

**The Fourth Annual
Raymond E. Mason Jr.
Leadership
Symposium**

**Eddie Harrell, Jr.
President and CEO
Columbus Urban League**

Eddie Harrell, Jr. is the President and CEO of the Columbus Urban League – a post he assumed in April 2006. The Columbus Urban League, founded in 1918, is an affiliate of the National Urban League and is one of the oldest affiliates in the United States. The Columbus Urban League serves thousands of people every year in the following areas: Career Development, Education & Prevention, and Housing. The National Urban League was founded in 1910.

Prior to joining the Columbus Urban League, Mr. Harrell served as the Executive Director of I Know I Can and Project Grad Columbus. These two programs work hand in hand to provide children with a quality public education that prepares them to enter college and to provide financial assistance for high school graduates from the Columbus City School District. Under Mr. Harrell's leadership, I Know I Can grew from awarding \$1 million in Last Dollar Grants to awarding \$1.7 million. During his tenure, Project Grad expanded from the Linden McKinley area to include the Marion Franklin area as well, thereby doubling the amount of students served. In 2000, Mr. Harrell was recognized as one of the outstanding "Forty Under Forty" community leaders in Central Ohio by Business First.

Before working for I Know I Can and Project Grad Columbus, Mr. Harrell held various management positions with The Kroger Company. Prior to taking over the helm at I Know I Can, he served on the organization's Board of Directors, first as a student member, then as a full member, and finally on the Executive Committee. He now serves on the Board of Directors for Youth for a Positive Image, Otterbein College Alumni Board, Columbus Public Schools Equity Task Force, Columbus Workforce Alliance and also has held a position on the Board of The Greater Linden Development Corporation. He is an active member of the Capital Square Rotary Club and currently serves as an Adjunct Faculty member at Franklin University.

Mr. Harrell graduated near the top of his class at Marion-Franklin High School in Columbus in 1990 as an I Know I Can student. In 1994, he received a B.A. in Business Administration from Otterbein College, and then his master's degree in Business Administration from Ashland University. Mr. Harrell received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Otterbein College Alumni Association in 2002 and is a member of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.

Mr. Harrell and his wife, Valerie, reside in Columbus with their two children, Kayla and Eddie III. He and his family belong to Columbus Bibleway Church.