

November 11, 2011

## David Jernigan age 33

KIPP Metro Atlanta

David Jernigan has the power and he passes it along to metro Atlanta students through **KIPP** (Knowledge is Power

Program) Metro Atlanta, a national network of free, open enrollment, college preparatory public schools preparing students in low-income communities for top colleges and the competitive world beyond.

As executive director, Jernigan oversees five KIPP schools with more than 175 employees, which serve some 1,200 students. KIPP Metro Atlanta was recently awarded two elementary school charters and plans to grow to eight schools serving 3,300 students with more than 300 employees within the next six years.

"When I was in college, I was able to participate in a summer program in

inner-city Houston and that lit a spark in me," he said.

While the schools are in low-income areas, they have outperformed averages of the CRCT.

Before joining KIPP, Jernigan was a Teach for America teacher in the Atlanta Public Schools.

In 2003, he founded **KIPP WAYS**

**Academy** and grew it to be the top-performing middle school in the state of Georgia, serving a population that is more than 50 percent low income.

Jernigan is also an advocate for equality in education.

Jernigan serves the community on the Georgia Charter

Advisory Committee and the Advocacy Committee for the Georgia Charter Schools Association. He is a graduate of LEAD Atlanta, and served as co-chair for Community Issues Day for LEAD. He also participated in Leadership Atlanta's Education Day.

This year he was honored by his alma mater, the **University of North Carolina**, with the Distinguished Young Alumnus Award.

