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**Year Up Atlanta Receives the 2011 Hosea Williams Award
For Community Activism**

*Ingrid Saunders Jones, Chairperson of The Coca-Cola Foundation, to be Keynote
Speaker at Year Up Atlanta's Graduation Ceremony on Jan. 28*

ATLANTA, GA – Year Up Atlanta was recently named a recipient of the 2011 Hosea Williams Award for Community Activism. The prestigious award, which is presented annually by Georgia State University, recognizes an individual and organization that take initiative and risk for the betterment of the community and demonstrate a strong desire to serve the community around them.

Lauded by President Barack Obama for its proven, innovative approach, Year Up is a national organization that provides career training to low-income young adults and helps them secure internships with top US companies. Its scalable model prepares students for the workforce using a unique combination of technical and professional instruction, college credits, an educational stipend and corporate internships. Successful completion of the intensive, one-year program enables graduates to move into full-time employment and higher education. To date, 84 percent of graduates were placed into positions within four months of graduation, earning an average of \$30,000 per year.

“We are honored to receive this recognition on behalf of our students, partners, and supporters who are proving that a powerful brand of community activism is helping to close the Opportunity Divide in this country,” says Kweku Forstall, Executive Director of Year Up Atlanta. “With a 100 percent internship placement rate, and 95 percent corporate partner satisfaction rate, the opportunities for our students are endless. We are eager to continue our work enabling young adults across our community to pursue their dreams and achieve economic self-sufficiency.”

Year Up will be one of two recipients to receive the award at The 28th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation on Jan. 20. The event will be hosted by the Office of the Dean of Students/Intercultural Relations at Georgia State University.

The recognition comes as Year Up prepares to graduate its third class in the Atlanta community on Jan. 28. More than 300 students, partners and supporters will attend the ceremony, where Ingrid Saunders Jones, Chairperson of the Coca-Cola Foundation and Senior Vice President of Global Community Connections at The Coca-Cola Company, will deliver the keynote address and Year Up students will inspire the audience by sharing their personal experiences and defining their visions of true success.



“We couldn’t be prouder of the students who are graduating from Year Up today,” said Forstall. “Our students have a bright future ahead of them with the opportunity to realize their full potential and sustainable careers. This wouldn’t be possible without the strong local support we receive from all of our partners in the Atlanta community.”

The graduation ceremony will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. ET at The Atlanta Marriott Marquis (Marquis Ballroom) at 265 Peachtree Center Ave. The Coca Cola Company is the event sponsor. Other national and inaugural Year Up Atlanta supporters include Bank of America, Kaiser Permanente, Wal-Mart, SunTrust Bank, Genuine Parts Company, Southern Company and Printpack, Inc.

About Year Up Inc.

Year Up’s mission is to close the Opportunity Divide by providing low-income young adults with the skills, experience, and support that will empower them to reach their potential through professional careers and higher education. Year Up achieves this mission through a high support, high expectation model that combines marketable job skills, stipends, internships and college credits. Its holistic approach focuses on students’ professional and personal development to place these young adults on a viable path to economic self-sufficiency. Year Up currently serves more than 1,000 students a year at sites in Atlanta, Baltimore (college-based pilot program), Boston, Chicago, New York City, Providence, San Francisco Bay Area, and the National Capital Region, and will be opening in Seattle in the year ahead. To learn more, visit www.yearup.org or www.youtube.com/yearupinc.

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