

# Education

## New youth support center is fourth in Twin Cities, 15th nationally

## Hope Community and Best Buy open Best Buy Teen Tech Center in Minneapolis

Community leaders and residents gathered this past Tuesday (Jan. 16) to celebrate the grand opening of the newest Best Buy Teen Tech Center at Hope Community in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis.

The new location is the fourth to open in the Twin Cities and 15<sup>th</sup> to open nationwide.

At the center, teens can explore a variety of

technologies including design, music production, programming and more. Young women attending the center can participate in the Career Pathway program sponsored by the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, which offers post-high school career readiness help, including internships and mentorship.

"We at Hope have learned that technology is a powerful vehicle for youth to learn, develop new skills, share their story and speak up for their beliefs," said Hope Community Executive Director Shannon Jones. "Youth come here because they find opportunities that don't exist elsewhere, and a community of people that believe in their brilliance."

Best Buy Teen Tech Centers address the region's and nation's opportunity gap by offering teens free, year-round, hands-on technology access and education in an



William Woodworth  
Mentor Armani Wade (glasses) and technology student Dredrick Cox working on a design program at the new Best Buy Teen Tech Center at Hope Community.

after-school setting. The new center at Hope Community, 611 E. Franklin Ave., is open 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday. Teens

between the ages of 13-18 can use the center by becoming members, and membership is free.

"Over the next decade, 1.4 million U.S. jobs will

require tech skills, yet only 400,000 people will be trained for these jobs," said Best Buy Community Relations Director Andrea Wood. "With community-

based job readiness resources declining, we're working to provide essential access to technology tools and training, and couldn't be happier to make a difference for underserved teens and families in our own backyard."

Hope Community's mission is to create connections that strengthen the power of community members and communities. Based in the Phillips Community just two miles south of downtown Minneapolis, Hope has developed 263 apartment homes with partners (70 percent affordable). More than 700 youth and adults connect annually with Hope.

The goal is by 2020, 60 Best Buy Teen Tech Centers across the U.S., Canada and Mexico will enable nearly 20,000 teens annually to experience technology through year-round, after-school programs.

**INSIGHT NEWS**  
www.insightnews.com

Insight News is published weekly, every Monday by McFarlane Media Interests.

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Member: Minnesota Multicultural Media Consortium (MMMC), Midwest Black Publishers Coalition, Inc. (MBPCI), National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA)

Postmaster: Send address changes to McFarlane Media Interests, Marcus Garvey House 1815 Bryant Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55411.



## Experiential after-school program supports students in North Minneapolis Junior Achievement and Metropolitan Economic Development Association partner to develop young entrepreneurs of color

Entrepreneurship in the United States is on the rise.

Twelve percent of U.S. adults are involved in some form of early-stage entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurial activity by ethnicity shows the highest rates among African-Americans at 14 percent, and immigrants are more likely to start a business than non-immigrants. The positive impact of entrepreneurship on minority families is dramatic. For example, the average net wealth of an African-American family in the U.S. is \$10,000; this figure increases 600 percent if an entrepreneur is in the household. Latino households see an increase of 300 percent when an entrepreneur is in the household.

Junior Achievement of

the Upper Midwest (JAUM) and Metropolitan Economic Development Association (MEDA) are collaborating to leverage this positive impact through a new initiative to develop young entrepreneurs of color.

Through the program, students from Patrick Henry Senior High School in North Minneapolis are paired with entrepreneur volunteers from MEDA client companies. Volunteers were selected based on the student's specific area of interest to mentor them on all aspects of starting a business. Students will create, market, and run an actual company, and will have the option to continue the company at the conclusion of the program.

"We are excited to partner with MEDA to cultivate the entrepreneurial

spirit that resides in this young generation," said Gina Blayne, president

"The Junior Achievement – MEDA fellow program is an important investment

spirit in students as they make long-term decisions about education and career.

We believe this program will equip students with the skills needed to succeed in the business world, which will ultimately create economic opportunities that support the growth and vibrancy of our community.

and CEO of JAUM. "We believe this program will equip students with the skills needed to succeed in the business world, which will ultimately create economic opportunities that support the growth and vibrancy of our community."

in youth of color," said Gary Cunningham, president and CEO of MEDA. "Studies show that minority entrepreneurship has an incredible, positive effect on families. So, it becomes important to foster this entrepreneurial

I am excited about this partnership MEDA has with Junior Achievement on this innovative program. It is an investment into the future of our community and these students."

### Smith

From 3

Smith said she sees a tectonic shift in how women are

viewed in America.

"We've hopefully come to a tipping point as to how women are treated in the workplace. Whether in the United States Senate, or working in a hotel or a restaurant, you deserve to be treated with respect and dignity," said Smith.

While the circumstances of Smith becoming a senator are auspicious, she said she is in Washington with a clear mission to represent all of Minnesota's people and interests.

"I take with me the philosophy of (former Sen.) Paul Wellstone, who said 'now is not

the time for tippy-toe politics,'" said Smith, saying she is not in D.C. to simply fill a seat. "I need to be in Washington fighting for Minnesota right away."

Smith will serve on several Senate committees including the committees of Health, Education, Labor

and Pensions, Indian Affairs, Energy and Natural Resources and Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

Closing the interview Smith said she is without a doubt going to run for the seat's full term come November.

### Thor

From 3

Companies was hired by Noel Lesley Event Services, the NFL's general contractor for Super Bowl-related staging and construction, to supply construction labor and obtain requisite municipal permits

"Thor stands united with the host committee and its corporate partners in creating opportunities for all Minnesotans to engage in the Super Bowl-related festivities and celebrations that will take place across the Twin

Cities, leading up to Super Bowl Sunday on Feb. 4, 2018," said Lea Hargett, vice president of Thor Consulting. "We are working especially hard with the MSBHC to reach out to minority communities welcoming and

encouraging them to participate in any and all of the community-focused Super Bowl activities on tap in the Twin Cities in the coming weeks."

### Realities

From 3

Yes, a handful (on scale) here and there were able obtain an education (remembering it was against the law ... against

the law ... for Blacks to read during slavery). And trust, it wasn't openly encouraged immediately following.

While slavery ended in 1865, oppression reigned for another 100-plus years. Some (myself included) argue we are still oppressed. Yeah, I can drive in my Cadillac, but I do so peering through the rearview mirror hoping I'm not the next Sandra Bland, the next Walter Scott, the next Terence Crutcher ... the next Philando Castile.

And yes, within my lifetime we elected Barack Obama ... a Black man ... to the office of President of the "United" States. Hell, we elected him twice.

And now we're paying for electing that "uppity negro." Now we have Donald Trump. Sixty-two million (statistically almost all white) people voted for him. Yes, a handful of non-whites voted for him. Sadly, self-hate is real and to some, "massa" has been good and the white man's ice will always be colder. But again, now we have Trump.

To paraphrase coaching great Dennis Green, Trump

is who we thought he is. He's the monster ... but he's not Frankenstein. To me he's a blithering idiot, with what I'll assume are pieces of a brain, but he's not a genius. Listen to him speak ... read his Tweets. On the IQ scale, Trump's most likely rating is "dullness" to "borderline deficiency."

Again, he's just the hideous monster. White supremacy ... white complicity ... that's the real Frankenstein.

Even if you didn't vote for Trump, as a white person, if you do not speak out ... and speak out loudly ... you are the problem. Like I said at the very beginning, it's time for frank reality. I know there are many white people reading this right at this very moment with several "friends" of color who have been in a room (more than once) with whites and heard them spew their racist vile and those "friends" sat silent. A few of you even joined in.

So, this message is directed squarely at you.

You are the problem. I'm not in that room. In many ways I can never get in that room, so I can't speak out. But if you

are in that room and you allow this racism to continue, then it is *you* who is no better than the Donald Trumps, Steve Bannons, Steve Millers and David Dukes of the world. *Period.* Don't call me your friend and don't stand up for me when I don't have the opportunity to stand up for myself.

So, Trump said people from Haiti and Africa are from "shitholes," huh? I'm a Black man in America. Sit down with me and millions of others and let's talk about what a shithole really looks like.

Oh yeah, all white liberals, please stop saying your ancestor came from places Trump would have called "shitholes." He was clear in singling out locations rich in melanin, so please stop with your false equivalencies. Say Trump is a racist and end the sentence with either a period of exclamation point ... but after the word racist, end the sentence, nothing more needs to be said.

Make America great again? I'm a Black person in America. When was America ever great for Black people?

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