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## **Year Up Awarded the Adrienne Williams Spellman Diversity Award**

**BOSTON, MA/ April 6, 2011** – Year Up was recently named the recipient of the Freedom House 2011 Champions of Freedom Adrienne Williams Spellman Diversity Award.

This award honored the inspiration principled leadership that incorporates the values of diversity and cultural competency throughout Year Up, and helps to build an inclusive organization focused on closing the Opportunity Divide for urban young adults.

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

“Freedom House has been a civil rights leader in our community for over sixty years, and we are deeply honored to be recognized by them for our diversity efforts” said Year Up CEO and Founder Gerald Chertavian.

Chertavian, COO Sue Meehan, Director of Organizational Development Tamika Mason, and Immediate Past Chairman Tim Dibble accepted the award on Year Up’s behalf during the April 5<sup>th</sup> Freedom House 2011 Champions of Freedom ceremony.

Freedom House is a community-based, social action agency located in the Grove Hall neighborhood of Boston. Since 1949, Freedom House has responded to every major need of communities of color with positive programs. Freedom House has also served as a major conveyor to engage citizens of Boston in civic participation and social justice issues.

### **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 1,300 students a year in Atlanta, Baltimore (College-Based Pilot Program), Boston, Chicago, National Capital Region, New York City, Providence, San Francisco Bay Area, and Seattle. To learn more, visit [www.yearup.org](http://www.yearup.org) or [www.youtube.com/yearupinc](http://www.youtube.com/yearupinc).

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