



April 8, 2019

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**Celebrate! Maya Project, Lakeside Public Schools and City of Eudora sponsor
Youth Writing & History Immersion Workshop**

(Little Rock, AR) Lakeside Public School students will meet, learn from and interview outstanding Chicot County leaders during a one-day writing and history workshop, Saturday, April 13, 2019 at the J. Austin White Cultural Center in Eudora, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.. The Celebrate! Maya Project of Arkansas, in partnership with the Lakeside Public School District, the City of Eudora and the J. Austin White Cultural Center are cosponsors of the workshop.

Janis F. Kearney, founding president of the Celebrate! Maya Project, says the goal of the Youth Writing & History Workshop is to “offer middle and high school students a unique interactive writing and history experience in which they learn more about their history by hearing local History Makers’ stories, participating in one-on-one interview sessions, then writing biographical essays based on their interviews.” Students will also create art expressions that represent each history makers’ story. Kearney says the Project’s mission is to help youth understand and value the Arkansas Delta region’s rich history, and to meet some of the men and women who have played a pivotal role in enriching the region through their works, even though many are not found in our history books.

The workshop will also include career authors, artists, photojournalists and historians who will discuss the importance of collecting and valuing our rich history and assist students in completing their biographical essays. Students’ work will be featured in a county history book published by the Celebrate! Maya Project and presented at a community book launch in fall 2019.

Chicot County History Makers will include Mrs. Linda Armour-Bruce, Principal at Lakeside Public School; Chicot County Judge Mack Ball; Mrs. Elizabeth “Lillie” Borgognoni, a member of the original family of the Sunnyside Plantation and Historian for the Body of Lakes; Dr. Andronica Handie, renowned foot and ankle surgeon; Mr. Ocie Hunter, Arkansas’ first African American Park Superintendent; Mr. and Mrs. Leroy and Mary Jackson, recognized Chicot Farm Family of the Year, and community leaders; Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Lynn Marshall, southeast Arkansas farmers, philanthropists, and U.S. presidential appointee; Mr. and Mrs. Carol and Alvin Meyer, Jr., southeast Arkansas farmers and community servants; Mrs. Bettye DeLoach-Pressley, 18-year public official in Eudora city government as alderman and City Clerk, author and former educator; Dr. LaCandian Spencer, Pharmacist and community leader; Dr. Laquinda Alexander-Toney, school counselor and behavior/mental health therapist; Mr. Robert Howard Toney, Sr., former Insurance official, farmer and public servant; Mrs. Mary Turner, the first female Chicot County Judge; and Mrs. Joyce Vaught, lifetime educator recognized statewide for her work to improve education.