

# The Valley

Volume 1, No. 37

*"The best way to find yourself is to  
lose yourself in the service of others."  
- Mahatma Gandhi*

**FREE**

# Weekly

Friday, May 22, 2015

## FMBC Sponsoring Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony

The public is invited to attend an Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony of Scout Troop 102, sponsored by First Missionary Baptist Church, on Saturday, May 23, at 5 p.m. at Lockheed Martin Corporation, 4800 Bradford Drive, NW, Building 403.

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) organization's highest award, the rank of Eagle Scout, will be presented to four high school seniors: Kendyl Waddell, Brandon Crutcher, George Young and Jarrod Humphrey.

The presentation will bring the total to 67 Boy Scouts from Troop 102 who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout since 1941. The BSA is one of the largest youth organizations in the United States, with 2.7 million youth members and over 1 million adult volunteers.

Scouting influenced the life of civil rights activist and pastor, Dr. Martin Luther King



Jr., who was a member of Scout Troop 156 in Atlanta, Ga. The rank of Eagle Scout may be earned by a Boy Scout who has been a Life Scout for at least six months, has earned a minimum of 21 merit badges, has demonstrated Scout Spirit, and has demonstrated leadership within his troop, team, crew or ship. Additionally, he must plan, develop, and lead a service project—the Eagle Project—that demonstrates both leadership and a commitment to duty.

After all requirements are met, he must complete an Eagle Scout board of review. Since its founding in 1910, as part of the international Scout Movement, more than 110 million Americans have been members of the BSA. Since its introduction in

1911, the Eagle Scout rank has been earned by more than two million young men or less than 5% of all Scouts.

The BSA's goal is to train youth in responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance through participation in a wide range of outdoor activities, educational programs, and, at older age levels, career-oriented programs in partnership with community organizations. For younger members, the Scout method is part of the program to inculcate typical Scouting values such as trustworthiness, good citizenship, and outdoor skills, through a variety of activities such as camping, aquatics, and hiking.

For further information, contact Scoutmaster Vern Spearman at (256) 656-1126 (cell), e-mail [vspearman@comcast.net](mailto:vspearman@comcast.net); or contact Assistant Scoutmaster Renan Scott at (256) 651-9184 (cell) or e-mail [renan.scott@lmco.com](mailto:renan.scott@lmco.com).

## Kappas Celebrate Special Week with Community Service



**KAPPA WEEK:** Members of Huntsville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. attend May 14, 2015 Huntsville City Council Meeting. Pictured (l-r) are John W. Beale, Jr., Tony Morgan, Christopher J. Calhoun, Sr. (Chapter Polemarch), Tommy Battle (Mayor of Huntsville, Alabama), Councilman Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. (District 1), Carlen J. Chestang, Jr. (Chapter Vice Polemarch), and James Mitchell.

During the Week of May 17-23, 2015, the Huntsville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., celebrated its Annual Senior Kappa Week.

Senior Kappa Week 2015 kicked off Sunday, May 17, by with members attending the 7:45 a.m. worship service at the Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. The scheduled community service activities for the week included:

- Monday, May 18, 10 a.m., a visit to Lakewood Elementary School to read and interact with the

students.

- Tuesday, May 19, 10 a.m., a visit to James L. Dawson Elementary School to read and interact with the students.

- Wednesday, May 20, a visit to the Floyd E. Tutt Fann Veterans Home

- Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Health Education and Wellness Fair at the Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. Recreation Center. The fair will focus on prostate cancer education, and blood pressure and diabetes screening.

Throughout the week, the fraternity focused on

senior members of the fraternity (age 60 and above) as they continue their dedicated and tireless efforts to serve the Huntsville/Madison, Ala. vicinity through community service projects and initiatives.

For additional information, please contact Christopher J. Calhoun, Sr., (Chapter Polemarch) at (256) 655-8051 (call/text) or Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. (Senior Kappa Committee Chairman) at (256) 337-1323.

*by Efreem J. Hanson*

Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., of Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc.

## Fourteenth Annual Leadership Awards Banquet

Saturday, June 6, 2015 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Ernest L. Knight Reception Center

Alabama A&M University

Ticket information: \$50.00 per person ~ Reserved Tables \$500.00 ~ Ticket Information: 256-656-4698

Deadline for tickets and table reservations: Friday, May 29, 2015

### 2015 HONOREES



**2015 Honorees**, pictured above from left to right: Civic/Community Award, **William and Edna Fails**, Kimberly Fails Jones Memorial Foundation, Inc.; Corporate Award, **Mr. Deke Damson**, Damson Automotive Group; Educational Award, **Dr. Kemba Chambers**; Government and Industry Award, **Dr. Ruth D. Jones and Mr. Abner Merriweather**; Government Relations Award, **The Honorable Paul Sanford**; Religious Award, **Dr. Bobby Sledge**; Small Business Award, **Mr. Neal Gladden**, Xcel Printing Service.



Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc. Alumna of the Year, **Mrs. Sadie L. Pleasure**;  
Huntsville Progressive Allumni Chapter, Inc., Alumnus of the Year, **Mr. Gary T. Whitley, Jr.**;  
William Hooper Council Distinguished Alumna Award, **Mrs. Carolyn H. Parker**

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what jazz is,  
you'll never know.*

- Louis Armstrong

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# From the Editor

*Ah, Memorial Day!*

Pools are open, grills are uncovered and smoking, families are beginning the summer travel season, and we will remember those who died while serving in the armed forces. Some of us had the great opportunity last Friday to attend a cookout in honor of Mother

Thelma Brooks at the home of Brother Tommy Johnson in Madison. Mother Brooks is leaving Huntsville next week for Dallas, Texas. Pastor Rev. T. C. Johnson of St. Luke Christian Church and about 50 friends enjoyed delicious food and wonderful fellowship. I have the Columbus, Ohio, connection with Thelma, who is leaving a life-long gift with our family. Last year, she taught us how to play Poker-Keeno! And, each time our family gathers and is looking for something fun to do, we find ourselves playing Poker-Keeno, typically after dinner. It has created an awesome way for us to have fun and enjoy watching each person trying to win for hours. At the age of 89, Mrs. Rosetta James loves to play. She is a very strategic player who wins most of the time. Thanks, Thelma, for caring and sharing. We will miss you as you move to be close to you daughter in Dallas. Blessings!

On May 15, 2015, the National Safety Council (NSC) estimates 383 fatalities from crashes could occur for the upcoming Memorial Day holiday weekend, beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 22, and ending at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, May 25. NSC estimates another 46,300 medically consulted injuries may occur over the traditional summer kick-off weekend from motor vehicle collisions. Total traffic fatalities for May 2015 are estimated to total 3,073. "Memorial Day is the unofficial start of summer fun for families around the country, but unfortunately the long holiday weekend will end with death and injury for far too many," said Deborah Hersman, NSC president and CEO. Hersman indicated that these tragedies are completely preventable (<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/nearly-400-fatalities-from-crashes-this-memorial-day-weekend-estimates-national-safety-council-300084247.html>).

NSC has some specific recommendations that include buckling up on every trip, every time—even when traveling a short distance. Tips offered to ensure a safe Memorial Day include: Reducing your speed; Refraining from using cell phones or devices—hands-free or handheld; Placing children in age-appropriate safety seats; Designating a sober driver or take alternate transportation if you consume alcohol--do not get behind the wheel. Impairment begins with the first drink; drive defensively and exercise caution, especially during bad weather.

Many families visit indoor and outdoor public pools and spas during the summer swimming season and year-round. Public pool and spa owners and operators should follow local, state and federal regulations to ensure the safety of their facilities. By checking to see if a public pool or spa is using appropriate water safety practices, you can further ensure the safety of self, your family and your community.

In America, we pause to remember the men and women who have died in service within the armed forces. Some of us will place memorials and flags in cemeteries to honor them. We know that "freedom is not free," and we value and honor the sacrifices of the men and women who serve!

Until next week,

*Dorothy*



TOP RIGHT: *Mother Thelma Brooks, bottom left, with (back row, l-r) Angel Anthony, Milton Garrett, LaQueena Douglas, Linda Garrett; and (front row, l-r) host Tommy Johnson and Lubirda Jackson.*

*When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us on-line at [www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com).*



# A Time to Remember Those Who Defended Our Freedom

It was three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, that the head of an organization of Union veterans—the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)—established “Decoration Day” as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, it is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

Government sources record that the first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Several local groups have claimed to have been the first to observe their war dead. Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., on April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed

at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

Even today, towns and cities in the North and the South claim to be the

birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, Ga., claim the title, as well as Richmond, Va. The village of Boalsburg, Pa., claims Memorial Day began there two years earlier. And yet a stone in a Carbonale, Ill., cemetery carries the statement that the first

Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866. Carbonale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

However, in 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., as the “birthplace” of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War.

Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo’s claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community-wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities.

It was not until after

World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

Many Southern states also have their own days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday of April, Alabama on the fourth Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it on May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day.

Gen. Logan’s order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 “with the choicest flowers of springtime” urged: “We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ... Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of



reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.”

Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave—a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.

To ensure the sacrifices of America’s fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law “The National Moment of Remembrance Act,” P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of

Remembrance. The commission’s charter is to “encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity” by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. As Moment of Remembrance founder Carmella LaSpada states: “It’s a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day.”

(Photos by Jerome Saintjones)

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# Huntsville Site of State's First Cabela's

The state's first Cabela's outdoor sports retailer is now looking to hire management personnel for its massive superstore under construction in Huntsville.

Cabela's is a Midwestern hunting, fishing and outdoor sports retailer that will be located in the Parkside Town Centre development in the vicinity of Bridge Street Town Centre.

Dick and Mary Cabela and Dick's brother James Cabela retained 25% ownership of the now public company which trades under the stock symbol CAB.

About half of Cabela's sales are derived from hunting-related merchandise and about a third come from the sale of firearms, ammunition and accessories.

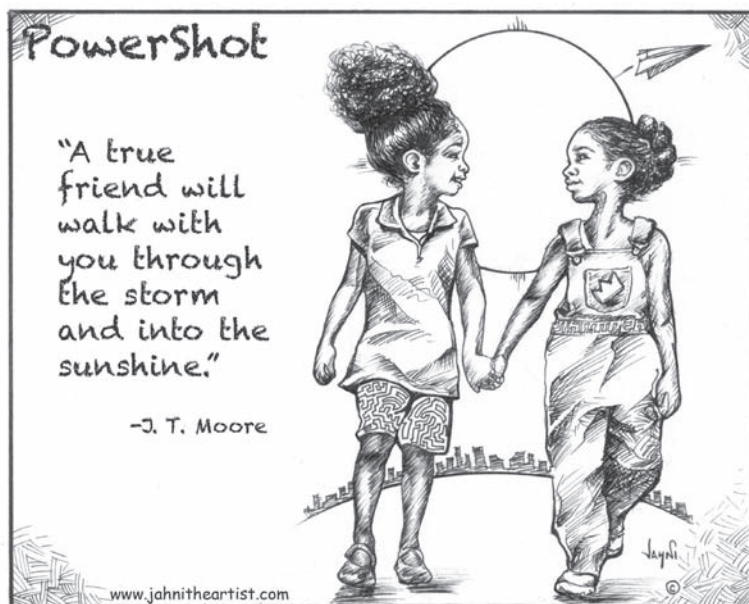
Additionally, in 2012, a third of the company's revenue came from direct sales (through catalog and online orders), and nearly two-thirds from physical retail stores.

According to company promos, Cabela's provides a unique look to its retail operations that in effect makes its stores tourist attractions. The stores become like cavernous showrooms that bring the wild inside.

They also highlight museum-grade exhibits of taxidermied wildlife, large aquariums, indoor mountains, and archery ranges. The Kansas City, Kansas store of over 180,000 square feet attracted

more than four million customer visits in one year. Currently, the largest Cabela's retail facility is in Hamburg,

Pennsylvania, with more than 250,000 square feet (23,000 m2) of floor space.



# Choir to Pay Tribute to Bradfords' Musical Legacy



Former Alabama A&M University Choir members making up the Nell Lane Bradford Legacy Choir come together for "Thanks for the Music II," a tribute to the rich, more than 40-year musical legacy of Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr. and Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford.

Choral tribute will be held

Saturday, June 13, at the Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church at 5 p.m. The church is located at 1917 Brandontown Road, NW in Huntsville, Ala.



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## Good Samaritan Hospice Lauds Director

This is the first in a series of articles to introduce Valley Weekly readers to Good Samaritan Hospice.

Good Samaritan Hospice (GSH) is a locally owned and operated hospice provider. Its mission statement is: "To compassionately provide our community with extraordinary palliative and hospice care." In these first few articles, GSH will highlight the employees who make Good Samaritan Hospice the premier hospice provider for Huntsville and the entire North Alabama area.

The featured employee this week is David Hereford, Director

of Marketing. Hereford has been with Good Samaritan Hospice for three years and is passionate about hospice care. He graduated from the University of Alabama in Huntsville with a degree in sociology and communication and from Colorado Technical University with a master's degree in information technology.

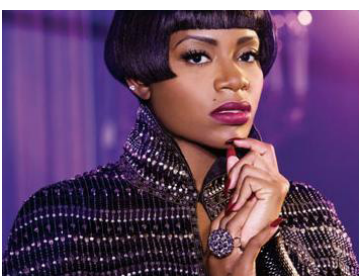
After a rewarding tenure at Brookshire Health and Rehab, helping families care for their loved ones, Hereford recognized the need to educate families and his community about hospice care, so he joined the team at Good Samaritan Hospice. He helps to spread the word about

the benefits of hospice care to physicians, nurses, and social workers, along with church and civic groups and the public in general.

His hobbies include golf, writing, karaoke, and the joy of his life is his son, David Lee Hereford, Jr. Among David's favorite quotes is this gem from George Bernard Shaw: "Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself."

To learn more about hospice care or to schedule a speaking engagement for your group, call Hereford at (256) 772-8108.

## Fantasia Added to VBC Schedule



her New York Times bestselling memoir, *Life Is Not a Fairytale*, starred as her younger self in the Lifetime movie of the same name and by year's end, released her

second album, entitled, simply, *Fantasia*, which included the hit single, "When I See U." During the summer of 2011, she released her third album, *Back to Me*.

One of the most prolific, soulful voices of the last decade has been added to the summer listings of the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Fantasia is scheduled to perform in the Rocket City at 8:30 p.m. on August 23.

Back in 2004, on the night of May 26, a then-19-year-old Fantasia Barrino stepped onto the American Idol stage and won top honors. After wowing television audiences with her vocal talent, the North Carolina native released her debut album, *Free Yourself*, which featured as its first single, "I Believe," a song that made her the first artist in Billboard history to debut at #1 on the Hot 100 chart. Her second single, "Truth Is," would later hold the #1 spot on the charts for 14 weeks.

During 2006, she released

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## Parental Empowerment

First Missionary Baptist Church will launch a new initiative at 5:30 p.m. on August 11, 2015, called "Parental Empowerment." This initiative will help to empower the parents so they will be able to assist their children with their nightly homework.

A team of educators, hereafter known as the E-Team, will help the parents help their children. The empowerment classes will be held for one hour, one night a week; consisting of two 30-minute sessions. The first session will focus on math and the last session will focus on reading. These are not tutoring sessions for the students, but instead empowerment sessions for the parents. This initiative is open to the parents of students currently enrolled in the Huntsville City School District.

If you have a child enrolled in the Huntsville City School System and you want to become better equipped to help him/her with the nightly homework, you may make a commitment to participate in these sessions by registering at [www.fmbc.org](http://www.fmbc.org) or at the church.

A completed commitment form (Page 7) must be received to ensure the team has enough resources available for everyone. For further information, contact Sis. Leadrester W. Granger at (256) 653-1488, [leadrester.granger@hotmail.com](mailto:leadrester.granger@hotmail.com) or Deacon Joe Henderson at (256) 683-5648 or [joedochenderson@verizon.net](mailto:joedochenderson@verizon.net). (Form on Page 7)

# Valley Conservatory to Hold Spring Recitals

The Valley Conservatory will hold Spring Recitals on Saturday, May 30, at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church. The church is located at 301 Drake Avenue. The recitals will continue on Sunday, May 31, at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

The Valley Conservatory is a music service center with programs designed to develop all aspects of a student's mind, body and character. Its programs incorporate a holistic approach to learning to develop the total student through the medium of music.

The Valley Conservatory believes music is an art and a science involving both left and right brain activity. Its philosophy is that the aesthetic and technical



aspects of music can be used to teach concepts and principles from academic, physical, spiritual and social realms.

Conceptual thinking is vital to a complete music education ex-

perience. This philosophy gives teachers unlimited resources in conveying musical principals to the student.

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Holistic instruction enables the student to use mathematical concepts to figure out the meter or listen to the sounds of nature to understand the aesthetic beauty of a piece of music.

Interested? Call (256) 536-3131 for details.

## “Parental Empowerment” Form

(See Page 6)

Parents/  
Guardians' Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information:  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include Area Codes)

Student(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s) for 2015/16 \_\_\_\_\_

School of Record: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name, Address, Phone #, and Principal's Name)

Child Care Needed: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Age(s) of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation Needed: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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- Popcorn & ice cream free for kids ages 10 and under.

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*Car Show Registration Form*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing, you accept responsibility for your vehicle and release St. Rebecca and Car Show Organizers from any liability suffered by you or your vehicle while attending this Car Show.

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**ALL REGISTRATION FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE!**

**Mail To:**  
St. Rebecca P. B. Church  
330 Grimwood Road – P. O. Box 40  
Hazel Green, AL 35750  
Attention: Karol Hersey

Rain Date – June 20, 2015

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# DLC

## Tennessee Valley

# Diversity Leadership Colloquium



*Accepting Applications  
for Cohort 3!*

### Vision:

The Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) advances leadership excellence by advocating and progressing the affirmation and inclusion of diversity in strategic markets and communities of interest for competitive intelligence.

### Mission:

DLC's mission is to become a premier provider of diversity training for inspiring and experienced leaders throughout the lifecycle.

### Values:

Our values are: Collaboration for Excellence; Appreciation with Insight; Respect for Understanding; and Empathy for all ... C.A.R.E.

DLC offers inspiring and experienced leaders with opportunities to benefit from qualified and seasoned trainers, scholars, and business professionals who share and discuss research and best practices regarding obtaining excellence through diversity.

DLC is designed for individuals interested in gaining access to networks, mentors, and sponsors that have traditionally not been available to diverse members of the broader community. Enrollees will be exposed to topics such as: Understanding and Embracing Diversity, Organizational Culture and Structural Reform, Racial and Gender Intelligence, Social Justice and Equality, Networking and Mentoring, Politics, Heroes and Holidays, Critical Thinking and Self-Affirmation and Living the CARE Values.

Individuals and companies are making sincere efforts in verbalizing a commitment to diversity excellence. However, we must be trained to build the next generation of leaders who have the skill sets, tools and commitment to execute.

### Training Schedule

DLC will run four quarterly, eight-week colloquia. The sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Participant cannot miss more than 2 sessions.

Location: 415-A Church Street - Downtown Huntsville  
Enrollment limited to: 16 - **Tuition:** \$795

### 2015 Schedule

**Summer** July 7 – August 25 - Deadline to register (June 7, 2015)  
**Fall** Oct 6 – Nov 24 - Deadline to register (September 6, 2015)

### To Apply

- Application Form
- 3 References
- Resume
- Photo

**Tuition Payable Upon Acceptance**

## DLC Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium APPLICATION FORM

**Requirements:** Application Form - 3 References - Resume -  
Photo and Tuition (Both Required upon Acceptance)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_ Business/Home \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Citizen?  Yes  No Enrolling Quarter \_\_\_\_\_

### Education

High School Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Graduated: Yes  No

College(s) Attended \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Career Field \_\_\_\_\_

### References

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this Application Form, 3 Letters of Reference, and Resume to: 415A Church Street-Ste. 100, Huntsville, AL 35801 - (256) 651-9028; visit us at [www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com](http://www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com); or e-mail [info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.com](mailto:info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.com). Tuition and photo will be required only if accepted to participate.