

## **Kaleem Caire Named President/CEO of the Urban League of Greater Madison After Leading National Effort South Madison Native Returns to Home to Serve**



*Friday, March 12, 2010:* The Urban League of Greater Madison announced the appointment of its new President & CEO, Kaleem Caire. After conducting a national search through a selection committee comprised of Madison area community representatives and board members, the Urban League is excited to have attracted a Madison native with Kaleem's experience, vision, and passion for the work of the Urban League.

Kaleem will be returning to Madison from Washington D.C. where he has worked on the national stage as a non-profit leader on education and community development issues. He will begin work on March 29.

Russell Betts, Urban League Board Vice-Chair explained that "Kaleem's deep roots in Madison and the respect that he has earned among business, non-profit, education, government, and community leadership will be a tremendous benefit to the Urban League. Those that know Kaleem also know that, despite having lived in the D.C. area for the last 10 years, he has remained connected and involved with the Madison community."

Kaleem joins the Urban League at an exciting and pivotal time. As the State of Black Madison report pointed out in 2008, the racial gaps in education and economics in our community are dramatic. In response, just last month the Urban League celebrated the opening of its new Center for Economic Development & Workforce Training in South Madison. This increased accessibility, visibility, and programmatic infrastructure presents a world of new opportunity as the League ramps up its efforts to close these racial gaps and improve the quality of life for all the citizens of our community.

Kaleem notes that "I am very excited about returning to my home town with Lisa and our children and working with the League and our partners to expand educational, work, and business opportunities for the community. I am ready to go!"

### **Kaleem Caire's Background**

Kaleem is a graduate of Madison's West High School after which he served in the U.S. Navy eventually returning to Madison where he earned his degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin Madison. Kaleem was Co-Founder of the Next Generation Education Foundation in 2006 and continues to serve as its President & CEO. The Next Generation Education Foundation provides after school, college prep, and leadership development programs for young men. He has also worked as Executive Director of the Fight For Children/J.E. Robert Companies, Founding President & CEO of the Black Alliance for Educational Options, Special Projects Director for the Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth and Education Consultant for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Kaleem and his wife Lisa have three sons and two daughters. They have strong connections to the Urban League, including that Kaleem was the youngest recipient ever of the Urban League of Greater Madison's Whitney M. Young, Jr. Equal Opportunity Award and his wife Lisa was an employee of the League early on in her professional career.

Kaleem's accomplishments over the years are many: He commissioned the nation's first comprehensive study of high school graduation rates, which has led to a radical shift in measuring high school quality and productivity in the U.S.; He was appointed to a panel by U.S. Secretary of Education Rod to advise on a longitudinal assessment of Title I - No Child Left Behind; he guided the formation of the District of Columbia Public Charter School Association and the passage of unprecedented federal legislation that has resulted in more than \$200 million appropriated for public school reform and expanded school options for under-served children in the District of Columbia; He assisted world famous music producer Quincy Jones and his Listen Up Foundation with the international We Are The Future campaign and free public concert in Rome, Italy; He oversaw one of the largest and most successful celebrity charity concerts to ever take place on a U.S. military base, honoring 45,000 U.S. Marines and their families.

Kaleem's other honors include Who's Who in the World 2010, Who's Who in America 2007, University of Wisconsin Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Lecturer, University of Wisconsin Forward Under 40 Award, City of Madison Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award, US Navy National Defense Medal, and Best Foot Forward Award from the U.S. Secretary of the Navy.