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Learn from filmmakers, business people at Urgent's Youth Conference

Young CEOs to share success stories with more than 50 attendees in July

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For the fourth year, Miami Dade College North partnered with Urgent Inc. to host the annual Youth Economic Development Conference on July 11-12.

Conference highlights include the Youth Town Hall meeting focused on education and employment and an entrepreneurship panel featuring CEOs under the age of 20.

Day one keynote speaker is carpenter and mechanical expert Lowell Gelin, who participated in 2016. Gelin is the CEO and automotive diagnostic specialist of On Call Mechanics in Davie.

"I mentor incarcerated youth on a weekly basis. We've trained and employed young people who want to get experience in the mechanic and automotive industry," Gelin said. "So, when asked if I would share my passion with young people at this conference for the second year, the answer was a resounding yes."

MoZIAH Bridges of Moz Bows is a 15-year old CEO and the keynote speaker on Day Two. MoZIAH began his career as a bowtie designer at the age of 9. He was introduced to the craft by his grandmother who gave him the materials, taught him how to sew and let him get creative. He credits her with giving his wardrobe "a major upgrade." That creativity has led him to a contract designing ties and bowties for ball players in the National Basketball Association.

He and mother, Tramica, will share the opportunities and challenges families endure when embarking on the pursuit of a young entrepreneur's dreams.

Urgent Inc.'s Vice President Salhia Nelson expects about 500 youth to attend the free, two-day conference on Miami Dade College North Campus, located at 11380 NW 27th Ave.

Rising out of the ashes of the 1980s riots and the depressed economy of the 1990s, Urban Renewal Greater Enhancement National Team, now known widely as Urgent Inc., was founded in 1994 by a group of concerned residents who wanted to see change in Miami's urban core. The program has evolved into a youth and community development corporation.

The conference will offer youth ages 14-21 a free interactive and educational experience including the Youth 4 Social Change Film Festival. The festival premieres shorts from filmmakers from around the country, and a winning short will be selected at the end of the conference. There will be workshops, youth-led expos and master classes from film and television industry professionals.

The balance of the conference will focus on Arts, Coding and Technology, Entrepreneurship, Hospitality and Tourism and Journalism, all industries inline with Miami-Dade County's One Community, One Goal.

Miami Dade College North Campus will also offer student-led campus tours, credited certification courses in Technology and Film, and an introduction to areas of Sciences and Forensics.

The conference is a winning opportunity for youth, literally.

"Last year's conference was awesome. We presented our radio talk show with Ms. Jill Tracey," says 18-year old Deondre Marshall. "And I designed the T-shirts selected for the conference. It was the T-shirt with the globe as puzzle pieces and it read, 'Shaping the World; Putting the Pieces Together.' I thought, youth have the power to change the world so how about we build it."

The Art Competition will select and feature youth artwork and the Youth Mart, where young inventors and merchants sell their wares. Additionally, young inventors and entrepreneurs can pitch their ideas at the Urban Philanthropies Business Pitch Competition and the winners will receive start-up funds and equipment.

Visit www.urgentincconference.com to register. For more info about Urgent Inc., email valamerem@urgentinc.org or visit www.urgentinc.org.