

Best of Young DETROIT

Section C-3

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A unifying 'VIBE' lifts students at Western International H.S.!



An ongoing source of good news: At school and in their community, members of the VIBE Dream Team at Western International High School are about impacting their world for the better.

Unity Mural honors history and captures power of today's youth



By Scott Talley
Special to the Michigan Chronicle

The "Best of Young Detroit" desperately wanted to share a story promoting unity and diversity before 2017 came to a close and quite fittingly, students at Western International High School came to our rescue.

These tremendous students are members of the Western International VIBE Dream Team, which is a part of The Future Project. As we have reported in the "Best of Young Detroit," The Future Project is helping students at participating Detroit schools unlock their potential and build the skills they need to change their lives and our world for the better.

At Western, through the VIBE Dream Team, the impact of The Future Project can be felt and seen in a powerful way including a breathtaking VIBE Dream Team Unity Mural at the school. And the brilliant creation would not have been possible without special contributions from each team member.

Viewing the Unity Mural, even on a photograph, is an uplifting experience. The diverse subjects displayed on the mural represent nothing less than some of the best examples of humanity including the celebrated labor leader and civil rights activist Cesar Chavez; the powerful writer and social critic James Baldwin; Grace Lee Boggs, a philosopher, feminist, and human rights advocate for seven decades (much of that time spent in Detroit); Malala Yousafzai, an unrelenting champion for the education of women and children in her native land and the youngest Nobel Prize laureate; Rosa Parks, who so gracefully showed the true power that lies within women and all oppressed people as one of the catalysts of the American Civil Rights Movement; and, Malcolm X (Al-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz), who like many African American males living today was written off by society as a young Malcolm Little before he awakened and transformed into a dynamic human rights leader.

The historical giants just listed, and more, can be found on the Unity Mural. But while the history displayed on the mural is immense and inspiring, the members of the VIBE Dream Team at Western are nowhere near finished when it comes to being a positive force in their community. In fact, just a few days before this section was going to press, Jessica Care Moore, The Future Project director of the VIBE Dream Team, informed the "Best of Young Detroit" that her students were embarking on a courtyard beautification project to help display even more positivity across their proud Southwest Detroit neighborhood.

Known perhaps a little for the unique spelling of her name (a tribute to activist bell hooks), and even more for her work as an

internationally renowned poet, playwright, performance artist and producer, Jessica Care Moore also cares a great deal about students at Western International High School and across our city. When Moore said "there are some great young people in our city that don't get press," the "Best of Young Detroit" felt even more compelled to share this story now. And we were able to do so with her help and the assistance of many others, including Mario Llanas, a senior at Western who took the beautiful photos that accompany this story; and, the outstanding Western International principal Angel Garcia, a Western International alum (Class of 2000), who has created an awesome school environment where students and initiatives like the VIBE Dream Team can flourish.

In closing, "The Best of Young Detroit" wishes to give the last word to a small sampling of the Western International High School students that made the VIBE Dream Team Mural possible.



Christina Cervantes, senior: "The mural shows the culture, ethnicities, and the people of our community and Southwest Detroit. It shows the struggles of our community and how Detroit came to be!"



Chelsea Gomez-Jimenez, senior: "This mural to me represents the diversity going on in this school. Every time a student looks at this mural, they feel a sense of belonging."



Dayana Juarez, senior: "I'm happy that the first mural in our school connects us all and represents where we come from."



Mario A. Llanas, senior: "Everyone is human. Race, skin color or language shouldn't be factors that divide us. As a Latino hearing all the comments about Mexicans hurt because my family isn't anything like that. This mural is just one of the many projects I've been involved with to show unity in the world."



Yaynele Navarro, senior: "Our school is amazingly diverse, full of unique people from different backgrounds. The mural was meant to show this, make it known that despite our differences, we are all the same—Human!"



Jose Nova, senior: "The mural was a great way for to show how diverse the school actually is."



Aariah Williams, senior: "The Vibe Dream Team would not have been what it is today without the people, because no builder builds alone."



Young Visionaries on a Positive Mission

Following is the lineup for the 2017-18 Western International VIBE Dream Team:

Dream Director, Poet in Residence
Jessica Care Moore

Painter in Residence
Sabrina Nelson

Student Members
Aariah Williams

Amyre Thomas

Araceli Zamudio

Tainshi Shenshiwu

Asia Wilson

Brianna Griffin

Alondra Alvarez

Thomas Brooks

Alexis Garcia

Chelsea Gomez-Jimenez

Christina Cervantes

Kavion Bradley

Java Henry

Katelyn Watts

Donell Allante Johnson

Daeja Giles

Virginia Durham

Michael Holmes

Michelle Tinker

Terrance Davis

Dayana Juarez

De'Ongele Fransisco

Denysse Camarena

D'Sean Broaden

Egypt Jackson Thomas

Elizabeth Tinker

Esther Guerrero

Fatima Barba

Geneida Meza

Irma Jaramillo

James Hodge

Kharielle Thomas

Yaynele Navarro

Jose Nava

Keairra Walker

Mario Llanas

Elizabeth Tinker

Trevor Smith

Tyrecia Hales

Vanessa Quiroz

Timesha Cottingham

Jaylen Kittrell

Nathan Elswick

Karen Ruiz

Celine Guerrero

Daniela Morales

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Introducing Dante Hollis: A champion and a leader!



Dante Hollis

Student-athletes from Detroit schools can be found pursuing higher education while playing sports at locales across the country, including Campbellsville, Kentucky, where Dante Hollis, a product of King High School, is now a standout offensive lineman at Campbellsville University. At Campbellsville, Hollis has experienced the joys of being a conference champion and a National Christian College Athletics Association (NCCAA) national champion. With the help of our friend, Jarvis Larue Brown, a mentor to many youth across our city, the “Best of Young Detroit” was able to communicate with Hollis and we learned that he is most grateful to the people that provided the foundation for his success. “I would like to thank Jarvis, my dad (Darrell Beavers) and my uncle (Darryl Beavers) because they were always on me about being a better man and pushed me to do better in life,” said Hollis, a three-year starter and first team all-conference selection on the field, who is majoring in nursing with a minor in health care administration. Hollis added: “I knew that I didn’t want to be another statistic in life, so they (my role models) made sure I wasn’t. They taught me core values that a young man should hold himself accountable too. They made

me want to be a leader not only for my family, but for my community as well.” The “Best of Young Detroit” salutes Dante Hollis, who continues to make his mark in the classroom and on the football field. Following are other student-athletes from Detroit that we cheer for that are now on display during the college basketball season:



Kenny Carpenter

Kenny Carpenter, Cleveland State/Cass Tech, the senior guard registered 14 points, four rebounds and two assists in a 72-62 defeat at Kent State on Dec. 2.



Darrell Davis

Darrell Davis, Dayton/Frederick Douglass, the senior guard stuffed the stat sheet with 17 points, 10 rebounds, four steals and three assists in a 61-59 defeat at Mississippi State on Dec. 3.



Greg Elliott

Greg Elliott, Marquette/East English Village, the freshman guard contributed nine assists, seven points, one steal, and a blocked shot in a 95-69 victory against Chicago State on Nov. 29.



Terrell Hales

Terrell Hales, Cleveland State/Frederick Douglass, the senior guard came off the Vikings’ bench to contribute two rebounds, an assist and a steal during a hard-fought 72-69 defeat at East Carolina on Nov. 20.



Arshawn Parker

Arshawn Parker, Albion/Mumford, the junior guard contributed seven points and three steals in an 83-78 defeat against Illinois Tech on Dec. 2.



Noah King

Noah King, Ferris State/University of Detroit Jesuit, the senior guard/forward scored 16 points in a 91-57 victory against Ashland on Dec. 2.



Martez Walker

Martez Walker, Oakland University/Pershing, the redshirt senior guard scorched the nets with 32 points in a 78-73 victory at Western Michigan on Dec. 2.



Jaylin McFadden

Jaylin McFadden, Ferris State/East English Village, the redshirt freshman guard/forward contributed nine points, three rebounds, an assist and a blocked shot in a 99-83 victory against Tiffin on Nov. 30.



Corey Wheeler

Corey Wheeler, Albion/Renaissance, the senior guard scored 20 points in an 83-78 defeat against Illinois Tech on Dec. 2.



Brailen Neely

Brailen Neely, Oakland University/Western, the sophomore guard contributed nine assists, three rebounds and two steals in a 78-73 victory at Western Michigan on Dec. 2.



Chase for the championship: The proud girls basketball program at Martin Luther King Senior High School celebrated another championship following the 2016-2017 season. This season’s title quest begins Monday, Dec. 11 when basketball league play for girls kicks off in the PSL.



Monday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m.

Division 1

Denby at Henry Ford
Renaissance at King
Pershing at Cody
Mumford at East English Village
Osborn at Cass

Division 2

Davis Aerospace at Central
DCP Northwestern at Southeastern
Detroit International Academy at West Side Academy
Delta Prep at Communication & Media Arts
Leadership Academy at Western

Impact Player Made in “The D”



Ohio State senior safety Damon Webb celebrates breaking up a pass during the Big Ten Championship Game versus Wisconsin on Dec. 2 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. The former Cass Tech standout had even more reason to celebrate later in the game, when his interception sealed a 27-21 Ohio State victory. The season will continue for Webb and the Buckeyes on Dec. 29 when Ohio State takes on the University of Southern California (USC) in the Cotton Bowl.



Sweet Homecoming

The Pistons’ were in excellent form on Nov. 29, during a 131-107 victory against the Phoenix Suns at Little Caesars Arena. However, the evening also was special for the Suns’ rookie swingman Josh Jackson, who was playing in front of Detroit fans for the first time as a professional. Jackson, who spent most of his childhood in Detroit, led Detroit Consortium College Preparatory High School to the Michigan High School Athletic Association Class C state championship in 2014 before transferring to Prolific Prep in California. Against the Pistons, playing in front of many family members and friends, Jackson proved he was worthy of being the fourth overall selection in the 2017 NBA Draft, as he poured in a career-high 20 points, to go with seven rebounds and three steals.

“Best of Young Detroit” Flashback

Detroit’s own Mike Robinson scored in bunches at MSU



which he averaged 24.7 points as a sophomore, 25.7 points as a junior and 22.4 points during his senior campaign, when he played through an injury.

A three-time first team All Big Ten selection, Robinson scored 35 points or more four times during his collegiate career, including a 40-point outburst against Northwestern in 1973.

Tutored by legendary Detroit Public School League coach Robert Smith at Northeastern, Robinson immediately served notice to the entire Big Ten that he would be a force to reckon with by scoring 25, 29, 20 and 32 points in his first four varsity games as a member of the Spartans. His highlight reel as a collegian also included scoring 36 points as a sophomore against an Indiana team coached by Bob Knight, and scoring 37 points in a 96-92 upset win against Michigan. Robinson did all of that and more, as his silky one-handed jumper became a fixture at Jenison Field House and gyms across the Big Ten. And armed with a Michigan State education, Robinson would go on to score even more victories as a successful businessman and entrepreneur.

For proving that the size of a person’s character and conviction matter most, Mr. Robinson should always be celebrated by fans of Michigan State and Detroit PSL basketball, as well as by people across our community today because he set a wonderful example for our youth to follow. The “Best of Young Detroit” thanks the Lansing State Journal for capturing the image of Mr. Robinson during his MSU days, which is displayed with this story. We also thank our good friend Mike “Tiger” Price for recommending that Mr. Robinson be the subject of this week’s “Flashback.”

Your Feedback Matters

The “Best of Young Detroit” welcomes feedback from our community. Please submit story suggestions and other comments

to Scott Talley at stalleyassociates@gmail.com or 313-590-3686.

