

# YLA Newsletter



YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

A Not-For-Profit 501 c 3 Corporation

## Attitude Counts!

According to research conducted by Forbes Magazine recently that tracked 20,000 people who were hired for new jobs, 46% of them failed within 18 months. In other words, almost 10,000 of these people lost their new job within a year. Why? In 89% of these cases, it was because of their attitude, and not because they didn't know how to do the job. So remember, education counts, but just as important is your attitude! Be respectful and be positive! Your job depends on it.

**Source:** "Hire For Attitude" by Dan Schawbel, Forbes online magazine contributor and personal branding expert, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/danschawbel/2012/01/23/89-of-new-hires-fail-because-of-their-attitude/>

## YLA Receives EFS Foundation Grant to Support Service-Learning

We couldn't be happier to announce that the EFS Foundation has awarded the YLA a generous grant of \$10,000 to support our Service Learning projects. All YLA cadets are engaged in a 5 Step Service Learning process around various issues of their own choosing. The grant will enable each group to implement a meaningful project in their community and learn about budget management. In addition, a delegation from the YLA will participate in the National Service-Learning Conference this coming April in Minneapolis. This conference is the largest gathering of youth and practitioners involved in the service-learning movement in the world. Thank you, EFS Foundation, for your support of YLA cadets and their hard work in making our communities better!

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The YLA Newsletter is produced at the YLA office and is distributed once per month. Any comments, questions or letters can be addressed to YLA 410 Renner Dr., Elgin, IL 60123.

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## CALL FOR TUTORS!

If you would like to volunteer as a tutor for YLA cadets two Saturdays a month from 12:00—1:30 pm, please contact the YLA office at 847-214-6965 or send a message to [dortega-ehreth@elgin.edu](mailto:dortega-ehreth@elgin.edu). Tutoring support is needed in most all subject areas, including reading, writing, mathematics, science and more. Tutoring experience is preferred, but not required. All tutors must be over age 18, agree to a background check and follow YLA safety policies. Help keep our students on track for college! Thank you!

## Happy Valentine's Day!

### Quote of the month:

"A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes."  
— Hugh Downs



**January 16, 2012 was MLK DAY. YLA cadets, along with hundreds others across the community, spent a DAY ON helping others and it was a huge success!** 1) Thank you, ECC Organization of Latin American Students, for helping at the MLK Youth Leadership Conference! Here they are shown ready to distribute lunch donated by Meijer in Elgin and Sherman Hospital. 2) YLA senior cadets Debbie Patino, Lizet Alba, Alexis O'Connor, James Jones and Elizabeth Caldera having a great time spending a DAY ON together. 3) Nathaniel Viets-VanLear from Chicago leads a room full of 300 people in a STOMP-style drum circle by introducing different rhythms. 4) Dr. David Zacker, ECC Professor of Philosophy, leads a workshop on civil disobedience (picture doesn't show this, but the room was full!). 5) Dianha Ortega-Ehreth, YLA Executive Director and City of Elgin MLK Celebration Committee member thanks Officer Joel Vargas from Bensenville for coming to help make all the technology work for the event! 6) Keynote speaker and Elgin resident Reggie Legend poses with his beautiful family. His MLK poem was inspiring and powerful! 7) YLA cadets and other groups of young people across the City of Elgin helped sort more than 6 tons of food collected for the MLK Day of Service at the Church of the Brethren General Offices.





1) Cadets Alexis O'Connor, Mariet Pitones, and Claudia Rodriguez helped the dinner guests learn how the YLA has made a difference in their lives. 2) Elgin City Police Sgt. And YLA Board member Gary Neal (middle), Marilyn Neal (left) and YLA Board member and ECC Associate Dean of TRIO, Dr. Bruce Austin. 3) YLA Board President Dr. Wes Scott poses with the keynote speaker, Karris Golden. 4) Lois Stark, Melissa Chee, Frank and Joanne Anguilo. 5) Dr. Clare Ollayos and Helen Perez, YLA Alumni and current President of ECC's Organization for Latin American Students. 6) Bill and Dr. Julie Schaid, ECC Dean of Developmental Education and College Transitions; Derek and Angie Ernst, Principal of Huff Elementary School (U-46); Sam and Dianha Ortega-Ehreth, YLA Executive Director; and seated below are Rick and Traci Ellis, U-46 School Board member. 7) YLA Senior Cadet Jose Velazquez shares his story as he looks forward to majoring in engineering in college next year.



**Thank you**  
to all who helped  
make the 2nd Annual  
YLA Benefit  
Dinner on Friday,  
January 27, a big  
success!



# Youth Leadership Academy

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*"I AM on the path to success.  
I AM college bound."*

Visit us online at  
[www.ylaecc.org](http://www.ylaecc.org)

## Mission of the Youth Leadership Academy:

We engage and inspire youth to maximize their potential to become successful community leaders through the access and responsible utilization of post-secondary education.

## YLA Office Hours:

- Monday—Friday, 9:00 am—3:00 pm
- No office hours on Saturday

## YLA Board members:

- Dr. Wes Scott, President, Elgin
- JoAnne Fields Whittaker, Vice President, Elgin
- Kevin Stark, Treasurer, Algonquin
- Jeri E. Smith, Secretary, Elgin
- Eric Isibue, West Dundee
- Eary Isibue, Elgin
- V. Elaine Miller, Elgin
- Dr. Bruce Austin, Grayslake

- Dr. Julie Schaid, Elburn
- Betty Villagomez, Elgin
- Simeon Kim, St. Charles
- Sgt. Gary Neal Jr., Huntley
- Mercedes Delcid, Carpentersville
- Ann Marie Sparks, Elgin

**YLA Executive Director:** Dianha Ortega-Ehreth; **YLA Program Coordinator:** Joann W. Hartmann **YLA Administrative Assistant:** Jenny Huang

## YLA Applications For New Cadets due March 16!

It's that time of year once again! Attention parents, teachers, and all friends of YLA: please help us get the word out about this wonderful opportunity for community youth! The Youth Leadership Academy application is available from the YLA web site, [www.ylaecc.org](http://www.ylaecc.org), or call the YLA office at 847-214-6965 and we can mail one to you.

### Who is eligible to apply? How many students are selected each year?

Only current 6<sup>th</sup> grade students each year in IL School Districts U-46, D300, D301 and D303 are eligible to apply. Parents and teachers also need to be aware that the YLA's mission is to serve students from low-income backgrounds. It is for this reason that we require a copy of the family's 1040 tax forms be attached to their application. YLA follows the annual Federal Poverty Level Chart as a guideline to meet this mission. **Important note: This application process is competitive.** On average, around 100 applications are received, of which half will be selected for an in-person interview. Approximately 25 student finalists will be selected as YLA cadets by end of April 2012. Selections are based the applicant pool each year targeting students with leadership potential and financial need.

## YLA Presentations for 6th Grade Classrooms

If you would like to schedule a presentation for 6th grade students and their parents to learn about how they can apply to the YLA, please contact the YLA office at 847-214-6965. The presentation can be motivational for students to understand the importance of working hard in school and what it means to be a leader!

