Outstanding corporate support
Profile of an Achiever

Modeling the desired outcomes of one’s teaching is considered one of the best methods of instruction. Michael Thomas is a model of active involvement in the lives of minority youth, motivated by the belief that a visible symbol of achievement will help them travel the road to success. Selected by the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 1998 to serve as Achiever, Thomas sees his role as an honor and proves it by his exemplary level of volunteerism.

Thomas has already dedicated over 70 hours for the 1998-1999 year by assisting youth and program staff. Each Friday this past summer, he chaperoned field trips. He also participated in the Black Achievers Conference in Daytona Beach, Fla. in September. He continues to make himself available as a resource person for Linkage Committee members, and he does his best to quickly follow through on the pledges he makes. For the fall, he is leading a study skills class for youth. Thomas also makes time to chair the monthly Linkage Committee meetings, assist in developing new programs and provide guidelines for such programs.

Not only does Thomas put in the hours, he brings a wealth of knowledge with him. He holds a masters of business administration degree and is a local and national presenter on various topics. He freely lends the expertise from these experiences to his volunteerism.

When asked how he has time to do all this, factoring in his heavy schedule as director of the U of M-Dearborn Partners Plus and part-time instructor at Henry Ford Community College, he says he knows everybody is busy, but when it comes to this important youth work,

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On Volunteerism:

“We all talk about not having enough time to volunteer, but we just have to make the time.”
Michael Thomas (con't. from front page)

"You just have to do it. We all talk about not having enough time to volunteer, but we just have to make the time." Thomas makes the time. At work, he is responsible for the recruitment and retention of "children of color" as they pursue college degrees from the University of Michigan or Henry Ford Community College. In this capacity, he meets with 60 - 70 students weekly, applying modeling and other motivational techniques to keep them on track in their college careers.

The YMCA commends Thomas and hopes that other Achievers will be inspired by his record of active volunteerism. With similar input from area corporations, there is no doubt that the youth served by the Minority Achievers Program will make all of us proud!

Volunteer today; it helps the giver and receivers!

UPCOMING EVENTS

This will be a busy year for the Minority Achievers Program. These are just a few of the activities planned for students.

- **November - December:**
  - Strictly Business Career Cluster

- **January - February:**
  - Tech Talk Career Cluster

- **February:**
  - Black History Month Essay Contest
  - Teen Summit in Milwaukee

- **March:**
  - Local College Tour

For more details, please call Vanessa Harsle at (313) 833-7370.

Volunteers/Achievers Are Needed for:

- **Speakers Bureau** at local schools from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday through Thursday

- **Tutoring** Monday through Friday evenings 4 to 6 p.m. at the Minority Achievers office, 51 W. Hancock in Detroit. Math sessions are held Mondays and Wednesdays, English on Tuesdays and Thursdays and science on Fridays.

- **Computer workshops** on the basics of Windows; 4 two-hour Saturday sessions 10 am until noon.

YOU are needed now! Call today to help get these student programs running at full speed.