

Young Wall Street Professionals Lead the New Wave in Social Investing



The Crisis in America:

Despite the leaps and bounds that underrepresented ethnic groups have made towards economic advancement, there is still significant progress to be made in the effort to close the wealth gap between them and the broader population. Underrepresented ethnic groups still lag behind their counterparts in the areas of financial literacy and investing. As a result, these groups are the least likely demographic to utilize the stock market as a means of building wealth or adequately save for retirement. These issues are even more pronounced among low-income, urban citizens where poor financial decision making can be debilitating.



How is this possible? The rather simple answer is: Unlike their counterparts, low-income, urban citizens in America are not well informed regarding healthy financial practices (knowledge often taught within the home or through peer and social networks among other demographic groups).

Lewis Mandell, Ph.D. of the University of Washington and the Aspen Institute explains, "Since standard of living is a multiplicative function of both financial resources (income and wealth) and the ability to use those resources efficiently (financial literacy), we find it increasingly disturbing that those with less income and education are saddled with the additional disadvantage of not possessing the ability to spend what they have efficiently."



Many economists and academics have stated that in order for America to maintain its level of overall prosperity, it is imperative that all citizens be equipped with essential financial knowledge, which will have a direct, positive impact on the economy as these persons will participate in the banking system, consumer spending and borrowing, and investing in the stock market.

The Cold Hard (Alarming) Facts:

- ◆ Only 54% of African-Americans have IRAs or 401(k) plans, compared to 72% of the general population (and just 32% of the Hispanic population).¹
- ◆ 53% of Mexican immigrants and 37% of other Latin American immigrants do not have bank accounts. Similarly, 20% of Asian immigrants do not have bank accounts.²
- ◆ Only 28% of Hispanic families are invested in the stock market, compared to 67% of non-Hispanic Whites.³
- ◆ The reported median amount of money that Black households are saving on a monthly basis is \$189, compared to \$367 among White households.⁴



The Answer: D.R.E.A.M. (Developing Responsible Economically Advanced Model-Citizens)

D.R.E.A.M. (Developing Responsible Economically Advanced Model-Citizens) is a cutting edge, financial education and advocacy organization committed to empowering underrepresented, urban youth by equipping them with the essential knowledge for life's challenging financial decisions. D.R.E.A.M. is training the next generation of citizens who will foster change within America's urban communities, which will result in a radical shift in the financial practices of America's urban citizens.



Why D.R.E.A.M.? Unlike its counterparts, D.R.E.A.M. delivers comprehensive, specialized programming focused on developing personal finance skills and investment expertise in a culturally-enriched manner. Targeting low-income urban youth, participants have the opportunity to learn the essential skills for leading successful, financially responsible lives. D.R.E.A.M. is leading the movement towards the improvement of financial literacy in U.S. urban communities through our principal program, "Invest in Success"- a three year institute designed for high school students. Participants have the opportunity to learn the essential skills for leading successful, financially responsible lives.



Founded in 2009 by Jalen Thompson and Femi Faoye, two individuals born and raised in urban areas of New York City, D.R.E.A.M.'s mission is to empower underrepresented, urban youth by equipping them with the knowledge to become prudent, financially literate, adept individuals. D.R.E.A.M.'s unique curriculum develops and engages students through relevant, hands-on education. Upon completion, graduates of the program will begin leading financially responsible lives and share this newly acquired knowledge with members of their community, thus inspiring change. For more information on how to enroll visit www.dream-nyc.org or e-mail info@dream-nyc.org



¹ "Diversity: Banking Gap Prevails for Hispanics and Blacks; Economic conditions and culture count," *US Banker*, Oct. 1, 2008.

² Taking Ownership of the Future: The National Strategy for Financial Literacy (2006), available at <http://www.mymoney.gov/pdfs/ownership.pdf>.

³ http://www.neweconomicsforwomen.org/media/lifting_as_we_climb.pdf

⁴ <http://www.arielinvestments.com/content/view/1774/1173/>

Disclaimer:

Notwithstanding any language to the contrary, the data contained herein is for informational purposes only and is not represented to be error free. Any images provided are as a courtesy and do not indicate any affiliation with the photographers or artist and represent no connection to D.R.E.A.M., Inc. The images are not intended to nor do they constitute an endorsement of any kind by D.R.E.A.M., Inc.. The respective photographers and artists own the rights to the images and likeness represented. The names, trademarks, service marks, and logos of D.R.E.A.M., Inc. may not be used in any advertising or publicity, or otherwise to indicate D.R.E.A.M., Inc. members' sponsorship or affiliation with any product or service without the prior express written consent of D.R.E.A.M., Inc.

