

SOLANO YOUTH SUMMIT

KEY NOTES



ASHANTI BRANCH

Ashanti, born and raised by a single mother on welfare in Oakland, California, Ashanti left a lucrative career in civil engineering when he discovered a true passion in teaching while tutoring struggling students. In 2004 as a first year teacher, Ashanti started The Ever Forward Club to provide a support group for

African American and Latino males, who were not achieving to the level of their potential. Since then, The Ever Forward Club has grown to serve both young men and women and become a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The Ever Forward Club has helped 100% of its members graduate high school and 93% of them have gone on to attend college. Ashanti is on a mission to change the way that students interact with their education and the way schools interact with students.

TASHA "SIXFOOTAH THEPOET" TURNER

A native of Oakland, CA and a lifelong Bay Area resident. Unable to be overlooked, thanks to her 6 feet in stature, Tasha has been commanding audiences not only because of her physical presence, but also because of her distinct and attention grabbing poetic delivery.



In the 5th grade, Tasha wrote a heartfelt poem chronicling the relationship between herself and her mother called "No to Tobacco." The poem was submitted to a local magazine, and was later published and for the first time, Tasha was compensated for her work as a poet. Turner decided to use poetry as a way to share her story and spread awareness about the effects of smoking. She has been able to perform this poem around the Bay Area and has plans to continue to use her story to help others.