




BLACK FUTURE LEADERS



Founded in 1985



PURPOSE

- To ensure Black high school students pursue academic excellence, leadership and community service
 - Create a community for high accomplished students
 - 9th and 10th grade students participate in a summer program on a college campus to learn skills and meet Black role models
- 

FOUNDING

- Jean Peacock modeled the program after Latino Future Leaders (now called the Inland Empire Future Leaders Program)
- Dr. Tom Rivera, director of Latino Future Leaders, encouraged and supported the program alongside many other schools & community organizations



DANNY TILMAN

Everyday HEROES

Tillman became involved three years ago. He is a rare item, says Marion Black, a program founder.

"I wish we had more like him. You'll find Black males, but very few young Black males taking a positive leadership role."

Tillman, who works for the county tax collector, credits a strong father and supportive mother for his direction.

But a teenage Tillman was also struck by the lack of other role models.

"I always told myself if I ever got the chance, I was going to go back and talk to young Black males and tell them, straight up, what they need to get ahead."

And what they need, he says, is self-respect, communication skills, a solid education, willingness to work hard at any job, an understanding of office politics and an appreciation for the value of knowing the right people.

"Just give them all the tools."



Danny Tillman
Saw a lack of role models

The teens he works with — boys and girls — say Tillman does that best.

"He encouraged me to go to college and everything," says Djuana Harris, a San Geronio High graduate headed for Tuskegee University. Under two years of Tillman's tutoring, she raised her math grades from C's to A's.

"He's the kind of tutor who works with you. He doesn't con-

demn you or anything."

At 16, Tillman started working as a student aide in the county's environmental public works department. He's worked for the county ever since in a variety of jobs: painting, pumping gas at the public yards, working in the tire shop.

He moved into data processing six years ago.

His dedication to youth started while attending San Bernardino Valley College. As fraternity president of Phi Beta Sigma, he established a scholarship fund for local high school students.

Later, with Black Future Leaders, Tillman helped set up and now runs the program's Saturday tutorial sessions.

His volunteer work takes him away from his family — a wife, a 9-year-old stepson and two daughters, 2½ and 7 months — and he has had to cut back some.

But Tillman doesn't regret a minute of sharing his time.

"It's not a burden at all to me. I love it. I just get joy out of working with young people."

If you know someone who is an Everyday Hero, please write Assistant Metro Editor Jan Sears, The Sun, 399 N. D St., San Bernardino 92401, or call (714) 889-9666 Ext. 253.

He was a president and mentor for Black Future Leaders



“

It's just celebrating the talents that every one of our kids have and tell them that and build them up so that they know they can go on and do great things. That's what makes a big difference. And that's what Black Future Leaders is all about.

”

-Danny Tillman



**Cal State San Bernardino serves as the program's home,
where it was founded 38 years ago.**



Black Future leaders students in University Hall at CSUSB in 2015

Credits

Louis Carson Oral History
Jean Peacock Oral History
The San Bernardino Sun
Precinct Reporter Group News
Danny Tillman Oral History

Thank you to:

The Black Future Leaders Facebook group and their
Instagram Page: @btleaders for providing visual resources



If you are interested in contributing to the collection contact us at archives@csusb.edu.