



*We build economic equity,  
social justice, &  
racial understanding  
in Southeast  
Michigan*

June 2015

## **New Detroit Announces 2015 “Closing the Gap” Honorees**



**YOU ARE INVITED**

### **NEW DETROIT'S 17TH ANNUAL CLOSING THE GAP AWARDS DINNER**

Wednesday, June 17, 2015  
Cobo Center - Grand Ballroom-B  
One Washington Boulevard  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

5:30 PM Reception  
6:30 PM Dinner & Program

For more information:  
313.664.2047 or  
[www.newdetroit.org](http://www.newdetroit.org)

\$150 per ticket  
\$90 tax-deductible

New Detroit, Inc. will honor a major sports franchise with the most racially diverse leadership team in its league, a scholarship fund that achieves a 92 percent college graduation rate of its recipients, a

highly respected Detroit civic leader and a young leader who is making an impact on race relations in the region at its “Closing the Gap” awards dinner Wednesday, June 17.

The “Closing the Gap” award ceremony and dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 17 at 5:30 p.m. at Cobo Hall and honor:

**Corporate Award:** The Detroit Lions

**Nonprofit Award:** Coleman A. Young Foundation

**Young Leader in Action Award:** Theresa Q. Tran

**John Rakolta, Jr. Leadership in Race Relations Award:** Paul Hillegonds

Jamie Jacob, CEO of Ajax Paving Industries, Inc., is serving as the event chair.

“The ‘Closing the Gap’ awards highlight individuals and organizations who, in their everyday activities advance race relations in a variety of ways, said New Detroit President and CEO Shirley Stancato. “This year’s honorees represent a broad cross section of the community and each, in their own way, has moved racial affairs in our region forward in a significant manner. Each in their own way has advanced New Detroit’s goal of closing the gap between the races.”

### **Corporate Awardee**

#### **The Detroit Lions**

As a member of the National Football League since 1934, the Detroit Lions are one of the storied franchises in the league’s history. In addition to their efforts to build winning teams, the Lions have embraced the NFL’s mission of diversity in hiring, as is demonstrated by their current management roster.

General Manager Martin Mayhew, Head Coach Jim Caldwell and President Tom Lewand



With General Manager Martin Mayhew and Head Coach Jim Caldwell, the Lions are the only team in the NFL with African Americans serving as their general manager and head coach. In addition, the team’s racial diversity is extended even further with other African Americans and Latinos in other key leadership positions.

New Detroit salutes the Detroit Lions for setting the standard in the NFL for developing a culture committed to racial diversity and to closing the gap.

### **Nonprofit Organization Awardee**

**The Coleman A. Young Foundation (CAYF)** has been helping young Detroiters achieve their educational dreams since its founding in 1982 by Detroit Mayor Coleman A. Young.

The foundation has established an outstanding record of success with its scholars achieving a college graduation rate of 92 percent. That success comes because the foundation does much more than just write a check. It mentors each of its scholarship recipients throughout their college career.

Its 92 percent graduation rate compares to a national overall graduation rate for college students of 59 percent and a much lower graduation rate for urban students. Two-thirds of its graduates return to metro Detroit once they have finished their education to make their own contribution to the community.

New Detroit is honoring The Coleman A. Young Foundation for its continued investment in young people by providing them with not just scholarships, but with other supports to help close the gap in education. The foundation's remarkable track record provides an outstanding example that other programs would do well to emulate.

Student Participants, The Coleman A. Young Foundation (CAYF)



### **The John Rakolta Jr. Leadership in Race Relations Award Paul Hillegonds**

New Detroit's John Rakolta, Jr. Leadership award in Race Relations honors a deserving individual who exhibits courageous leadership in race relations. The 2015 recipient is Paul Hillegonds, whose career in public service and in the private sector has earned him wide respect for his thoughtfulness, fairness, civility and effectiveness in forging constructive public policy.

Paul served as member of the Michigan House of Representatives from 1979 to 1996, during which his colleagues elected him to the position of Speaker of the House. He was known for his ability to work with both sides of the political aisle to bridge political differences and was widely respected by members of both political parties.

In 1997, Paul became president of Detroit Renaissance, a post he held until 2005. He then moved to DTE Energy, where he served as Senior Vice President for Corporate Affairs until retiring in 2014. Paul recently was named CEO of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, an organization dedicated to the health and wellness of Michigan children and seniors.

Hillegonds believes that diversity is critical to dismantling barriers that have undermined the competitiveness of Southeast Michigan, compared with other diverse metropolitan regions in the

country. He is a sought after speaker who is comfortable dealing with and discussing race and social justice as issues within our community.

New Detroit is proud to honor Paul Hillegonds for his leadership in racial justice in the public and private sectors.

Paul Hillegonds



### **Young Leader in Action Awardee**

#### **Theresa Q. Tran**

New Detroit's Young Leader in Action award recognizes the contributions of Theresa Q. Tran, a young leader in Southeast Michigan who is making an impact on improving race relations. Tran is the Executive Director of Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote - Michigan (APIA-Vote-MI)

In addition to working extensively on election efforts, Tran has led various APIA-Vote-MI projects including the founding of the Youth Leadership Core, the Racial Equity Initiative (a partnership of four state and community based organizations to address structural barriers for vulnerable South Asian American children and youth), and the groundbreaking development and release of *Rising Voices, Revealing Truths*, a first of its kind needs assessment report of the APIA community in Southeastern Michigan.

Tran served as program manager at Michigan Youth and Community in partnership with The University of Michigan Program on Intergroup Relations that brings together youth from across Metro-Detroit to engage in dialogues on the state of race relations in our communities.

New Detroit commends Theresa Q. Tran for her progressive leadership in race relations and her ongoing efforts to close the gap.

Theresa Q. Tran



# 2015 Camp Enterprise July 8-12 & 22-27

Student Participants, Camp Enterprise



**New Detroit's Camp Enterprise** is a five day entrepreneurial business camp and college readiness learning experience held on the campuses of Wayne State University and Michigan State University.

Camp Enterprise's on-campus experience emphasizes the importance of higher education and exposes participants to entrepreneurship.

Participants receive professional skills training, attend college readiness, workshops, and acquire business development skills. One of the most dynamic aspects of the experience is the business plan competition in which teams of students develop business plans to create a new business plan. The teams compete in front of a panel of business professionals for award recognition of first, second and third place teams.

"Camp Enterprise offers area youth an opportunity to grow as college-bound students and future professionals," said David Gamlin, New Detroit's Program Manager for Education. "With the help of

business professionals from various occupations, young people in the program are taught business and leadership skills needed for their future endeavors.”

Students from over 50 high schools in the region attend the program. This camp is exclusively for students who will be high school juniors and seniors at the start of the school year in the fall. There is no cost to the selected participants. Students are selected based on eligibility and available slots.



<http://www.newdetroit.org/cms/>

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