BIG BOLD IDEA

Overcome social, emotional, and academic challenges faced by over-age middle school students by providing them with academic, family, and career support, and mentoring.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Tomorrow’s Leaders NYC (TLNYC) provides over-age middle school students with the support services and essential training they need to develop leadership, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills. Students receive academic and family support, mentoring, and career readiness opportunities during and outside of school time. TLNYC encourages goal-setting, self-discipline, and skill development in students while tending to their social and emotional needs. By effectively creating a culture of leadership, TLNYC improves students’ educational motivation and impacts their short term and long term future.

PERSONAL BIO

Oluwatoyin Ayanfodun founded Tomorrow’s Leaders NYC (TLNYC) in 2011 after realizing there were very few services for over-age middle school students, an often underrepresented and under-served population. Oluwatoyin’s previous experiences helped him to recognize that many of these students had untapped potential, but because of their previous school failures felt hopeless. He spent over two years working closely with schools, and organizations focused on education and youth development. Within three years, he raised over $60,000 for TLNYC and has built a network of support which includes local elected officials, licensed social workers, principals, teachers, community based organizations, and undergraduate and graduate students from several college and universities in New York City. Through his leadership, TLNYC has produced many success stories, and has a 97 percent grade promotion rate. Oluwatoyin received his bachelor’s degree in Education from Temple University in 2009, and certification in Nonprofit Management from Medgar Evers College in 2011.