



MAYA RISING

SPRING • APRIL 2019

FOUNDERS DAVID DOMENICI AND JAMES FORMAN JR. INDUCTED INTO CHARTER SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

On March 21, 2019, See Forever Foundation and Maya Angelou Schools founders David Domenici and James Forman Jr. were inducted into the FOCUS DC Charter School Hall of Fame just months after celebrating the 20 year anniversary of the organization.

FOCUS DC, a DC Charter School advocacy group, inducts pioneers and leaders of the charter school movement and commemorates their accomplishments with an awards ceremony. See Forever and Maya Angelou School staff and students gathered around Domenici, who also accepted the award on Forman's behalf during the ceremony.

"We celebrate their legacy, but most importantly we celebrate the gift that they are to all of us," said Dr. Robert Simmons III, CEO of See Forever Foundation.

Domenici gave an acceptance speech and left a charge to charter school community, "We {DC Charter School Community} as a movement can fully embrace {them} and make this city the most robust educational city in the country for the hardest to serve 20 percent kids. I hope to make that happen for the next 20 years."



Founder David Domenici pictured in Founder James Forman Jr.'s shoes as he accepts both awards during FOCUS ceremony.

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TAKE A MOMENT TO PAUSE AND REFLECT: DR. MAYA ANGELOU'S BIRTHDAY

Written By : Dr. Robert Simmons

While many will remember her for her poetry, and her ability to speak truth into our consciousness, I have always found her commitment to social justice as one of the most influential aspects of her life. It's her commitment to social justice that provides a foundation to our organization.

As we celebrate the birth of Dr. Maya Angelou, please remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr--Dr. Maya Angelou requires that of us. For years, Dr. Angelou did not celebrate her own birthday — a painful reminder of King's death

In *Rainbow in the Cloud*, another memoir published posthumously, she wrote of King: "It is a great blessing to have lived in the time of Martin Luther King Jr., when forgiveness and generosity of spirit encouraged our citizenry to work for a better world for everybody."

On this day, and everyday, please let forgiveness and generosity of spirit guide how we work together in our organization.



WEEK LONG CELEBRATION AT SCHOOL CAMPUSES IN HONOR OF DR. MAYA ANGELOU'S 91ST BIRTHDAY

Dr. Angelou's 91st Birthday was well celebrated at the Maya Angelou School Campus Community. Students, both at the high school and Young Adult Learning Center held a week long series of events in honor the life and legacy of our namesake.



The week at the high school and academy, led by Health and Wellness Director Leslie Wilmer, kicked off with multiple sessions of African drum hands-on lessons led by musicians from Palm Beach, Florida. Classes also watched the documentary series, *'And Still I Rise.'* The week of events came to an end on April 4 with a festive birthday celebration named, 'Maya Honors', complete with African dancers, singing, music, and cake. Both students and staff participated during the event.



Pictured above is the Dr. Maya Angelou's Birthday Cake shared during lunch on April 4. Pictured to the left is the YALC staff and students. Pictured above are high school and academy scholars participating in a african drum celebration in recognition of Dr. Angelou's birthday.

Staff described the event with words like "beautiful" and "wow". "Maya Angelou inspired generations with her poetry, novels, and activism. As we celebrate Maya's birthday at the YALC we reflect on her legacy and the road she paved for many others. Its no better way than the MAYA WAY!" Dr. Sean Yisrael, YALC Director, stated.

FOUNDATION AND SCHOOLS HONOR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND DONORS WITH ANNUAL EVENT

The See Forever Foundation and Maya Angelou Schools held its annual Partners Appreciation Breakfast on Friday, April 5, 2019 to honor and celebrate all of the support provided by various community groups and supporters. The honorees include Catfritz Foundation, Saint Lucille AME Zion Church, and Burke United Methodist Church, organizations that provide operational and wrap around support to our school community and families.

Guests were ushered by Student Ambassadors, breakfast was served by students in the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism, AOHT, program and entertainment was provided by the Maya Angelou Public Charter School Step Team. Remarks were given by our fearless leaders Dr. Robert Simmons, CEO and school leaders Dr. Clarisse Mendoza, Dr. Sean Yisrael, Principals Dean Weeks and Felecia Hayward-Lawson. Following breakfast and the ceremony, guests visited tables setup by various student organizations across the high school and young adult programs to include Residential "Resi", Athletics, Health and Wellness, AOHT, Homebuilders Institute, Seeds for Success, Synthesize Print Screening and a guided tour of the Hoop House.



HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW ALUMNI FACEBOOK PAGE?

Our Alumni Facebook is back in operation under the brand new name of Maya Schools Alumni Network!

Our Alumni affairs department provides support to all graduates of the high school, young adult learning center, and academy. If you are an alum, or know of any alumni, please follow the new Facebook and stay connected with new events and information.

Also-- follow our foundation and schools at See Forever Foundation on Facebook. We're also on twitter and instagram at the handle Maya Schools!

WE'RE HIRING FOR SY 19/20

Join the #MayaRising Team! Now accepting applications for general and special education teachers, paraeducators, and wrap around service providers. Please visit or refer qualified candidates www.seeforever.org/careers and apply today!



Saturday, June 1, 2019

11:00AM-4:00PM

Rain Date:

Sunday, June 2, 2019

5600 East Capitol Street N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20019



MAYA FEST

A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY

ENTERTAINMENT, HEALTH SCREENINGS
FREE FOOD, GAMES, AND FUN!



FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

SEE FOREVER FOUNDATION
MAYA ANGELOU
SCHOOLS