

Black student leaders challenge traditional stereotypes

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The African Caribbean Society (ACS) will hold its second annual Summit on Monday 6th September 2010, in London. The theme of the Summit this year is 'Leadership in a New Decade' and features high profile special guests including Streatham MP Chuka Umunna, who has been dubbed the UK's Obama, plus Trevor Faure, Global General Counsel at Ernst & Young and David McQueen, author and inspirational speaker.

The ACS Leadership Summit brings together the presidents of the top 20 university African & Caribbean Societies from across the country to share, learn and connect, via a program of talks & presentations, interactive workshops and focus groups.

High profile sponsors and supporters including Google, Deutsche Bank, Teach First, The Royal Bank of Scotland, Rothschild, Addleshaw Goddard and Manchester Business School will provide real networking opportunities for the students.

A report by the Higher Education Funding Council for England has shown that 70% of black university graduate achieve less than a second class upper degree classification in comparison to 53% of their white counterparts. 41% of participants in a recent national survey of ACS members conducted by the African Caribbean Company said no when asked if they are affected by negative black stereotype. Additionally, 13% of black students remain unemployed for six months after graduation in comparison to 6% of white graduates. Lastly, 86% of survey participants said they thought a better run African Caribbean Society can impact positively on their overall academic performance and 88% said a better run ACS can improve their career prospects.

Ugochukwu Obi, founder of the ACS Project comments:

"The ACS Project aim to equip these student leaders to be the instrument for positive

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change through their individual ACS networks. With leading thinkers and pioneering employers on hand to share their knowledge and experiences at this year's Summit, the student representatives will be inspired to drive their peers at their various universities and go on to build successful careers after they graduate."

The African Caribbean Society is the largest network of black university students in the UK. It is a student run group which aims to provide an avenue to explore the cultures of African & Caribbean communities. Each university in the network operates independently, organizing a variety of events for its members during the academic year.

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Jane Alcock at Smoking Gun PR on 0161 921 8164 or jane@smokinggunpr.co.uk

Notes to Editors:

The Summit takes place on Monday 6 September at 4 More London Place, London Bridge, SE1 2AU from 9am - 8pm.

Further information is available at www.acsleaders.co.uk