Urban League San Diego County | Empowering Communities. Changing Lives.

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URBAN LEAGUE'S ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

"FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE: THE URBAN LEAGUE CONTINUES TO IMPACT THE COMMUNITY FOR 72 YEARS WHILE CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF LEADERS IN THE MOVEMENT."

San Diego, CA — In the spirit of its overarching mission of empowering communities and changing lives, the Urban League of San Diego County (ULSDC) held its Annual Awards Dinner, **"Focus on the Future"** on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the US Grant Hotel, downtown, San Diego, to recognize change agents and pioneers in the movement.

Al Abdallah, President and CEO of the ULSDC, said, "The work of the Urban League is not done by our organization alone. Over the years, our community has been blessed with leaders who have worked as instruments of change through their personal commitments. We are proud to highlight and honor their work to increase ethical standards and practices for residents across the region, promoting socio-economic change. This is a time when we should be uplifting and celebrating the work and leadership that move the needle forward in supporting our community. This event helps our organization raise funds needed to support our programs, so that we can continue to positively impact and empower our participants to help themselves secure the American Dream of economic stability, sustainable housing, and equal rights. We must prepare our youth, who are the future. I must extend a distinct thank you to **Larry S. Reed**, our Board Chair and CEO of Impact Advisory Group, LLC, who continuously provides advice and guidance during these times. In addition, with special thanks to Leonard Thompson, one of our community members and M.A.N.D.A.T.E. Records, we were fortunate to add the famous entertainer **Rebecca Jade** as a special guest."

Larry S. Reed congratulated Al Abdallah, the President and CEO of the Urban League of San Diego County, and the staff team for 72 years of service. Also announced were **David Betancourt** from BMO; **Jesse Codere** from Open Heart Leaders, who is our new Young Professionals President; and **Dr. Kimberly A. White Smith** from the University of San Diego, as the newest Board member.

The Urban League of San Diego County (ULSDC) is committed to serving underrepresented populations and their families through its core programmatic areas of economic development & housing, education & youth development, workforce development, and health & wellness. The Urban League of San Diego celebrates its recent accomplishments and results in parenting, employment, and financial asset building for re-entry, the homeless, and youth.

There was a testimonial message from **Janee Anderson** and **Kyan Samuels**, from the local Project Ready Youth Council, who shared how the Urban League's college and career readiness programs, under the Education and Youth Development activities, affected their lives, while several of their fellow Project Ready youth members joined them on stage. Larry S. Reed, the Board Chair, and Al Abdallah provided information on program successes and a special thank-you. Companies such as **US Bank**, **BMO**, **Sycuan Resort**, and **San Diego Foundation** provided support and partnership for the program. **Yasmeen Ludy**, from Channel 10 News, served as Mistress of Ceremonies. M.A.N.D.A.T.E. Records provided all audio, visual, and technical assistance for the program's production.

Here are the names of the 2025 Honorees:

1. Armon Harvey
2. Rockette Ewell
3. David Dunn
4. Dr. R. Vernon Moore
5. Dr. Crystal Cené, M.D.
6. Dr. Joseph Cummings, M.D.
7. Dr. Kelly Elmore, M.D.
8. The Honorable Assemblymember Dr. LaShae Sharp-Collins

9. Jotaka L. Eaddy
10. Dr. Leonard Thompson

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Organized in 1953, the Urban League of San Diego County (ULSDC) is a community-based, direct-service, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) affiliate of the National Urban League that focuses on empowering underserved communities. ULSDC works to achieve social and economic equality through advocacy, bridge building, programs, services, and research. ULSDC maintains a strong focus on policy, practice, and protest regarding youth education and family support services through employment, housing, elderly health outreach, and women's re-entry programs.