



BLACK LAX

Reg Weaver Human and Civil Rights Award

Black Leaders Acquiring Collective Knowledge La Crosse (BLACK LAX) is a shining example of an organization that is truly dedicated to uplifting and empowering the youth and community in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Their unwavering commitment to bridging the poverty gap and providing access to education, resources, and services has had a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals in the area. From their Black Youth Summit to their Black Professionals Network Program, BLACK LAX has demonstrated a deep understanding of the needs of the community and has worked determinedly to address them.

Their various programs cater to different age groups and address a wide range of issues, from identity and racial trauma to advocacy, communication, and mental health. These programs provide a safe and supportive space for youth to explore and discuss important topics, empowering them to make positive changes in their lives and communities. They also work to support youth who face marginalization due to the intersections of their identities, by providing services such as a crisis hotline and basic services to address immediate needs.

BLACK LAX's partnerships with other non-profit organizations in the community, such as Vox for Change and Rhymes, have further solidified their impact and reach, allowing them to provide even more resources and support to those in need. Their collaboration with local higher education institutions and their innovative workforce program demonstrate their commitment to creating sustainable solutions to poverty and empowering individuals to achieve financial stability and independence. Jesse Martinez, President of the La Crosse Education Association, says about BLACK LAX, "BLACK continues to inspire students, educators, families, and our community at large to eliminate marginalization, discrimination and poverty within our community."

Through their tireless efforts and dedication, BLACK LAX is an integral organization for the La Crosse community. Their work has not only empowered and given access to children who have been historically marginalized by poverty, but it has also led to increased community engagement and a more celebratory spirit. Following in the path of former NEA President Reg Weaver, who consistently supported students in his schools who experienced poverty, it is clear that BLACK LAX is a deserving recipient of the Reg Weaver Human and Civil Rights Award.