



NEWS RELEASE

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One of 'Little Rock Nine' to speak at Summit

York, Pa., Mar. 3, 2008 – One member of the 'Little Rock Nine' will be among the presenters at the 2008 YorkCounts Annual Summit, slated for April 17 with the theme of "Educational Opportunities for All."

Dr. Terrence Roberts is now co-chairperson of the Master's in Psychology Program at Antioch University (Calif.). In 1957, Roberts, then a 15-year-old high school junior, was one of the first nine African-American students enrolled in previously all-white Little Rock (Ark.) Central High School. The integration of the school took place over the objection of segregationist residents and Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus, who had deployed the Arkansas National Guard to stop it. It came as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which declared public school segregation unconstitutional, and the moment is considered a milestone of the Civil Rights movement.

The Summit is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2008 from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the Yorktowne Hotel in downtown York. The event is open to the public, but registration is required, and those who wish to attend are asked to e-mail YorkCounts' Angela Decker at adecker2@ycp.edu or call (717) 815-6632.

"Dr. Roberts was assaulted, spat upon and threatened with death because he dared to seek new and different educational opportunities where they had not been available before," says YorkCounts Director James DeBord. "We will be honored to welcome him." DeBord says Roberts will speak about the need for all communities to present educational opportunities to all children, regardless of where they live or the color of their skin.

Another speaker at the Annual Summit will be Midshipman Zerbin Singleton, currently Brigade Commander of the senior class at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. Despite an unbelievable set of life challenges, Singleton has excelled as an aerospace engineering major at one of the world's most rigorous institutions of higher learning; he will graduate in May and will report to flight school afterward, aspiring to be an astronaut.

YorkCounts will also honor high school students from districts across York County with the first YorkCounts Citizen-Student Awards. These students have been identified based on leadership and community involvement.

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YorkCounts is a community-based coalition working to assess, sustain and enhance York County's quality of life – building alliances, introducing partners, spotlighting issues and facilitating conversations on education, economic development, health and safety, diversity and more. Partners include Better York, the United Way of York County, WellSpan Health, York College of Pennsylvania, the York County Chamber of Commerce, the York County Commissioners, the York County Community Foundation and the York County Economic Development Corporation. Learn more at yorkcounts.org.

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