



1985-2015

1410 Sixth Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50314
Phone: (515) 288-4742
Fax: (515) 284-5886
Email:
udinfo@urbandreams.org
Web Site:
<http://www.urbandreams.org>

Wayne Ford
Founder & Executive Director

Board of Directors:

Dr. Dennis Zachary
President
Mr. James S. Marcovis
Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. Ahmadu Baba-Singhri
Ms. Dorothy Campbell
Mr. Matthew Cronin
Ms. Marlene Doby
Ms. Martha Lebrón-Dykeman
Mr. Jesse Lindsey
Mr. Michael Lipsman
Dr. Paul Stageberg

Programs:

Public Safety

Substance Abuse Treatment

Mental Health

Community Needs

January 9, 2015

Re: Izaah Knox 40 Under 40 Nomination.

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my great pleasure to nominate Izaah Knox for "40 Under 40" recognition.

I myself being from the inner city of Washington, D.C., one of my dreams was to create an organization that would help low income inner city residents fulfill their dreams in their own neighborhood.

Urban Dreams is 30 years old this year. When it comes to working with gangs, ex-offenders, dropouts, etc., our "Here to Help" has become a positive brand in Des Moines and Iowa.

Some years ago, a situation arose at Urban Dreams which I still speak of today. Izaah Knox Contacted me after there'd been a shooting in the community, to see what he could do to help. Most people ran from the problem. He ran toward it. Because of that, I'm very happy and proud he will be following me as Executive Director of Urban Dreams. What he's accomplished since he called me many years ago has truly been extraordinary, getting a Master's in Education and, within the next year, earning his Ph.D. in Education and Policy, becoming a nationally recognized Youthbuild instructor, etc., makes me feel secure he will build on my legacy and develop his own for the benefit of our community.

Sincerely,

Wayne Ford
Executive Director

MISSION STATEMENT

Bridging the gap between traditional and non-traditional communities.