

June 18, 2008

CITY OF INGLEWOOD HONORS STUDENTS

Mayor and City Council Recognize Student Achievements

Inglewood, CA - Last night, June 17, 2008, City of Inglewood Mayor Roosevelt Dorn and the City Council were compelled to recognize four young men for a job well done. These four young men were part of a pilot program. Created out of the need for automotive training for high school seniors and implemented with tongue in cheek, not knowing what to expect. It is known as the Los Angeles OIC Automotive Quick Lube Training Class for high school seniors held at the City of Inglewood Fleet Service Center.

It would have been enough to recognize them for getting up every morning in time to be twenty to thirty minutes early for a 7am first period class. Or, leave in time to go back to their High Schools to start their second period class, on time. Or, not take their spring break vacation to sleep-in but rather attend, not only their class but stay for the adult class from 9am to 3:30pm. Or, finish the curriculum early and to a man score greater than 90% on the final exam.

All of these are good reasons but I would like to raise them up because in this era the only media attention or recognition Black and Brown youth get is negative. The few that actually do something inappropriate it's sensationalized until the masses believe that the entire ethnicity is reflected in the behavior of a few. But then again, Bro's know that that's nothing new.

Let's hold them up because they **are** African-American and Latino. Working together, bonding and making new friendships. Setting a new paradigm that says a City Municipality, the Unified School District, the Workforce Development Agency and a Non-Profit Organization working together, in this case men working with other men, can significantly influence such that the student begins to emulate and adopt responsible behaviors our community and families need. Let's hold their families up because they created the cloth we had to work with and supported the efforts of the youth which made it easier for us to affect. Now you can see the true "Fabric of a Man" (Thanks David E. Talbot)

The official graduation for these young men will be held Thursday, June 19, 2008 at the City of Inglewood Fleet Service Center, 222 West Beach Street from 11am to 1pm and is open to the public. I invite all of you to stop by and show these young men your love and encouragement.

The Los Angeles OIC Automotive Quick Lube Training Program is in part funded through the generosity of Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Torrance, California.

