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A six year-old asked a question sixty years ago, and that very same question resonates with many youngsters even to this day: “Why Should White Guys Have All the Fun?”. Reginald Lewis, who navigated an improbable career into the upper echelon of investment banking and corporate deal-making, asked that question of his grandparents when they expressed doubt that their precious grandson would get a fair shake to optimize his observable potential in a racially divided world.

The youth of Milwaukee, Madison and Kenosha are being challenged to read Reginald Lewis’ inspiring auto biography which carries the provocative question as its title. After reading the book the teens and young adults can enter the Youth Voice Essay Contest for a chance to compete for cash prizes totaling \$4000. The first-place essay winner will receive \$1000 and cash prizes will be awarded to nineteen additional winners all the way up to 20th place. The Fellowship Open, which is a Milwaukee based philanthropic phenom is the essay contest’s sponsor.

The Youth Voice Essay Contest is being coordinated by CLIMB which is supporting a collective impact initiative to provide robust and sustainable financial education to youth of color. To be eligible, Individuals must be 22 years old or younger as of March 1, 2021, the essay contest deadline date. Interested contestants should review the guidelines and register right away at CLIMBUSA.org. Registration is free, but it is important because registrants will receive notification of opportunities to (virtually) meet the book’s co-author and VIPs who knew Reginald Lewis personally.

Copies of the book are available at the Milwaukee Public Library and the book can be obtained at a discounted price through April Chenier at Black Classic Press at (410) 242-6954 or aprilchenierbcp@gmail.com.

“Investment banking, corporate finance and portfolio management are rewarding and fulfilling careers of which many youth of color are completely unaware”, said John Daniels III President of the Fellowship Open. “This essay contest provides a creative way to expose students to the kind of education and experiences that lead to jobs and opportunities in the world of finance. We are delighted to bring this incentivized opportunity to educate our youth and simultaneously bring awareness and honor to a truly legendary entrepreneur”, Daniels continued.

The Fellowship Open raises funds to support multiple Milwaukee Area Community Based Organizations that provide youth development programs relating to the arts, technology, financial literacy, job skills and workforce readiness.

CLIMB USA is a nonprofit organization which coordinates community based collective impact initiatives that provide robust and sustainable financial education to underserved youth and families. For more information regarding the essay contest or CLIMB, contact Jerome Brown at wswghatfessaycontest@gmail.com.

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