members completed a financial wellness class through the United Way Financial Empowerment Center, and 25% of members elected to take additional classes
- 10% earned a wage progression, and 10% earned a job progression

To see more outcomes, [click here](#).

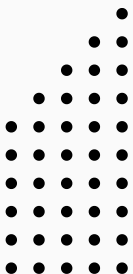
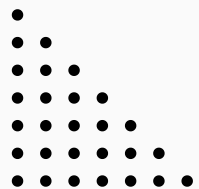
## EVENT RECAP

Our summer was filled with so many unique events and activities for individuals in our community! We had the opportunity to engage with many community partners across Summit County and build new partnerships. On August 5th, we hosted a Backpack & Vax Event with the Light Center Recovery and the Ohio Department of Health. Families in Summit County were given free backpacks and opportunities to be vaccinated or boosted. Students were provided free haircuts, manicures, lunch, ice cream, and more. We gave away almost 600 backpacks, and 15 adults and children were vaccinated or boosted at the event!

In the wake of the Jayland Walker killing, the Akron Urban League worked alongside community partners to advocate for police reform. We worked with the National Urban League office to heal the rift between the police and our communities through comprehensive and realistic reform and accountability. We collaborated with the Department of Justice and the City of Akron to host a Young Adult Dialogue. The goal of the dialogue was to elevate the voices of young adults ages 16-26 in Summit County, hear their concerns, and identify solutions. Over 40 young adults participated in the dialogue, and many continue to work alongside the Akron Urban League, the City of Akron, and other community partners to carry on this vital work.

Our summer closed out with two unique events with community partners. We hosted an Innerbelt Reunion on August 28th with the Akron Beacon Journal, the City of Akron, The Freedom BLOC, Project Ujima, and the NAACP to bring together community members displaced from their homes and businesses due to the innerbelt being built. Individuals at the Innerbelt Reunion shared and recorded their stories, participated in healing circles with Project Ujima, and discussed the next steps to repair damages.

Entrepreneurs and minority small business owners participated in a three-part daylong event on September 9th, sponsored by Huntington National Bank. The Seeds for Growth event kicked off with a tour of local minority-owned businesses, progressed to fireside chats with community partners, a community partner panel, and a marketplace, and ended with a networking reception. Attendees' two favorite activities were the bus tour and the \$100 of shopping money gifted to them to shop local minority-owned businesses at the AUL.



## MARCH WITH AKRON

Join us for the March with Akron: Justice for Jayland Walker and Our Community on Monday, **October 10th** at 1 PM. As we center and celebrate unity at this march, your presence would help create a strong sense of solidarity within Akron.

Stay tuned for more details, and please [RSVP](#) so we can send you updates and reminders before the march. The Akron Urban League is partnering with St. Ashworth Temple, NAACP Akron, and The Freedom BLOC.

Your participation in the grassroots movement is key its success. We hope to see you there.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**Welcome Cara and Melissa!** We are so pleased you are here.

Cara Krstolic, Director, Race Tire Engineering and Manufacturing at Bridgestone Americas



Melissa Glanz,  
Vice President of Human Resources,  
Stark State College

## TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR MCCAP



**We are now recruiting for the Fourth Cohort of the Minority Contractor Capital Access Program (MCCAP) beginning January 2023.** The program is a collaboration between the Western Reserve Community Fund and the Akron Urban League that provides financial and technical assistance to Akron and Summit County-based minority, women, LGBTQ+, Veteran, and Disabled-owned businesses in the construction trades.

Eligible businesses are evaluated based on need, experience, and growth potential. Once accepted, those businesses are given the opportunity to apply for financial assistance in the form of short-term credit to pay for costs related to specific construction contracts.

Participants are also connected to educational resources, including training and certification programs to help their businesses grow. The program is designed to support minority-owned and disadvantaged construction businesses with the best long-term success and stability opportunities. [Apply today for the next cohort in January 2023.](#)



## 25 THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME

### Alice Samuels , Program Advocate

Alice has served the Akron Urban League for 20 years. Here's her list in her own words.

1. I am unique and personable.
2. I love the great outdoors and nature's vast colors and beauty. It gives me great peace.
3. I am from a large, loving, caring family of six brothers and six sisters.
4. I serve as the President of Friends of Maple Valley Library, located on Copley Road.
5. My favorite book to read is the Bible.
6. I graduated Class XIX of the Child and Family Leadership Exchange.
7. My favorite color is purple.
8. I rode on a jet ski during one of our family picnics.
9. I attended an event at John S. Knight and saw President Obama when he visited Akron.
10. I attended my first Cavalier game on November 1, 2016, to see LeBron James play.
11. My greatest support is the love of my sisters, brothers, family, church, and friends.
12. I once took a picture with the Temptations at an AUL event.
13. I also took a picture with Eddie LeVert at an AUL event.
14. I enjoy paying it forward by being a support system to others through words of encouragement and good deeds.
15. My favorite role model was my late mother. Her love seemed endless.
16. My favorite foods are chicken, fish, vegetables, salads, and desserts.
17. I enjoy adventure movies.
18. I also enjoy mysteries movies and figuring out "who done it."
19. I am a graduate of Neighborhood Leadership of Akron.
20. I have been told I have never met a stranger.
21. I served as the PTA President of the Buchtel Cluster.
22. I traveled with three friends from Akron, OH, through Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and Nevada.
23. I have participated in the Summit Metro Park Hiking Spree for over 20 years.
24. I am a Treky.
25. We should enjoy our lives to the fullest each and every day!



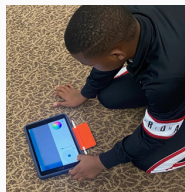
*Alice Samuels*



## STEAM ACADEMY

STEAM Academy is a 2.5 hour After School program serving students throughout Summit County in grades 3-5 that includes the following schools: Helen Arnold CLC, Seiberling CLC, David Hill CLC, Firestone Park Elementary School, The Edge Academy, Arlington Christian Academy, and The Lippman School. The program has been reshaped to include an emphasis on the Ohio Department of Education Whole Child Framework. Our students begin the afternoon with mood-calming Zen music to help them recenter and refocus their emotions with a Be Best Circle. Based on the Zones of Regulation curriculum, the students can share their emotional zone and strategies to remain focused and centered. Afterward, they receive enrichment from Ohio State University Learning Extension 4-H program with robotics and coding and Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio with financial literacy and entrepreneurship. Next, our students receive homework help and are immersed in an online learning program called Exact Path. Students are provided with individualized learning pathways to help fill academic gaps in reading, language arts, and math. The STEAM Academy After School program runs through May 25, 2023.

We are always looking for caring and compassionate volunteers to support our student's academic and social-emotional growth. Sign up to be a STEAM volunteer or if you would like to explore other [volunteering opportunities](#), email **Melanie Korman**.



## SAVE THE DATE

MLK Breakfast - January 16, 2023

Annual Scholarship and Luncheon - April 4, 2023

Gala - August 12, 2023

## FOLLOW US



## DONOR THANK YOU'S

Thank you to our generous **August** donors and beyond. It is donors like you that help keep our mission alive. Your contribution supports education in our STEAM and scholarship programs, connects jobseekers to employers with Workforce Development, joins together small businesses with resources in our Entrepreneurship Empowerment Center, and so much more. Thank you for helping us be of service to Summit County!

### *August Donors*

ALICE SAMUELS  
 ALYSSA FLANAGAN  
 ANGELA DASH  
 BARB KLINE  
 BECKI MOORER  
 BERTRAM GRIGGS  
 BIANCA HEARD  
 CAM & KERRI STEPHEN  
 CARLA JACKSON  
 CASSANDRA HILL-GUNN  
 CATHERINE BRECK  
 DANIELLE R HUPP  
 DAWN DISTLER  
 DENA PHILPOT  
 DIAMOND ROSSER  
 DIANE MILLER-DAWSON  
 DOUG PIEKARZ  
 EBONI STEENS  
 ELIZABETH ENGLAND  
 EMILY BROWNING  
 ERIN PALMER  
 EV STIGGERS  
 FIRSTENERGY FOUNDATION  
 FRANK WILLIAMS  
 GAR FOUNDATION  
 GEORGE SARKIS  
 H. ALAN ROTHENBUECHER  
 HSA WIN  
 ILONA PON  
 IRIEL HOPKINS  
 JAMES MULLEN  
 JAMES RIDELLA  
 JASON LOWE  
 JEFFREY DENNIS  
 JENNIFER PETRUZZI  
 JENNIFER RODGERS  
 JESSICA RABLE  
 JESSYCA BLAKE  
 JILL BACON MADDEN  
 JOHN & ANNE BARANEK

JOHN BLISCHAK  
 JOLENE LANE  
 JOSEPH ECKENRODE  
 JUDGE DAVID HAMILTON  
 JUDI HILL  
 JULIE & STEVEN BRANDLE  
 JUSTIN & TIFFANY BARNETT  
 KAREN MOSER  
 KENDRA PHILON  
 KRISTIN DANESHGARI  
 KY PEGUES  
 LASHONDA TAYLOR  
 LINDA WILKINS  
 LISA KING  
 LYNN PURYEAR  
 MARIA DUVUVUEI  
 MARKESHIA GARRETT  
 MATT SOFUL  
 MELLISSA REED  
 MICHAEL BIGHAM  
 MIRIAM BENNETT  
 MONIQUE CLARK  
 N. J. AKBAR  
 NATE DRUSHELL  
 NICK & CYNTHIA BROWNING  
 PAMELA HICKSON-STEVENSON  
 PAMELA HOLTZ  
 PAUL BECKS  
 PNC BANK  
 RAY NEMER  
 RICHARD COLLINS  
 RICK & ALITA ROGERS FAMILY FOUNDATION  
 ROBERT E DEJOURNETT  
 ROBERT W. BAIRD & CO.  
 ROSEANNE HENDERSON  
 SANDRA KURT  
 SCHWAB CHARITABLE  
 SHAWNTAYE JONES  
 SHELLEY GREEN  
 SUZANNE GRAHAM

TAHRIEQ KOONCE  
 TATIA HARRIS  
 TAYLOR BUCHANAN  
 TERESA R LEGRAIR  
 THE BENEVITY COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND  
 THERESA CARTER  
 THOMAS & CYNTHIA PEEPLES  
 TICAYSIA ROUSER  
 TODD BERTSCH  
 TODD D & BERNETT L WILLIAMS  
 TOM GHINDER  
 TRACY DOWE  
 VALLERY GAINES  
 VINCE JEFFERIES  
 WILLIAM ALFORD