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**Local Child Advocate To Receive FBI Award for Metro Detroit Youth Program**

*Grenaé Dudley, Ph.D., President and CEO of The Youth Connection, will receive the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award on April 5<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C.*

**April 1, 2013, Detroit, MI** – Grenaé Dudley, Ph.D., President and CEO of The Youth Connection, Inc., will receive the 2012 Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director's Community Leadership Award (DCLA) in a ceremony to be held in Washington, DC, on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

The DCLA is presented annually by the FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III, to a recipient in each of the FBI's 56 domestic field offices. Established in 1990, the DCLA is designed to publicly recognize an individual or organization that has helped with crime prevention and educational programs within their community which have furthered the efforts of law enforcement.

Dr. Dudley was recognized and nominated for the award by former Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit office of the FBI Andrew Arena. SAC Arena recognized Dr. Dudley for working with youth in metropolitan Detroit on the front lines to make sure they have after-school programs available and have the opportunity to attend college or get a good job. Over the years Dr. Dudley has helped thousands of youth participate in paid summer internships, valuable substance abuse education and nutrition and exercise programming. She also serves as a mentor to several youth in TYC programs.

Dr. Dudley heads The Youth Connection (TYC), a local non-profit dedicated to successfully working with metropolitan Detroit youth to get them into a career or college. The Youth Connection Career Academies provide youth with direction to answer two simple questions: "What do you want to do?" and "How can we help you succeed?" TYC programming provides youth with the skills and support they need while its partners provide real-world job experiences. Last year TYC served close to 5,000 youth and adults directly through its programming and special events.

Dr. Dudley, a resident of Southfield, has been an advocate for youth in metropolitan Detroit for over 20 years. As a community leader, Dr. Dudley was chairwoman of the City of Southfield Parent Youth Guidance Commission; has served on the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, State Board of Education Full Day/Full Service Task Force, and is currently President of the Southfield Community Foundation. Dr. Dudley was re-appointed by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to the Board of Directors for Oakland County Department of Human Services, where she serves as Chair, serves on the National League of Cities After-School Policy Advisors Network and Education Policy Advisory Network, is a member of the National Cross Cities Network and the City of Detroit Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Black United Fund. She is a charter member of the Southfield Community Foundation's Women's Fund and serves on the advisory committee. Dr. Dudley regularly attends Northridge Church and serves as a lead usher, sings in the choir and is active with the church's prison ministry.

**About The Youth Connection:** *The Youth Connection is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to connecting our youth to a brighter future through career exploration, job training, internships, after-school programs and academic assistance for metropolitan Detroit area youth. For more information about The Youth Connection, visit [www.theyouthconnection.org](http://www.theyouthconnection.org).*