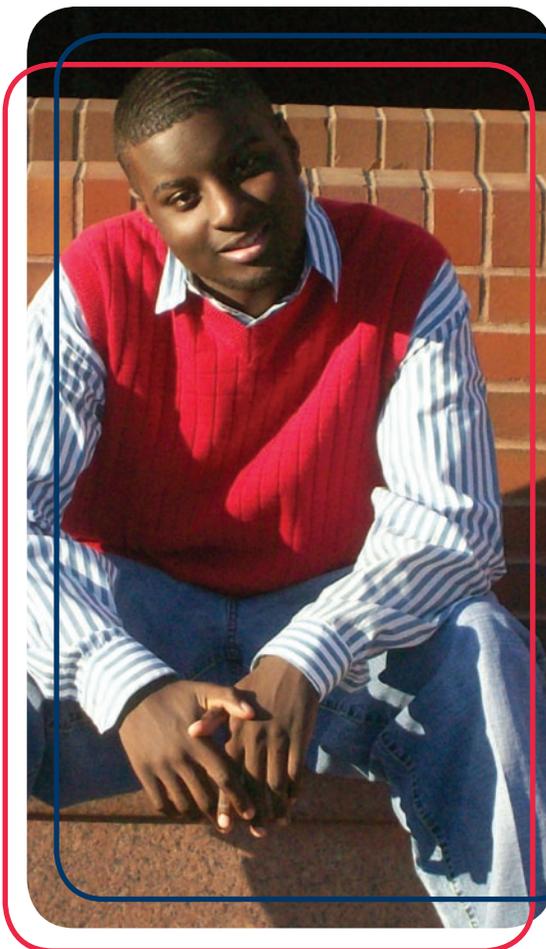




sierra's STARS

Malcolm Furr finds confidence
in Boys and Girls Club

Don't be surprised if one day you see 17-year old Malcom Furr's name with the letters "CEO" next to it. This East High senior has what it takes to succeed. And he says he owes it to the Boys and Girls Club of South Central Kansas.



Furr was nominated as the Boys and Girls Clubs' "Youth of the Year" in 2006.

Winning Youth of the Year is no easy feat. The competition consists of writing nine essays, giving speeches, and interviews with a panel of judges. It's a nerve-wracking experience for even the most seasoned speaker.

But that didn't stop Furr. He says being named Youth of the Year has given him the assurance to try anything.

"Winning the Youth of the Year award gave me the confidence to go out there and just try," Furr says. "After winning the competition, I'm not going to pass up other opportunities."

Furr knows his aspiration of being head of his own company will take hard work. But he also knows that reaching those goals is a step-by-step process. "You set small goals, and once you achieve those, you can move on to bigger ones," he says.

His mother introduced him to the club when he was in middle school, and she is his biggest supporter.

"My mom has supported me with everything I do. She took me over to the Boys and Girls Club and I've been involved ever since," he says. "She was the one who got me the application for the

radio show and a few weeks later, I landed it!"

The radio show he's referring to is a radio show he hosts on 107.9 JAMS. "Generation Rap" is a youth-led radio show and is hosted by a select group of young people. During the show, each student can choose what to talk about. Furr likes to discuss music.

"I like rap and hip-hop in general. I like to talk about it because that's what I'm into and that's what I'm knowledgeable about," he says.

Furr's interest in music has given him another dream - to be a rapper. He said he would do that on the side, since he'll be busy being the CEO of his company.

Along with his involvement with the Boys and Girls Club, Furr also participates with the Wichita State University Upward Bound program and the youth leadership group Keystone, a group that performs community service to raise money for a summer conference.

At the Boys and Girls Club, Furr likes to play basketball and pool, but mostly he just hangs out with his friends. "It's a positive place for kids to meet new people and have a lot of fun. You can even get your homework done if you need to," he says.

The Boys and Girls Club opened its doors in 1990 and offers programs and fun activities for children ages 5 to 18. The club also offers students career development and leadership training, cultural activities, and health and life skills.

Furr's future plans include a desire to attend college.

"Maybe Wichita State University or the University of Missouri," he says. "The Upward Bound program I was involved with took a trip to Nebraska and we saw the University of Omaha. That's another option."

He'd like to major in business administration, entrepreneurship, or, because of his love of music, music composition. 🎵

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