

For Immediate Release - 10 April 2014

Teach for America Invites Local Business Leader to Speak at Johnson High School: Nicole Jones encourages students to explore new ways to get involved in the economic development process

On Monday April 7 at 11AM, Nicole Jones, President of Nicole Jones Development, guest taught at Johnson High School as part of Teach for America's Alabama Spotlight on Education Month. Former guest teachers include Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, Former US Secretary of State James A. Baker III, Oprah Winfrey, and more.



Ms. Jones spoke with students about the definition of economic development and how they, as young citizens, can become more involved in the Huntsville community, citing recent events that involved student participation as well as upcoming events in which teen volunteers are much-welcomed and appreciated. A lucky student received a scholarship for his entry in the upcoming Huntsville Inner City Learning Center's Give it Back Track 5K on May 3.

"To help Huntsville keep its positive reputation as being an inviting community, it is important that all citizens participate in the economic development process. I am honored to have been selected by Teach for America for this opportunity and hope that students at Johnson will recognize that residents of all ages, races, and income levels can unite together to improve our quality of life," stated Jones.

Teach For America chose Jones because she has evidenced how to be a productive member of society by her dedication to professional, civic, and philanthropic organizations as a spokesperson, board member, and corporate sponsor.

"With the help and leadership of Teach For America, students at Westlawn Middle School, historically a low performing school, showed higher growth in STAR test scores than students at any other district. This is what is possible when students from low income areas are given the opportunity to excel." - Dr. Casey Wardynski

Since its launch in 1997, Teach For America Week has enlisted hundreds of our nation's most notable individuals to share their knowledge and personal insights with thousands of students.

Economic Development & How to Get Involved in Huntsville

Johnson Faculty and Student Testimonials -

"Ms. Jones delivered an engaging lesson, which aligned perfectly with our class goal that 'students will think and act like global leaders.' She not only introduced my Honors World History students to the fundamental aspects of economic development, but she also provided a clear roadmap for how these scholars could become catalysts for economic development as teenagers. Since I arrived at Johnson in August through Teach For America, the administration has had the faculty, staff, and students in lockstep regarding the belief that attitude determines altitude. Ms. Jones showed my students that stakeholders in the greater Huntsville community embrace that same message." - Chris Scribner, 9th Grade World History teacher and Head Wrestling Coach, J.O. Johnson High School

"Ms. Jones made me feel like a valued and valuable member of the Huntsville community," said Johnson 9th grade student Candise Battle. "I didn't know what to expect when Mr. Scribner said we would have a special guest teacher from the private sector, but Ms. Jones helped me understand the importance of local collaboration in order to help grow the Huntsville economy. She made me want to get more involved with the events around town."

"I'll be honest, I didn't know much about economic development before Ms. Jones came to Coach Scribner's class today. I left the class inspired to help people in my community, and Ms. Jones inspired me to work with my peers to start an after-school program to help younger students in North Huntsville improve their reading skills." - Shon'Derious Spralling, 9th grade student at J.O. Johnson