

YLDP Important Information

The following information is provided to you so students and parents can begin deciding whether they should apply for The Youth Leadership Development Program (YLDP). The Youth Leadership Development Program is enacted through the fundamental support of twenty-five higher education partners. Decatur City Schools has had many students successfully complete the program and receive scholarships. Attached is a document which further explains the program and provides a list of the college partners.

The Youth Leadership Development Program (YLDP) is a nine-month program that meets once a month for approximately two and a half hours. Decatur City Schools students have received almost \$1 million dollars in usable scholarship money from this program. Regular meetings are typically held at Calhoun Community; however, special events and/or speakers may be held at Wallace State or in Birmingham.

At the completion of the program in May, Senior participants receive a Youth Leadership Development Program certificate, which is a respected addition for future resumes. In addition, Seniors are eligible to apply for available scholarships. The YLDP evaluation process for scholarships is based on a point system. Please note that students should not expect to receive a scholarship if they do not attend meetings, participate in service projects or other required activities. The point system is further explained in the attached document.

We will select 2 Juniors from each high school. The number of Seniors selected is based on the number of returning students. Currently, we have space for 3 Seniors at Decatur High and 2 Seniors at Austin High. Selected Juniors will be eligible to participate in their Senior year without submitting an additional application/essay. The program will be repeated for their Senior year; however, they will have a better understanding of the program and the point system for scholarships.

Students should not apply if they are not able to fully commit themselves to the program. Also, they should be interested in attending one of the YLDP college partners. The current college partners are listed on the attachment.

The application process will open for students on August 16. A copy of the application is attached and will also be available in the Guidance Office beginning on August 16. The application process will close on August 25 at 10:00 a.m. Late entries will not be accepted, unless we are unable to fill the available slots. If your student is selected, they will receive a packet from YLDP that must be completed and returned by September 1. The first meeting will be held on September 12 at Wallace State.

If you feel your student would like to participate in this program for the 2023-2024 school year, an interest meeting for parents and students will be held on August 21 at 4:00 p.m. at the Board of Education, 212 4th Avenue SE. The meeting should last approximately 30 minutes.



212 Fourth Avenue, SE
Decatur, AL 35601
Telephone (256) 552-3000
Email: Superintendent@co.dcs.edu

**APPLICATION COVER SHEET
FOR YLDP CONSIDERATION
2023-2024**

Name: _____

School: _____ /Grade _____

Email address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Does Parent/Guardian work for Decatur City Schools? _____

I have read over the YLDP Important Information and the information from the Greater Alabama Council Youth Leadership Development Program? _____

Please attach to this cover sheet the following:

1. In 500 words or less, explain why having good character would be an important trait to have as a leader. Please do not include your name or any other identifying information on this document.
2. Provide one reference letter by an adult that can speak to your character.

Greater Alabama Council

Youth Leadership Development Program (YLDP)

Purpose:

The Youth Leadership Development Program, (YLDP) provides a leadership development program for juniors and seniors in high school chosen for their character rather than academic standing.

The basic tenet of the YLDP is that a person's character is more important than anything else in the ability to lead others and be a true leader.

History:

The Youth Leadership Development Program began in the Fall of 2008. Its purpose is to provide a leadership development program for juniors and seniors in high school chosen to participate because of their character rather than academic standing. The basic tenet of the YLDP is that the character of a person is more important than anything else to being a true leader. The YLDP was launched in September 2008 with seven high school partners, each selecting ten students to represent their high school in the YLDP. In November of that year Lawson State and Jefferson State Community Colleges became the first YLDP College/Operating Partners by providing volunteer leaders to assist in developing and administering the YLDP. Additionally, both Lawson State and Jefferson State provided coordinators (scholarship students) to work as facilitators for student groups and activities. Unprecedentedly, Lawson State President Dr Perry Ward and Jefferson State President Dr Judy Merritt committed two Presidential Scholarships each to the top students of "character" from the YLDP. Colleges had for many, many years provided scholarships to students who had academic achievement and those who had athletic achievement but never before to students who demonstrated the highest of character. These two special leaders, who themselves possessed the highest of character, broke new ground in higher education's goal to develop and provide the leaders of tomorrow for our society.

Wallace State Community College, Hanceville joined the YLDP as an Operating Partner in 2013 under the Leadership of President Vickie Karolewics. This partnership allowed the YLDP to expand to three new counties, providing many more high schools the opportunity to participate in the YLDP. In addition to providing personnel and scholarships, Dr Karolewics immediately brought a renewed energy to the YLDP, generating new ideas and direction to the YLDP. At this point in time the YLDP had 95 High School Partners that each chose up to four seniors and two juniors to represent their high school, three College-Operating Partners, Lawson State, Wallace State, Jefferson State, and twenty five College Partners, in total providing nearly \$2 million in scholarship opportunities for students of character. In its first 14 years of existence the Youth Leadership Development Program awarded \$10 million in life changing scholarships to students of character.

In 2022–2023 another major expansion took place in North Alabama. Newly appointed President of Calhoun Community College Dr Jimmy Hodges decided that Calhoun would become the YLDP's fourth College Operating Partner. Under the direction of Calhoun Community College Vice President Dr Patricia Wilson this expansion added three counties and 20 new High School Partners, for a total of 115, to the YLDP. Additionally, for 2022–2023 Calhoun Community College and Georgia Highlands College became YLDP College Partners which resulted in 28 College Partners and added another \$50,000 to the already \$2 million in scholarship opportunities exclusively for YLDP students.

The YLDP Experience

The Three Pillars of the YLDP— Faith— Character— Patriotism are the foundations of the YLDP Curriculum, and its instructional process and activities. Hence, the Curriculum is not limited to the monthly lessons and group discussions but is the "experiencing" of the YLDP.

Faith is up front in every meeting and activity as all meetings and activities are opened with a group prayer. These "prayers" provide a direct and reverent acknowledgment of a power higher than ourselves, God. It also allows students to experience community identity with the idea of having and expressing Faith. The January meeting is a special experience in Faith. This annual experience is held in the sanctuary of the historic 16th Street Baptist Church with Liz Huntley as the speaker. Liz is the author of "More Than A Bird", which is her inspirational life story about how Faith not only saved her life but has guided her throughout her life.

Character is quite obviously the essence of the YLDP. Students know they have been chosen because of their demonstrated character in school. They also realize that if they excel in the YLDP, College Partners offer scholarships to them because of their demonstrated character in the YLDP. Therefore, to experience the YLDP is to come face to face with the meaning of character. To understand that character is not a nebulous term but is in fact how you live your life. The YLDP “experience” presents the true nature of character by introducing the students to the “universal morals”, and “essential morals” vital to having sound character. All YLDP lessons, activities, program service projects, and student created service projects are a constant and consistent experiencing of the meaning of character.

Patriotism is part and parcel of the entire experience of the YLDP. The “Pledge of Allegiance”, led by a student, is said at the opening of every meeting and performed in the traditional sense by all students. Whenever a YLDP meeting or activity has the capability the “National Anthem” is played and traditional participation and respect is shown.

Patriotism, although a constant stream within the YLDP experience, is most emphasized during the first quarter of the year. At the initial meeting in September, the students are assigned to a “Company” named in honor of one of the YLDP’s special Medal of Honor recipients i.e. Thorsness, Adkins, Morris, Livingston, Rose, Donlon, Beikirch. Assignments, lessons, and activities for October are directly related to patriotism, the Medal of Honor, veterans, “Green Berets”, and The Command Sergeant Major Bennie Adkins Foundation. The Pillar of Patriotism comes to total fruition in the YLDP in November with the its annual “Walk For Warriors” and the annual YLDP Patriotism Program. Both of which dramatically bring to life the true meaning of Patriotism through student involvement, honored guests, special presentations, and the celebration of freedom, its cost and those who have protected our freedom and continue to do so.

Curriculum and Instruction:

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Wesley Harris <wesley.harris@calhoun.edu>

Description & Process:

The YLDP is designed to assist students chosen for their demonstrated character in developing leadership skills. Because of the large number of YLDP High School Partners involved, the YLDP has great diversity within the student body. The YLDP has diversity of gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, economic background, and academic achievement. The YLDP is a model of and for tomorrow’s America, where diversity is treasured as one of its greatest resources.

The YLDP is a nine-month Program that begins in September and ends in May. It conducts monthly meetings that start at 4:30pm and end no later than 7:30pm.

Typically, students sign in upon arrival. Each monthly meeting has a special guest speaker for approximately 60 minutes, which includes questions and answers. This is followed by a student group lesson focusing on faith, character, and/ or patriotism. Active student participation is a part of each lesson. The student groups are specifically designed to include all aspects of the diversity within the YLDP and are assigned for the entire year. Every meeting concludes with students coming together to discuss group ideas, conclusions, and opinions. Students sign out before leaving.

In addition to monthly meetings, the YLDP operates numerous, staff approved, student created and enacted service projects. YLDP participation projects are also available to students to assist community organizations e.g. The CSM

Bennie Adkins Foundation, The American Village, and When students plan a service project, they are encouraged to focus on what morals are being experienced within the project, and also identify any aspect of the Pillars of Faith and/ or Patriotism as a part of the service experience.

A major component of the YLDP is its special relationship with College Partners. These colleges actively support the belief that sound character is vital for leaders to possess. And that by supporting students of character they are helping to fulfill a major goal of higher education, preparing leaders of tomorrow. This support is shown by the scholarships they provide exclusively to the students of the YLDP. A very important component of the YLDP is to encourage students to be informed about at least several different colleges, preferably of different sizes in order to be certain of where they believe they will be most successful, both academically and socially. The YLDP conducts two College Fairs in the first quarter of the year which are only available to YLDP students, parents, and college partners. The YLDP encourages students, and parents to arrange college visits to our YLDP College Partners. Students selected for the YLDP must be legal citizens of the United States. Preference in selection of students chosen for the YLDP must be given to students who are interested in attending one of our college Partners, students who are undecided on the college they want to attend, or students who are interested in attending one of our Military Academies.

The YLDP evaluation process is based on a point system which is given to both students, and parents at Orientation. All YLDP students should understand that future success in the YLDP is entirely in their hands. All students begin equally and are informed that points are earned exclusively by active participation in the YLDP. In March, YLDP qualified students can select up to three colleges, in order of preference, that they want to compete for scholarships to attend. Scholarship recipients are determined by the highest YLDP point totals. Through the experience of the fair and equal competition of the YLDP, final lessons the students learn is the joy found in having and successfully completing responsibility, an understanding of the work ethic needed to successfully compete, and the rewards earned for dedication, determination, and hard work.

Whether students have earned one of the many YLDP scholarships or not, the YLDP provides many valuable and rewarding lessons and experiences that help prepare students for the next phase of their lives.

The YLDP is a special experience for students that assists in heightening their awareness of the beliefs that "this nation will remain free only so long as it is the home of the brave". And an understanding that "the greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of faith, patriotism and character". In essence, the YLDP is an experiencing of what is the rightful "social inheritance" of every American child, to have faith, be given a moral foundation in order to develop good character and have a deep patriotic passion for the United States of America.

Youth Leadership Development Program Higher Education Partners

- Lawson State Community College – Dr. Cynthia Anthony, President
- Wallace State Community College – Dr. Vicki P. Karolewics, President
- Calhoun Community College – Dr. Jimmy Hodges, President
- Jefferson State Community College – Dr. Keith Brown, President
- Bevill State Community College – Dr. Joel Hagood, President
- University of Montevallo - Dr. John W. Stewart, III, President
- Auburn University – Dr. Christopher B Roberts, President
- UAB – Dr. Ray L. Watts, President
- Jacksonville State University – Dr. Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., President
- University of West Alabama – Dr. Ken Tucker, President
- Troy University – Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor
- The University of Alabama – Dr. Stuart R. Bell, President
- University of North Alabama – Dr. Ken Kitts, President
- Auburn University Montgomery – Dr. Carl Stockton, Chancellor
- Stillman College – Dr. Cynthia Warrick, President
- University of South Alabama – Mr. Jo Bonner, President
- Mississippi State University – Dr. Mark E Keenum, President
- Alabama A & M University – Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., President

- Huntingdon College – Mr. J. Cameron West, President
- Alabama State University – Dr. Quinton T Ross, Jr., President
- Georgia Highlands College – Dr. Mike Hobbs, President
- Marion Military Institute - Colonel David J. Mollahan, President
- Miles College – Dr. Bobbie Knight, President
- Allen University – Dr. Ernest McNealey, President
- Samford University – Mr. Beck A Taylor, President
- The University of Alabama in Huntsville – Dr. Charles A. Carr, President

Thanks to our consortium of community partners the Youth Leadership Development Program provides each select participant with the opportunity to enhance his/her already identified leadership abilities and take hold of his/her future. **Leadership like respect is earned not given!**

Youth Leadership Development Program Corporate and Individual Partners

- Wood Fruitticher Grocery – Mr. Dave Wood, II, CEO
- The VON Corporation
- Andrew’s Sports Medicine
- CSM Bennie Adkins Foundation

Participating School Systems and High Schools

- **Alabaster City School System**
 - Thompson High School
- **Athens City School System**
 - Athens High School
 - Athens Renaissance School
- **Bessemer City School System**
 - Bessemer City High School
- **Birmingham City School System**
 - George W Carver High School
 - Huffman High School
 - P D Jackson-Olin High School
 - A H Parker High School
 - Ramsay High School
 - Wenonah High School
 - Woodlawn High School
- **Blount County School System**
 - Appalachian High School
 - Cleveland High School
 - Hayden High School
 - J. B. Pennington High School
 - Locust Fork High School
 - Southeastern School
 - Susan Moore High School
- **Chilton County School System**
 - Chilton County High School
- **Cullman City School System**
 - Cullman High School
- **Cullman County School System**
 - Cold Springs High School
 - Fairview High School
 - Good Hope High School
 - Hanceville High School
 - Holly Pond High School
 - Vinemont High School
 - West Point High School
- **Decatur City School System**
 - Austin High School
 - Decatur High School
- **Fairfield City School System**
 - Fairfield High School
- **Hartselle City School System**
 - Hartselle High School

- **Hoover City School System**
 - Hoover High School
- **Homewood City School System**
 - Homewood High School
- **Jasper City School System**
 - Jasper High School
- **Jefferson County School System**
 - Clay-Chalkville High School
 - Corner High School
 - Center Point High School
 - Fultondale High School
 - Gardendale High School
 - Hueytown High School
 - McAdory High School
 - Minor High School
- **Leeds City School System**
 - Leeds High School
- **Limestone County School System**
 - Ardmore High School
 - East Limestone High School
 - Elkmont High School
- **Midfield City School System**
 - Midfield High School
- **Morgan County School System**
 - Brewer High School
 - Danville High School
 - Falkville High School
- **Mountain Brook School System**
 - Mountain Brook High School
- **Oneonta City School System**
 - Oneonta High School
- **Pelham City School System**
 - Pelham High School
- **Pell City School System**
 - Pell City High School
- **Shelby County School System**
 - Calera High School
 - Chelsea High School
 - Montevallo High School
 - Oak Mountain High School
- **Saint Clair County School System**
 - Ashville High School
 - Moody High School
 - Ragland High School
- **Tarrant City School System**
 - Tarrant High School
- **Trussville City School System**
 - Hewitt-Trussville High School
- **Vestavia Hills City School System**
 - Vestavia Hills High School
- **Walker County School System**
 - Curry High School
 - Cordova High School
- Spain Park High School
- Mortimer Jordan High School
- Oak Grove High School
- Pinson Valley High School
- Pleasant Grove High School
- Shades Valley High School
- Jefferson County IBS
- Clements High School
- Tanner High School
- West Limestone High School
- Priceville High School
- West Morgan High School
- Helena High School
- Shelby County School of Technology
- Shelby County High School
- Vincent High School
- Springville High School
- St. Clair County High School
- Carbon Hill High School
- Dora High School

- Oakman High School
 - Briarwood Christian School
 - Bessemer Academy
 - Cornerstone High School
 - Evangel Classical Christian School
 - Heritage Christian Academy
 - Victory Christian School
 - **Catholic Diocese of Birmingham**
 - John Carroll High School
- Holy Family High School

Executive Officio Advisory Board

Chairperson

- Mr. Dave Wood, Ret. Past CEO Wood Fruitticher Grocery

Members

- Colonel Roger Donlon, Medal of Honor Recipient
- General James Livingston, Medal of Honor Recipient
- Staff Sergeant Melvin Morris, Medal of Honor Recipient
- Dr Vicki Karolewics, President Wallace State Community College
- Dr Cynthia Anthony, President Lawson State Community College
- Dr Jimmy Hodges, President Calhoun Community College
- Dr Keith Brown, President Jefferson State Community College
- Dr Eric Mackey, Alabama State Superintendent of Education
- Dr Jack Hawkins, Chancellor Troy University
- Dr Mike Hobbs, President Georgia Highlands College
- Dr Don Killingsworth, President Jacksonville State University
- Dr John Stewart, President University of Montevallo
- Dr Carl Stockton, Chancellor Auburn University Montgomery
- Dr Cynthia Warrick, President Stillman College
- Kent Davis, Alabama Veterans Administration Commissioner
- Liz Huntley, Attorney, Auburn Trustee, Author
- Tom Walker, Founder The American Village
- Dr Perry Ward, Retired President Lawson State Community College
- Dr Odesa Woolfolk, Founder Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
- Mr Val Croft, The American Village

Advisory Committee

Committee Members

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dave Wood - Chairman ● Robert Holmes – Co-Chairman ● Stoney Beavers ● Mike Bolin ● Lauren Findlay ● Les Jackson ● Brian Kennedy ● Bill Lawson ● Taqua Lewis ● Chuck Marcum ● Ronnie McKinney | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scott Mohon ● Mitchie Neel ● Patrick Patterson ● Kelly Peoples ● Richard Phillips ● Terry Roller ● Dwight Satterfield ● April Tolbert ● Johnny Tooson ● Perry Ward |
|--|---|

YLDP Staff Members

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Geri Albright – galbright@lawsonstate.edu ● Todd Abbott – todd.wallace@wallacestate.edu ● Kevin Walsh – kevin@drkevinwalsh.com | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carol Ashworth – carol.ashworth@scouting.org ● Wesley Harris - wesley.harris@calhoun.edu |
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YLDP Scholarship Awards

Lawson State Community College—\$36,000
Three, Presidential Scholarships \$12,000 each

Wallace State Community College – \$36,000
Three, Presidential Scholarships \$12,000 each

Calhoun Community College – \$36,000
Three, Presidential Scholarships

Auburn University - \$150,000
Three, Full Tuition Scholarships \$40,000 each (Must be enrolled to Auburn)

The University of Alabama – \$150,000
Three, Presidential Scholarships (22 ACT / 3.0 GPA)

Jefferson State Community College – \$36,000
Three, Scholarships \$12,000 each

The University of West Alabama—\$100,000
Ten, \$2,500 per year for four years(19 ACT)

The University of Montevallo – \$78,000
One, \$4,500 per year(21 ACT), \$18,000
Five,\$3,000 per year (21 ACT), \$12,000 each

UAB – \$64,000
Three, \$2,000 per year/ \$16,000 each (24 ACT/2.5 GPA)

Huntingdon College—\$280,000
Five, \$14,000 per year
(no minimum GPA/ACT, providing YLDP students do not intend to participate in NCAA athletics)

Alabama State University—\$111,936
Three, Academic Incentive Scholarships- \$9,328 per year and up to \$500 in books for a max of eight
(must complete at least 24 credit hours per year and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA)

Troy University – \$50,000
One, Chancellor's Award 7,500 per year (25 ACT), \$30,000
Two, in Leadership Awards \$2,500 per year, \$10,000 each
(Cannot be stacked with Chancellors or Millennium Award)

Alabama A & M University - \$152,000
Four, Full Tuition Scholarships (21 ACT / 3.25 GPA)

Allen University - \$186,936
One, Presidential Scholarship (3.4 GPA, 24 ACT or 1150 SAT) Deadline NLT, April 15th
Two AU Honors Scholarship (3.3 GPA, No ACT or SAT required) Deadline NLT, April 15th - \$5,000 per year
Two AU Scholars Scholarship (2.99 GPA, No ACT OR SAT required) Deadline NLT, April 15th - 3,500 per Year

University of North Alabama – \$160,000
Twenty, \$2,000 per year
Can be stacked but not to exceed \$10,000/Year (18 ACT/3.0 GPA)

Lawson State
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



CALHOUN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA

Jefferson State
Community College

UWA
UNIVERSITY OF
WEST ALABAMA

UNIVERSITY of
MONTEVALLO

UAB



HUNTINGDON
COLLEGE



TROY
UNIVERSITY

ALABAMA
A&M
UNIVERSITY



University of
NORTH ALABAMA

YLDP Scholarship Awards

Auburn University Montgomery – \$78,000

Two, Chancellor's Awards \$4,000 per year

Two, \$3,000 onetime—2.5 GPA/17 ACT

Ten, Opportunity Scholarships \$1,000 per year (18 ACT or 950 SAT and 2.5 GPA)

Stillman College- \$60,000

Three, \$5,000 per year for four years (19 ACT/3.0 GPA)

The University of Iowa—\$100,000

Five, \$5,000 renewable for four years and stackable with other awards.

University of South Alabama – \$16,000

Two, \$2,000 per year Leadership Scholarships (24 ACT/3.0 GPA)

Must apply to USA Leadership Scholarship Program (complete application and be accepted)

Jacksonville State University - \$15,000

May be divided among several students

Mississippi State University—\$12,000

Three, \$1,000 renewable scholarships for 4 years (22 ACT and 3.0 GPA)

Bevill State Community College - \$24,000

Two, Presidential Scholarships \$12,000 each

Georgia Highlands College

TBD

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Four, Full Tuition . Cannot be stacked with other Institutional awards.

3.25 cumulative GPA. Students will need to meet required scholarship renewal criteria to continue to receive this award.

Miles College

TBD

Marion Military Institute

Three, 50% Tuition—Composite ACT of 19 or Higher / Unweighted Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or Higher

Samford University

Five - \$4,000 for four years

Athens State University

\$1,000 a year for two years

J F Drake State Community & Technical College

TBD

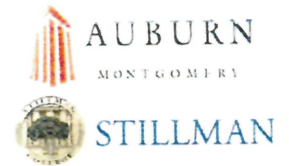
Tuskegee University

TBD

UNA—2,000 a year

Monetary scholarships - \$20,000+

For Partner College/University Only*Additional cash scholarships available through partner promotions



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

