

THANK YOU!

For your role in making our  
20th internship season a success!  
We couldn't do this without every single one of you!

SEE YOU NEXT SUMMER!



Step Up is a partnership of the City of Minneapolis,  
Achieve Twin Cities, the Minnesota Department of Employment and  
Economic Development/Minneapolis CareerForce Center  
and Project for Pride in Living.



step up

END OF SUMMER  
CELEBRATION

August 24th, 2022

2:30-4:00PM

Minneapolis Convention Center

# END OF SUMMER CELEBRATION

## PROGRAM

### Step Up Trivia!

Tish Jones and Step Up Director Tammy Dickinson

City of Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey

Performance by Nkauj Ntxuaj Ntxiag, Asian Media Access

### Employer of the Year Awards

Encouraging Leaders

Accepting: Tony Robinson, Director of Operations

Target

Accepting: John Conlin (Senior Vice President, Target Properties)

### Intern Reflection

Seveyon and Senyjah Gibbs, Minneapolis Community Education

Zihaam Nor, Chef Jeff Catering

### Step Up Co-Chairs

R.T. Rybak and Jonathan Weinhausen

### Supervisor of the Year Awards

Cory Luckett, Minneapolis Community Education

Binesikwe Means, MIGIZI Communications

### Intern of the Year Awards

Aasia Lang, Minneapolis Community Education

Zihaam Nor, Chef Jeff Catering

Audrey Coleman, Step Up Career Exploration Program

### Performance by Tish Jones

### Step Up Sideshow Finale

## Employer of the Year



The leadership and staff did a great job of adapting and creating a memorable work experience while building relationships with Step Up youth! Interns at Encouraging Leaders have been able to see every aspect of this organization from data entry to community planning. The interns have distributed hundreds of HIV kits, done pop up Covid vaccination events, managed the worksite's social media and so much more! They are learning to see how little things contribute to the bigger picture.



Target implements the Step Up program with a strong focus on leadership, mentorship, and networking; all aspects of creating a high-quality internship experience. Interns enjoy the many professional development opportunities and thoughtful projects, particularly the autonomy they have in their work, and the opportunity to learn about the wide variety of careers at Target.

# SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

# IN RECOGNITION



**Cory Lockett**  
Minneapolis Community Education

*"Cory has showed me how an adult should be as a leader! We have daily meetings before our workday starts, he checks-in with every Step Up participant and others that work under him. Every moment throughout the day Cory is teaching and molding us into the basics of being a leader. I have appreciated Cory's respect for us and including us in real life decisions in the program. This summer, my takeaway from my position is "respect for myself" and "being a leader, not a follower!"*  
~ **Samarah Adams, Step Up Intern**



**Binesikwe Means**  
MIGIZI Communications

*"Binesikwe has been an amazing mentor and role model for me. She is a amazing example of a strong Native American woman. she goes out of her way to make sure everyone is comfortable and always has snacks for everyone. specifically, she has brought opportunities to me that really helped and meant a lot to me. She is always showing me ways and things I can do to help better my camera and media skills. She's my role model, she can relate to anyone, and she taught me so much about being professional."*  
~ **Wakan Austin, Step Up Intern**



**Leona Martin**  
Step Up Manager  
Minneapolis Career Force Center

*"Leona always sees the best in people and is quick to celebrate their achievements. She is the Grand Marshall of the Step Up parade and there isn't any other cheerleader I would want to have in my corner."*  
~ **MarLynn, Step Up Community Partner**

*"Leona has the uncanny ability to remain laser-focused on youth despite any challenges or issues, always being a strong advocate for youth. She brings her compassion and care—not just for the youth's success in their internship, but for the long-term success in their lives—every single day. She is one of the strongest advocates for youth that I have ever known. And there are many, many youths who have found their path because of her."*  
~ **Jan Thurn, Former Step Up Job Coach**

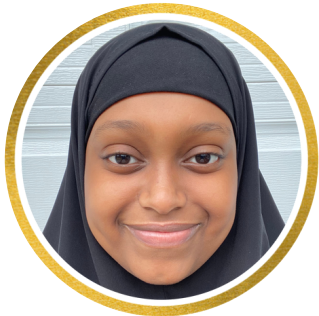
*"Leona Martin has been a huge asset to the so many youths and the community. No matter how busy or how many projects she is in the middle of, she will always take time to help the youth that come into her life. Leona always has a smile on her face and is eager to say that she is "Excellent" if asked."*  
~ **Shym Cook, Former Step Up Leader**

# INTERN OF THE YEAR



**Aasia Lang**  
Minneapolis Community Education

Aasia's supervisor at Minneapolis Community Education nominated her for being such a great member of their Natural Leaders community. She is positive, caring, and patient with the campers. She has built deep relationships by listening, playing, and creating a nonjudgmental atmosphere where campers really feel comfortable expressing themselves. The Lead Counselor for her group shared that Aasia is very helpful in getting students' attention with fun cheers or other strategies. Aasia is also very responsible. She is always busy helping with whatever task she is needed for, even if it's not glamorous or fun.



**Zihaam Nor**  
Chef Jeff Catering

*"Zihaam has created a full training booklet for our admin team - using her own experience and training, capturing and organizing CLEAR instructions, intentions, tone, and the values of our company. She has ALSO endured a crazy move (commercial kitchen) that was scheduled to be complete before her internship started. If we knew our summer was going to go this way, we would not have requested a Step Up intern but Zihaam has handled it amazingly. She has been flexible, adaptable, independent and sweet throughout the entire process. I don't think any other intern her age could have handled it with as much grace and joy as she did!"*

~ Sarah Biddix, Chef Jeff Catering



**Audrey Coleman,**  
Online Learner | Step Up CEP

*Audrey's trainer recognized her saying, "She was my first trainee to complete everything! She had a trip planned for the end of July, so she stayed on top of her tasks and finished in record time. She not only finished quickly, but her responses were well thought out and I especially enjoyed her attentiveness to empathy. She was easy to communicate with via text and was all around a rockstar student."*

## PERFORMERS

**Tish Jones | TruArtSpeaks**

Founder & Executive Director of TruArtSpeaks, Tish Jones is a writer educator, organizer and cultural producer from Saint Paul, MN, with a deep and resounding love for Black people, arts & culture, youth development, and civic engagement. As a performance artist her work has been shared in venues throughout the United States. Her writing can be found in *We Are Meant to Rise* (University of Minnesota Press, 2021), *A Moment of Silence* (Tru Ruts and The Playwrights Center, 2020), the Minnesota Humanities Center's anthology entitled, *Blues Vision: African American Writing from Minnesota* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2015) and more.

**Asian Media Access | Nkauj Ntxuaj Ntxiag**

Asian Media Access, Inc. (AMA) is a comprehensive, multimedia based, community advocacy agency. AMA is dedicated to using multimedia arts and technology as tools for social betterment. AMA recognizes that multimedia and technology are essential for advocacy, communication and education, in order to mobilize communities, and young people; to engage in understanding and communicating of Pan Asian issues; and to arrive at a participatory decision-making process for a safe, supportive environment for all.