Dear Community Leader,

International Paper, in conjunction with the National Civil Rights Museum, is pleased to announce that the 2016 Freedom Award Student Forum will be held Thursday, October 20 at 10:00 a.m. at Mississippi Boulevard Church, 70 N. Bellevue Blvd., Memphis, TN 38104. In addition, International Paper is pleased to again sponsor the 2016 Keeper of the Dream Award.

The Keeper of the Dream Award is a public recognition of selected youth in grades 6-12. This award celebrates and recognizes the heroism of many young people who will have the amazing responsibility of safeguarding our freedom while ensuring equal rights and opportunities for others.

Your help is essential in helping select deserving youth to receive this prestigious honor. The Keeper of the Dream Award parallels the National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Award, which is bestowed upon worthy individuals who have forged paths to expand freedom and opportunities for all people. The student winners of the Keeper of the Dream Award will be honored on stage at the 2016 Public Forum.

Enclosed is the application form for your Keeper of the Dream nominee. Please note that the completed form must be returned by noon on September 27.

We look forward to you and your organization’s participation in this recognition. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Ramonda Clayborn, International Paper, (901) 419-8094, or e-mail Ramonda.Clayborn@ipaper.com.

Sincerely,

Deano C. Orr
Executive Director
International Paper Foundation
Purpose:

The Keeper of the Dream Award is a public recognition award, given by International Paper and the National Civil Rights Museum, to youth in grades 6 -12 who go above and beyond extending themselves by demonstrating extraordinary courage, compassion, leadership and/or service toward others.

The award also celebrates and recognizes the heroism of all young people who will have the amazing responsibility of safeguarding our freedom while ensuring equal rights and opportunities for others.

The Keeper of the Dream Award parallels the National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Award, which is bestowed upon worthy individuals who have forged paths to expand freedom and opportunities for all people.

Criteria:

Each nominee must:

- Be a resident of Shelby County
- Be a student of grade levels 6 – 12 for the 2016-17 school year
- Have demonstrated community service through one of the following: courage, compassion, leadership and/or service

Definitions: courage, compassion, leadership and service - Interpretation of these categories is left to the individual nominators. To aid in this interpretation, the following general comments may be helpful:

Courage: Overcoming an obstacle in order to help others even when there may be a perceived barrier. Courage may be interpreted in many ways: an act of bravery or heroism, overcoming a personal challenge, standing by one’s principles, etc. There are many forms of courage, but one of the highest callings of courage is action that benefits others over self.

Compassion: Comprises both the understanding of others' problems and needs while extending oneself to address these problems and needs.

Service: Applying effort and time to others for no apparent personal gain.

Leadership: Guiding others with integrity, compassion and strength. This quality may be associated with a spontaneous act or a consistent trait and demonstrated behavior.

Please be sure to cite specific examples in your description of the nominee. It is important that you take the time to create a picture of why you are nominating this youth as judges will not be familiar with circumstances and achievements of this student.
Nominations:
Nominations are solicited from community organizations serving youth in Shelby County, Tennessee. Candidates must be supported by or involved with nominating organization. Each organization may submit two outstanding young people. Each organization must complete a separate nomination form for each nominee.

Supporting Materials:
Limit additional information such as letters, certificates, etc., to two pages. When possible, include copies rather than the original documents. Please do not send photographs of the nominee. We will not be able to return supporting materials.

Deadline:
Submit completed nomination forms to Ramonda Clayborn, International Paper, 6400 Poplar Ave., Tower I, Memphis, TN 38197. Completed forms may also be e-mailed to Ramonda.Clayborn@ipaper.com

Regardless of the method of submission, all applications must be received by noon on September 27.

Selection Process:
A committee from the sponsoring organizations will select three award recipients from the nominees.

Winners Receive:
- $500 Monetary Award
- Engraved Trophy
- Jacket
- One year family membership for up to five people to the National Civil Rights Museum. More info about museum membership at http://civilrightsmuseum.org/membership

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Ramonda Clayborn, Human Resources Manager, International Paper at (901) 419-8094 or email Ramonda.Clayborn@ipaper.com or contact Ryan Jones, Museum Educator and Tour Guide, National Civil Rights Museum, at (901) 521-9699, ext.2235, or e-mail rmjones@civilrightsmuseum.org.
Nominations for the Keeper of the Dream Award are based on **Courage, Compassion, Leadership and Service**. Please answer the following questions that apply to your nominee, giving specific examples with details that support the particular area for which the nomination is made. *Please note, children of International Paper employees or children of National Civil Rights Museum staff are ineligible.*

Complete the nomination form (please print clearly) and submit no later than **noon on September 27, 2016**, to Ramonda Clayborn, International Paper, 6400 Poplar Ave., Tower 1, Memphis, TN 38197. Forms may also be e-mailed to Ramonda.Clayborn@ipaper.com

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**NOMINEE INFORMATION:**

Name of the nominee: ____________________________________________________

Age: _____ Grade: ___ School child attends: ______________________________________

School phone: ____________________ Principal’s name: _____________________________

Home Address: _____________________________________________________________

City: ______________ State: ___ Zip Code: __________

Home phone: ________________ Cell phone: ________________ Parent/Guardian name: __________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature___________________________________________

*Signing the application verifies that the child above may be considered for the International Paper Keeper of the Dream Award. If selected as a winner, you consent to their story and photograph being used in a variety of communication materials related to the National Civil Rights Museum Public Forum.*

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**NOMINATOR INFORMATION:**

Nominated by: ___________________ Organization Name: _______________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________

City: ______________ State: ____ Zip code: _____________ Daytime phone: _____________

Evening phone ________________ E-mail address: ________________________________

Affiliation with nominee: ______________________________________________________

**Category for which you are nominating this student: (check or circle only one)**

_____ Courage _____ Compassion _____ Service _____Leadership

**Has this nominee received any recognition from a local or national organization for this act?** Yes  ____ No  **(please circle the appropriate selection)**

*NOTE: The following may be answered in the areas given or on a separate document.*
Give a brief description of how the actions of this young person impacted and benefited others in their communities.

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In a 150 to 200 word essay, describe details on the nominee’s act of courage, compassion, leadership and/or service. Please be specific and include background information on the nominee:

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Indicate the period of time over which the nominee was involved in this activity/deed.
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List the projects or organizations the nominee was involved with as proof of their involvement and accomplishments:
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Please add any other reasons you believe your nominee has demonstrated, through their actions, compassion, courage, leadership or service and is deserving of recognition:
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Describe any obstacles the young person may have had to overcome.
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