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2009 PILLARS AWARDS BRUNCH SEPTEMBER 19th

(Miami, FL.) - Young Pillars will be spotlighted this year at the Ninth Annual Pillars Awards presented by the Miami-Dade County Black Affairs Advisory Board's Heritage Planning Committee. Scholarships will be presented during a gospel brunch at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 19th at the Biscayne Bay Marriott Hotel, 1633 North Bayshore Drive. The Master of Ceremonies for the event is WPLG-TV 10 Anchor Reporter Calvin Hughes. Tickets are \$35 per person which includes brunch and a gospel concert. Dr. Lester Brown will also be honored for his contributions to education and the community.

This year committee members opted to provide financial support to young people attending college or technical school, due to the current economic climate. The students, their respective institutions and majors selected to be presented scholarships are: Zyheart Bess, Florida A & M University (Political Science); Richard Way, III, Florida Memorial University (Finance/Criminal Justice); Ky'Eisha Penn, Howard University (Nursing); Shakimah Blake, St. Augustine's College (Sociology); Jha-Kari Selver, University of South Florida (Journalism) and Christina Graham, Florida Memorial University, (Biology/Nursing). Committee members also decided to institute a "scholarship lottery" wherein one student enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution will receive a partial scholarship provided they attend the gospel brunch and bring a transcript or proof of enrollment and a "statement of need."

(more)

“Our focus this year is on providing much needed financial assistance to our future Pillars,” said Heritage Planning Committee Chairman Edgar Wright. “We recognize that during these tough times, young people need our support more than ever and our total effort will be geared toward helping them to begin or continue their education. The affair will begin with a silent auction at 11:30 a.m., followed by the scholarship presentation, recognition of community/ corporate partners and gospel concert by local group, “*Heaven’s Own*.”

The Black Heritage Planning Committee is a subcommittee of the Black Affairs Advisory Board. It is comprised of volunteer Miami-Dade County employees who plan and implement activities throughout the year aimed at increasing visibility and recognition for the contributions of members and descendents of the African Diaspora. The Annual Pillars Awards recognizes people from the community who often work behind the scenes and are rarely known. The group recognizes “Young Pillars”—youth who aspire to become pillars through their positive contributions to the community. This year’s scholarship sponsors include:

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For further details on the Black Affairs Advisory Board or the Annual Pillars Awards, call (305) 375-4606 or visit our website at www.miamidade.gov/baab.

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