President’s Message

A New Beginning!

First, kudos to my predecessor, Marcus Owens, who is now the Executive Director of the African American Leadership Forum. Marcus, we applaud you for your vision and your inspirational leadership in bringing NEON to be the force that it is in the community today.

Wow, what a year! Last year NEON continued to build on its momentum. We served more clients and garnered more support than ever. The most important resource in any community is its people. The Northside is brimming with talent waiting to be unleashed and harnessed.

NEON is the place where the talented aspiring entrepreneurs can make their dreams become reality. The Northside is the place where undervalued assets abound and the most undervalued asset of all are the Northside residents. There is a very popular phrase about changing the narrative, many times that phrase is applied to others regarding the Northside, but the most important narrative we need to change is the narrative concerning ourselves. At NEON, we desire to fuel a Culture of Entrepreneurship.

When asked what we needed to succeed, we responded that we needed commitment, a committed and talented staff, committed board and committed funders. We are grateful and pleased that we have all three.

Warren McLean
NEON President