Hello Parents/Guardians

My name is Danya Day. I’m the Cultural and Family Connection Coordinator “Cultural Liaison” for the School District of La Crosse. I primarily serve in our middle schools but it’s not uncommon to see me in the elementary and high schools working with students, and their families. One purpose of my role is to provide cultural activities and programming that our black students can relate to.

Your child is invited to attend our Fifth Annual Black Youth Summit (BYS) on Saturday, March 13, 2021. The Black Youth Summit was creatively designed to bring **6th-12th grade students** who identify as Black/ African American as one of their racial identities together for a day of educational learning and entertainment. The Black Youth Summit provides a safe space for students to engage in tough conversations on an array of topics such as race, societal pressures, and learn how they can get involved in their school and community. This year we will focus on building self-confidence, academic excellence, leadership and community involvement all rooted from a social justice lens.

The Black Youth Summit of 2020-21 will focus on student leadership and organizing in your community and school. The purpose is to support our Black youth with establishing an organized group in their school. This group will support our Black youth by providing a space in their attending school where they can have discussions about local, national, and global issues. Our black youth will aspire black excellence through peer mentoring and tutoring, as well as, expand on black culture by attending and hosting events. Again, this will be a learning environment that promotes Black Consciousness while creating connections with individuals in our community and schools. It will help them identify skills needed to perform different tasks within the real world as they begin to turn into young adults.

The Black Youth Summit will be hosted virtually via Zoom due to COVID. Now that we are back to in-person instruction there may be a possibility that the Black Youth Summit could be held in-person at Lincoln Middle School. Please make sure to complete the attached permission slip and return it to your school’s Administrative Assistant or email it to dlday830@gmail.com.

Thank You,

Danya L. Day

**Black Youth Summit Presenters**

**Shaundel Spivey**

Shaundel Spivey is a native of Milwaukee, WI. As a two-time Alum of UW-La Crosse, Shaundel has managed to establish community ties in La Crosse while becoming a community leader. While living in La Crosse, Shaundel has established Black Leaders Acquiring Collective Knowledge (B.L.A.C.K.) a 503(c)(b) non-profit organization that aims to empower the black community in La Crosse, WI. Shaundel’s aspiration to uplift the black community and focus on continual education has allowed him to acquire knowledge on the future of our black youth. Shaundel adopts his work from a social justice lens. Shaundel will speak to our black youth at this year's BYS about the importance of education and how to become an organized leader in your community and school.

**Thomas Harris**

Thomas Harris is a native of Louisiana. He has resided in the La Crosse Area for more than 20 years. As a La Crosse area resident Thomas has rooted himself on UW-La Crosse Campus and currently serves as the Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Services. Thomas emphasizes his work in diversity, equity, and inclusion. In 2007 Thomas became a member of The Greater La Crosse Area Diversity Council where he strategically worked to enhance diversity and equity in the La Crosse workplace. Thomas will speak to our black youth at this year’s BYS about education and strategic planning/implementation in a multicultural community.

**This event was designed and created for you. We hope to see you there!!!!**