

Youth to Watch: Frederick Bell Jr. 19

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Every year, The Drum presents individuals who our readers need to watch and take note of. For 2017, we begin with youth to watch. Because of their leadership skills, gifts, talents, and personality, twelve Louisiana youth have been selected as **Youth to Watch in 2017**. “These youth show exceptional character and work ethics. They have vision and ability to be successful with excellence.” Meet **Frederick Bell Jr., 19**

School: Louisiana State University

Parents: Freda Mason and the late Frederick D. Bell Sr.

Career choice: Law, politics and government

Biggest accomplishments: Being elected the youngest Louisiana Delegate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention; being elected the state-wide president of the Louisiana Senior Beta Club; and founding the Louisiana High School Democrats.

Why was this “big” for you? These three accomplishments were “big” to me because of their unlikely nature. For the 2016 DNC, I was only 18 years old, and I was a part of the delegation that featured Governor John Bel Edwards, Congressman Cedric Richmond, Sen. Mary Landrieu and many other prominent political figures from our state.

For the Beta Club, it was a huge undertaking for everyone involved at my school at the Iberville Math, Science and Arts Academy – East. It took me learning how to mobilize a team around an unlikely campaign. And being the chief executive of a state-wide student organization, caused much media attention that I wasn’t used to. This also presented me what a unique opportunity to serve like I had never before.

And for the Louisiana High School Democrats, I was happy to found this state-wide organization that got hundreds of young people engaged in the political process. This organization is still operational today and is continuing the work of advancing democratic principles and moving America forward.

Life aspirations: I am currently majoring in mass communication with a concentration in political communication and minoring in international studies. Upon graduation from LSU’s Manship School of Mass Communication, I plan to pursue a master’s degree in public policy. Communities are the bedrock of this country, and they often rise or fall together. My goal is to help uplift communities that need it the most, because I believe the quest to perfect our union does not end just because our personal lives and communities are doing well. We are all in this together.

After completing a master's program, I hope to earn a law degree to better prepare myself to be an agent of change. In an ever-changing world where globalization is constantly changing the landscape of our daily lives, it will be crucial to have the wherewithal to be able to navigate through new issues as they arise.

With a master's degree in public policy, I will be able develop and construct policy decisions that aims to better the lives of others. With a law degree, I will be able to understand and interpret the law in a way that will make me an effective advocate for important issues. And with a mass communication degree, I will be able to communicate in a way that policy analyst will understand as well as the single mother who has little time to pour through tedious policy papers.

Furthermore, I am a lover of all things Louisiana and believe our state has its challenges, but potential. It will take a new generation of leadership to lead Louisiana in a new direction. I hope to play a part in this work.

What is your motto, core belief, or favorite quote? Motto: "If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything."

Core belief: "Do the most good."

Favorite quote: "One voice can change a room, and if one voice can change a room, then it can change a city, and if it can change a city, it can change a state, and if it change a state, it can change a nation, and if it can change a nation, it can change the world. Your voice can change the world." –Barack



Frederick Bell Jr and Former President Bill Clinton

Obama

Who are you mentors?: Frederick D. Bell Sr. – Although my father passed away three years ago, when he was with us he instilled in me the will and drive to be as ambitious and determined as I could be. This is part of what drives me to set high goals, and accomplish them. Christopher J. Tyson has been my mentor for the past year and I asked him to do so because he is on a path similar to one I plan to take. He has gotten a master degree regarding public policy and a law degree from the Georgetown Law Center. He is a law professor at LSU Law Center and ran for Louisiana Secretary of State in 2015. He is a family man with a bright political future. In addition to these activities, he also leads a very active and positive role in his community. He and his work deserve admiration.

Goals for 2017: Finish my second semester at LSU and become a summer congressional aide for Congressman Cedric Richmond.

What are you reading? “Between the World and Me” by Ta-Nehisi Coates, *The New York Times*, *The Advocate*, and the *New Orleans Times Picayune*.

What music are you listening to? The Weeknd and R&B.

Hobbies: What do you do for fun? I like to write, spend time with family and friends, and be a total political nerd.