



# CAPITAL REGION YMCA

*We build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities.*

**Capital Region YMCA**  
*Something For Everyone*

**Camp Indian Springs**  
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**Child Development Center**  
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**Northwest YMCA**  
3840 North Monroe Street, Suite 400  
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**Parkway Family YMCA**  
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Tallahassee, FL 32301-4845  
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**YMCA at SouthWood**  
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give  
kids the  
chance

Dear Mr. Laymon A. Hicks,

Thank you so much for your participation in the 2010 YMCA Southern Regional Achievers Teen Summit. Through your powerful and heart-felt message, you were able to touch the lives of our students. I cannot explain how awesome it felt to see you intimately engage our young people the way you did. The summit is days old and your message is still blessing the lives of our attendees as evident through the numerous Facebook status updates with quotes and information shared during your presentation. Thank you for taking our Summit's theme of "Dream, Believe, Achieve" and sharing a message that not only inspired them, but empowered them to move towards their goals, better their best, and work hard for what they want.

It is with great admiration of your ability to connect with the youth and enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation, knowing that students at other conferences and schools would benefit from hearing your message and words of encouragement. Never before had I seen a speaker command the attention and participation of an audience the way you did. The students were attentive and focused through your entire presentation. You even brought life to a group of students who weren't so live during the beginning of the closing ceremony. As I watched you engage our Summit attendees, I was not surprised when the audience jumped to their feet at the conclusion of your speech to show their excitement and appreciation for your motivating message. From start to finish, you had the students on the edge of their seats and intently listening to your words of wisdom.

As the students boarded their buses to leave the Summit, you could not only see their excitement from the presentation, but you could hear the excitement in their voices as they spoke of how great of a speaker you were. Although much of this letter has been about your performance as the closing keynote speaker for our Summit, I cannot forget to thank you for your facilitation of the workshop "Turn My Swag On". When our Summit action team asked the students their thoughts on the workshops, we continuously heard comments like "Laymon Hicks' workshop was the best." "I really enjoyed Mr. Hicks." "Mr. Hicks was so fun and inspiring."

With numerous positive comments about you and your performance made by our Summit attendees and advisors, it is without reservation that I highly recommend other conferences and schools bring you in to speak to their students. I thank you for having such a powerful presence in the lives of our Summit attendees. I can confidently say that I know you would have the same impact on students in another group or school.

Again, thank you for your participation as a workshop presenter and the closing keynote speaker for our Summit.

Sincerely,

Chazmen L. Geames  
Minority Achievers Director  
Capital Region YMCA