



Believing in Our Youth.

Our work in Meadville was emphasized with the graduation of Tyler Banks, Westminster College, Class of 2014. Tyler was a star football player, however we met him as we began our relationship with Meadville youth at our conception in Spring 2010.

Banks is supported by his mother, father and brother, who has also distinguished himself through his military service. Banks high school community, church family (United Faith), and our stakeholders join us in congratulating Tyler for the example he has set for CREED students who follow him.

Congratulations Tyler!



Dear CREED Stakeholders,

For those of you that do not know me, my name is Demarius Newsome. I am currently a fourth year student pursuing a B.A. in Psychology from Hampton University. In addition to that, I am also a Leadership Studies Minor, and matriculating through the Dr. Freddie T. Davy Honors College and the Pre-Law Institute. Outside of my academics, as always, I am highly involved on campus through the bands, choirs, positions of leadership, and Greek-life. While doing all of this, I have maintained my status as a honors student with a 3.80 cumulative GPA.

First, I want to thank each of you for supporting me and my goals, but even more, I thank you for your continued support of the CREED College Readiness Program. I am grateful to be involved with a program that is so focused on helping students like myself achieve academic success, and that is supported by a loving group such as you. Continue to do the good work that you do in order for CREED to continue to touch other students' lives for years to come. It is my sincere hope that I will be able to contribute to the organization and help other students as your contributions to CREED have helped me get to where I am today and help guide to where I am headed.

Again, I extend my warmest gratitude and warmest regards to you all for the work that you do and the love that you show. God Bless!

**Sincerely,
Demarius Newsome, Hampton University 2015**



Newsome was recipient of the 2013 CREED winter internship.

Sage advice from a future CREED Parent...

"Parents stop pushing your children out of college without guiding them to do internships and/or co-ops; we are doing our kids a disservice. Somewhere within that 4, 5 to 6 years, they should have a job with relevant experience tailor (ed) towards their major. In addition, I recommend making sure they are involved in organizations and be(ing) active in those organizations. There is plenty on most college campuses, so encourage them to be involved. I am looking over resumes now and some of them are disheartening. And the lack of involvement is ridiculous. So again ENCOURAGE."

Kelvin Bo Robinson, ITIL, CTL, Enterprise Products Manager - Field Desktop Support Services



Kelvin B. Robinson and son Kameron Robinson

Why Our Work Is So Important: A Board Member's Perspective

Crystal R. Austin-Seymore, CREED Executive Board Member

In 2010, CREED was founded with five board members and a national advisory board as support for our efforts. Since then, 3 of our original board members transitioned to other opportunities. We appreciate them and their contributions to our founding, so we thought carefully prior to extending our next invitation. We are proud to announce that we have finally convinced Mrs. Khristian King, our Associate Board member, to join us on the Executive Board for the important strategic planning process we will begin this summer. King is a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Buffalo, married to Willie King, mother of 1 year old Uriah and a longtime supporter of CREED.

Mrs. Khristian King



NEW BOARD MEMBER!

I have often been asked, "How have you kept your passion so strong?", "Why do you continue to be committed to a community that does not care about itself?" or "Why bother to get involved when only a few might be interested in what you have to offer?" and the all too frequent question, "Don't you worry you will burn out?" All good questions; yet, as a member of a community, we have to select how much of ourselves we wish to give to others.

Moreover, I believe we do not have to be all things to all people. My philosophy is that we each should only have one desire and that is to make a difference. How one makes a difference is a personal choice. An individual can do something as simple as donate clothing, offer a financial donation to an organization or cause of his or her own choosing, participate in a walk-a-thon for a cause or better yet, another form of activism is becoming a Board member.

As a member of the Board of Director's for CREED, I have engaged in good work with a circle of people who bring in their own passion for the work along with special, unique talents which benefit the growth of the organization and the community(s) in which the organization is expected to serve. Board membership is not a name on a plaque or letterhead, it is the networking and fiscal responsibility that makes a Board member's work so important.

A successful Board teaches its members (and the members understand) a Board serves best when the Board knows that the duty of a Board is to direct policy, be on one accord with the philosophy, vision and mission, and to hold the executive director accountable for the daily tasks of running the organization. Even more importantly, a good Board understands that the day to day operations must be purposeful in a way to meet the needs of the community, not with services for the community of which it has no use.

With full trust in the executive director's leadership to inform and communicate effectively with the Board, only improves and enhances the effectiveness of how the organization grows, and permits proper governance that truly benefits everyone involved. It is this type of governance that has contributed to the success of CREED.

Since my involvement with CREED, I have watched the organization grow and support high school students, college students and their families. The ladder of success has been able to extend itself to parts across the country because of the Board's work to support the executive director's vision. The headquarters for CREED is in Northwest Pennsylvania; however, students have received support in Buffalo, NY, parts of Oklahoma and areas of Texas. I am full of wonder about CREED's future. There is so much more to come.



Ms. C.R. Austin-Seymore



October 20, 2014

