

Who Are America's Future Leaders?

By: Writer, Jodie Tweed



In each issue of DyNAMC, we introduce our readers to some of America's future leaders. The National Association of Minority Companies, Inc. (NAMC), strongly believes it is critical to develop leadership skills in our young people. NAMC works diligently in its mission to develop and implement programs to meet this goal. These young people are involved in numerous self-development activities through NAMC's programs, including research, question preparation, and executing interviews of DyNAMC's cover feature subjects.

We must ask ourselves, "Who will take over and lead when I'm gone?" The National Association of Minority Companies, Inc., believes it is our responsibility to

help build leadership skills in students who are the next generation of educational, political, health, science, technology, and business leaders.

Every issue of DyNAMC features students conducting an interview with our cover subject. We do this for several reasons. We want to give our youth the ability to develop interviewing skills, explore career interests, build self-esteem and self-awareness, and most importantly, we want them to become empowered.

We hope that the experience ignites their passion for learning, and this quest for knowledge continues throughout adulthood. Each cover subject is chosen because we feel they have an important message to share with our readers. They are also selected based on their prominent leadership positions.

Our hope is that our students gain as much knowledge about the cover subject during their interview experience as they do about themselves. We hope the opportunity makes them ask themselves how they wish to see their own career and life path unfold.

As leaders, we need to take the time to listen and connect with our youth. We can show them, by example, the importance of serving as a role model or mentor.

NAMC continues to develop programs to build leadership skills in students ages 10 to 24, and our DyNAMC student interviews provide one of those opportunities.

This issue of DyNAMC is dedicated to them--America's future leaders.

Remember their names. They could be seated next to you in the boardroom or be listed on a voting ballot, someday.

AT A GLANCE

AT A GLANCE

Full name:

Rodney Robert Thompson

Current school/grade/age:

St. Augustine High School
Ninth grade
15 years old

Birthplace:

San Diego, CA

Honors to Date:

2013 National Football
Champions, Skyline Tigers, #1
Eighth Grade Team in America
Honor Roll, from first grade to
present

Home town:

San Diego, CA

Parents Names:

Rodney and Jaqueline



13 Questions

1) My best memory is . . .
Being awarded a certificate for having a 4.0 GPA and winning the 2013 National Football Championship.

2) My favorite teacher . . .
Is my eighth grade history teacher, Mr. Schoettler, because he taught me history, tutored me in math, and coached our school basketball team.

3) I believe . . .
I am a leader because I am very independent and mature and handle business.

4) Whenever I have a problem . . .
I take a break and relax myself really quickly, and then I problem solve.

5) My strength comes from . . .
Wanting to be the best person I can be and to be something in life.

6) My favorite book is . . .
The Giver because of all the descriptive language.

7) My favorite movie is . . .
God's not Dead because it shows a young man who fights and perseveres in proving there is a God.

8) I am inspired by . . .
My parents, who work hard to take care of my three brothers and sister.

9) I am grateful for . . .
All my loving family members who look out for me and want to bring out the best in me.

10) My message for older people is . . .
Thank you for teaching and sculpting our generation and allowing us to be the best we can to achieve greatness.

11) The best advice I've ever received . . .
That I can remember, is to always be a problem solver and never procrastinate. That was from my high school football coach, Richard Sanchez.

12) I am a leader . . .
Because I show the values of a good person and apply the traits I stated in question three.

13) Knowledge is important because . . .
We would be nothing without it, and we definitely would not be where we are today in the world.



AT A GLANCE

Full Name:

Elijah Richard Hawkins

Current School, Grade and Age:

Great Oak High School
Sophomore
15

Birthplace:

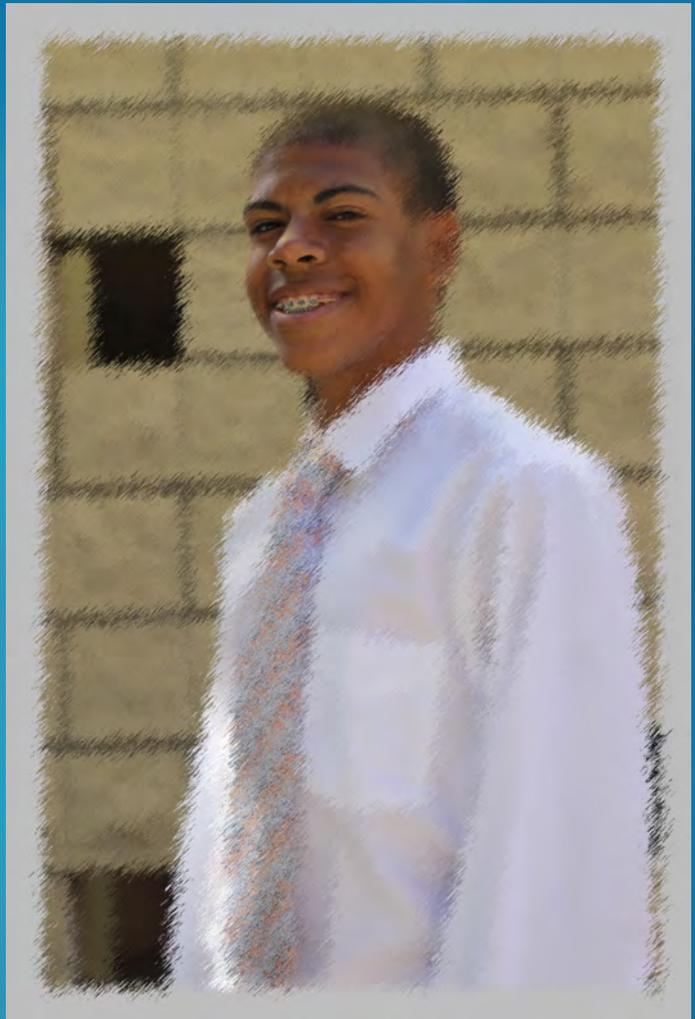
Atlanta, GA

Hometown:

Temecula, CA

Parents:

Sylvie and Kendal



13 Questions:

1. My Best Memory...

Spending time with my cousins, Elijah, Deshaun, and Jordan.

2. Favorite and most important teacher and why. . . .

Mrs. Upshur, my 3rd grade teacher. She showed me that a teacher not only teaches school lessons, but they also teach self-worth and respect. She also taught me that a teacher can truly care about her students.

3. I believe...

That if I try my very best in life every day, I can achieve whatever I want.

4. Whenever I have a problem...

I pray and ask for His guidance.

5. My strength comes from...

My mother, who shows me every day that life is great, no matter what obstacles we may encounter.

6. My favorite book is...

Zach Bell, Volume 1

7. My favorite movie(s)...

Superman, Man of Steel

8. I am inspired by...

The many dreams I will accomplish in my lifetime.

9. I am grateful for...

My mom and my cousins.

10. My message for older people is...

Please continue to share your wisdom and experiences. You may not think we listen, but we do and we are desperately in need of this wisdom.

11. Best advice I ever received was what and from whom...

Never give up on your education, told to me by my Uncle Joe.

12. I am a leader because...

Because I feel that I have amazing leadership skills, and can relate to a diverse group of people.

13. Knowledge is important because...

Without it, we will not learn from the past and cannot change the future for the better.

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:

Nayah Doris Middlebrooks

Current School, Grade and Age

Vail Ranch Middle School
7th grade
12

Birthplace:

Atlanta, GA

Hometown:

Temecula, CA

Honors:

Honor Roll
6th and 7th grades

Parents:

Sylvie and Brian



13 Questions:

1. My Best Memory...

My best memory was a trip my mom, dad, brother, and sister took to Florida.

2. Favorite and most important teacher and why...

Mr. Stubbs, my 7th grade Language Arts teacher. He is so inspiring and makes me want to learn, no matter what the subject



3. I believe...

I believe that in life you get out what you put in, so put in your best!

4. Whenever I have a problem...

Whenever I have a problem, I talk to my mom.

5. My strength comes from...

My strength comes from my parents, and being in middle school and dealing with so many different situations!

6. My favorite book is...

Divergent

7. My favorite movie is...

The Color Purple

8. I am inspired by...

I'm inspired by my parents.

9. I am grateful for...

I'm grateful for my family and the love they give me.

10. My message for older people is...

We can learn so much from you, please share what you've learned.

11. Best advice I ever received was what and from whom...

Always believe in yourself, no matter what...my auntie.

12. I am a leader because...

I am a leader because I have dreams and ambitions, and will fight to see them come true, and I lead others to see their dreams come true.

13. Knowledge is important because...

You must have knowledge to move forward and create a better future.

AT A GLANCE

Full name:

Lamarr Steven Thompson

Current school/grade/age:

Millennial Tech Middle School
8th grade
14 years old

Birth place:

San Diego, CA

Honors to Date:

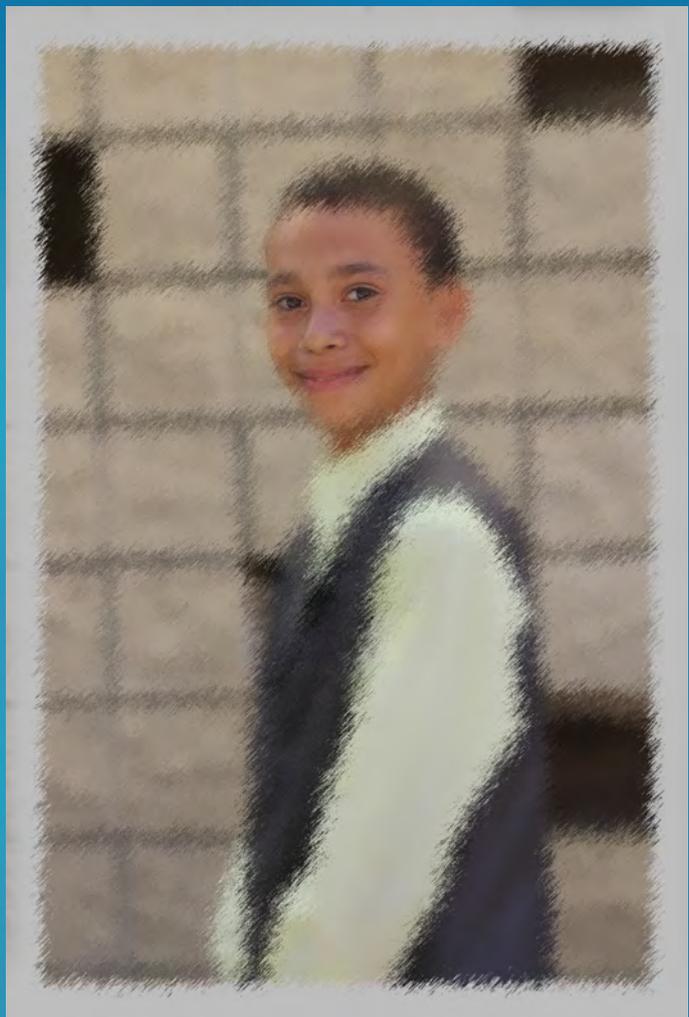
2014 Millennial Tech Middle
School Basketball Championship
Honor Roll, from first grade to
Present

Home town:

San Diego, CA

Parents:

Rodney and Jacqueline



13 Questions:

1) My best memory:

When I got the acceptance letter from the prestigious Saint Augustine high school.

2) Favorite and most important teacher and why:

My favorite and most important teacher was, by far, my fifth grade teacher, Mr. Mendiola. He taught me that, no matter what, you should try as hard as you can in school, but always relax every now and then and the rest will come.

3) I believe

I believe in myself and others who feel a very large passion for succeeding and getting the job done.

4) Whenever I have a problem I:

Whenever I have a problem I always look back at it from a different point of view to see what I can change to improve at what needs help; and I am never afraid to ask an adult for help.

5) My strength comes from:

My strength comes from wanting to be successful, like the people in my family, from my wonderful mom and dad to my lovely aunt Aldrica.

6) My favorite book is:

My favorite book is called "Warriors Don't Cry" by Melba Patillo Beals. It is an autobiography about a girl who helped integrate an all white school in 1952 with eight other black students. It talks about her struggles and what it was like to be black in a all white community.

7) My favorite movie is:

12 Years a Slave, hands down.

8) I am inspired by:

My aunt Aldrica because she is a very intelligent business woman who is very successful and probably taught me everything I know with her stellar work ethic.

9) I am grateful for:

I am grateful for my wonderful family; any kid, to have a family like mine, is very lucky.

10) My message for older people is:

My message is to stop stressing and look at all the possible outcomes to your problem before losing your mind.

11) Best advice I ever received was what and from who:

Best advice I received was from my dad who always tells me that schoolwork is more important than anything else I could do (with some exceptions).

12) I am a leader because:

I am a leader because I do what I need to and what I think is right to be successful.

13) Knowledge is important because:

Knowledge is important because you can't go anywhere without it; everywhere you go will need you to apply simple skills that you learn through education.



ATA GLANCE

Full name:

Vallerie “Verry” Jackson

Current school/age:

Grossmont College
24

Birthplace:

San Diego, CA

Home town:

San Diego, CA

Parents Names:

Tarsha and Christopher



13 Questions:

1) My best memory:

When I paid off my first car.

2) Favorite and most important teacher and why:

Garland “Bubba” Chandler. Before he passed away due to a long fight with cancer, he taught me to stay strong with my head held high no matter the situation.

3) I believe:

that a focused young man of character, dedication, and commitment has the formula to win at anything to which he puts his mind.

4) Whenever I have a problem:

I pray

5) My strength comes:

From God and my mother

6) My favorite book is:

From the Bible—the book of Philippians.

7) My favorite movie:

Is Paid in Full and Pursuit of Happiness

8) I am inspired by:

Those who make a way out of no way.

9) I am grateful for:

Having clothes on my back and a roof over my head every day.

10) My message for older people is:

To focus on what makes them happy and what gives them peace of mind.

11) Best advice I ever received was:

To “Never Give Up”—Neil Perry. I embraced the fact that if it’s to be, it’s up to me.

12) I am a leader because:

I embraced the fact that if it’s to be, it’s up to me.

13) Knowledge is important because:

It makes you aware of what’s around you. Knowledge also enables a person to become wealthy. Survival in life can, sometimes, depend on how much knowledge you have.





Walmart is proud to partner with the National Association of Minority Companies, Inc.

Walmart is one of the fastest growing employers in the world – and one of the most diverse. Diversity and inclusion are enduring values embedded into our culture at Walmart.

Our Associates

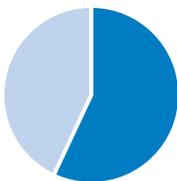
More than 807,000 of our associates are female and makeup **57 percent** of our U.S. workforce. Additionally, **37 percent** of our associates are minority, including approximately:

- 272,000 African Americans
- 174,000 Hispanics
- 44,000 Asian Americans
- 6,000 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- 14,000 American Indian and Alaska Natives

Walmart actively recruits former military personnel and helps former active duty members of the military transition into civilian jobs.



Walmart's U.S. workforce:



57%
Women



37%
Minorities



Our Suppliers

In the past two fiscal years, we've increased our purchases from San Diego suppliers by **\$280 million**, meaning our current local partnerships support an additional **11,000 jobs** – on top of the **7,500** jobs we directly provide. Walmart has also hosted and participated in myriad events to share information with local

construction industry representatives on the types of stores Walmart builds and how to become a Walmart contractor.

With the National Association of Minority Companies, Inc., we share a commitment to our communities by providing opportunities for our associates and suppliers to **connect, collaborate and proudly celebrate their diversity.**

