

A large, diverse group of people is shown in the background, cheering and raising their arms in a celebratory gesture. They are smiling and appear to be in a positive, energetic mood. The background is a plain, light color, making the people stand out.

ITS – The Life Program

International Trends & Services

**THE LINKS INTERNATIONAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS & BUSINESS
EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM FOR YOUTH
“THE LIFE PROGRAM”**



**NATIONAL LINKS INTERNATIONAL TRENDS AND SERVICES
2008 PROGRAM LAUNCH**

THE WOW FACTOR! ENLIGHTENING MINORITY YOUTH TO GLOBAL
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN BUSINESS AND THE FOREIGN SERVICE



ITS - THE LIFE Program

LIFE PROGRAM MODEL

Objective

- ATTRACT AND RECRUIT MINORITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH AN INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES.
- THE LINKS INCORPORATED WILL INTRODUCE THE LIFE PROGRAM TO CREATE A FUTURE JOB POOL OF YOUNG MINORITY STUDENTS FOCUSED ON CAREERS IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND FOREIGN SERVICE.
- THE LIFE PROGRAM CURRICULUM MODEL IS PATTERNED AFTER THE SUCCESSFUL HOWARD UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM AT THE RALPH J. BUNCHE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CENTER. THE OBJECTIVE WILL BE FOR THE LINKS INCORPORATED CHAPTERS, INTERNATIONAL TRENDS AND SERVICES FACETS TO LAUNCH THE LIFE PROGRAM MODEL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THEIR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES IN CITIES NATIONWIDE.
- TARGET HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, AGE 14 – 16 YEAR OLD, 9-10 GRADERS INTERESTED IN PURSUING COLLEGE STUDIES.

LIFE PROGRAM MODEL

Description

- The project contains three components: (i) development, (ii) implementation, and (iii) evaluation, review and mentor.
- The **first phase** involves identifying and solidifying logistical and development details including: identifying the high schools to recruit student participants and liaising with the local college/university to co-sponsor the program. Maximum 25 students per session.
- A team of qualified faculty facilitators need to be secured in conjunction with the selected college or university during the planning phase of the project. Also determining transportation, meals and housing cost for students. Chapters will look for sponsors and seek support from the partnering college/university. Also apply for a program grant from The Links Foundation.
- The **second phase** of the program is the planning and implementation segment for the program enrichment - curriculum, site visits, guest speakers, teleconferencing, Link Chapter mentoring support activities, etc.

LIFE PROGRAM MODEL

Description

- In the **third phase** the local Chapter, Links International Trends and Services Facet will evaluate the results of their two week LIFE program session. The review will look at the student development and the ability of the college faculty to produce a commendable program.
- In keeping with the development stage; Link members will continue mentoring the students by planning additional international events. Also, by selecting outstanding LIFE program alumni to sponsor in the Howard University Summer Enrichment program at the Ralph Bunche Center for International studies to continue their exposure and grooming.
- This phase is key in quantifying how many alumni of the LIFE Program are influenced and follow their dreams to specialize in either international business or foreign affairs.

Program Team

PROGRAM TEAM

Team Captains are the program leaders responsible for structuring the program locally and coordinating the participants.

Team Captains

Chapter ITS Chair and Co-chairs, High School Principal or Guidance Counselor. At the college it would be either the Provost, Department Head, Dean of Education, Business or International Affairs.

LIFE PROGRAM COLLEGE AFFILIATION

LINKS ITS FACET WILL WORK WITH SELECT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TO ESTABLISH A CAMPUS VENUE FOR THE LIFE PROGRAM.

- ❖ 2-WEEK PROGRAM INVOLVING CLASSROOM CURRICULUM, EDUCATIONAL TRIPS, VISITING LECTURES, LINK ITS MENTORING AND OTHER RELAVANT SUPPORT.
- ❖ THE LIFE PROGRAM TEAM WORKS WITH THE EDUCATION OR DIVERSITY DEPTS. AT THE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY TO ORGANIZE FACULTY VOLUNTEERS COMMITTED TO TEACHING THE CURRICULUM.

THE LIFE PROGRAM SELECTION PROCESS

THE LINKS ITS FACET TEAM WORKS WITH LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM SELECTION PROCESS.

- FOR EXAMPLE, THIS CAN RANGE FROM AN ESSAY CONTEST TO TEACHER REFERRALS.
- APPLICANTS MUST HAVE A MINIMUM 2.0 AVERAGE AND INTEREST IN HISTORY, LANGUAGES AND TRAVEL.
- SEE APPLICATION MODEL IN TOOL KIT.

LIFE PROGRAM BENEFITS

- EQUIP STUDENTS WITH A BASIC LITERACY IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
- ENCOURAGE STUDENTS AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL TO PURSUE CAREER
- ADVANCEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
- THE OPPORTUNITY TO EMBRACE WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
- LEARNING LIFE ATTRIBUTES:
 - ❖ INDEPENDENCE
 - ❖ GLOBAL VIEW OF SOCIETY
 - ❖ RESPONSIBILITY
 - ❖ POSITIVE SELF IMAGE
 - ❖ DECISION MAKING
 - ❖ POSITIVE ROLE MODELS
 - ❖ NEW PERSPECTIVES ON WORLD OPPORTUNITIES
 - ❖ PROBLEM SOLVING
 - ❖ RESPECT