Newark Opportunity Youth Network (NOYN) was recently honored by the League of Education Professional (LEAP) for its vision and dedication to transforming the educational landscape in Newark. NOYN is recognized as one of the 25 Most Influential Organizations in America in education, recognized as a LEAP 20-20 Visionary for its work on helping opportunity youth, or young people disconnected from work or school, to succeed.

Through its four-pronged approach to supporting opportunity youth, NOYN helos to break down systemic barriers and provide a pathway to economic mobility. Through its LEAD Charter School, NOYN helps young people to succeed by ensuring high-quality seats and serving a population of young people who have fallen through the cracks of most public systems. By creating a collaborative city-wide strategy, organizations serving both in-school and opportunity youth and in-school youth can pool their resources to create more opportunities.

LEAD has been renewed for another five years, and NOYN recently presented Altarik White - founder and executive director of Leaders For Life - with a $15,000 check and 25 laptops for students in the program. The presentation was made in recognition of White’s years of service in Newark. As a partner of the Newark Youth Workforce Collaborative, NOYN works to support its partner programs with data, strategy, and fundraising.

"This recognition is a testament to the hard work of the NOYN staff and our partners," said Robert Clark, Chief Executive Officer of NOYN. "Countless families and young people from throughout the city have benefitted from the programs offered at Leaders For Life and we’re honored to be a part of Newark’s public safety reform efforts in whatever way we can.”