



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

YMCA OF SOUTHWEST ILLINOIS • Corporate Office

PRESS RELEASE • FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illinois State Senator James Clayborne, Jr. Receives YMCA Legislative Hero Award

Belleville/Springfield, IL – February 10, 2011 -- On Wednesday, February 9, 2011, State Senator James F. Clayborne, Jr. (D-Belleville) received the 2011 YMCA Legislative Hero Award for his commitment to the Y, local youth and teens, and the community. The award was presented in Springfield, Illinois, by the **YMCA of Southwest Illinois** and the **Illinois Alliance of YMCAs**

Senator Clayborne has shown his commitment to the YMCA and the community by providing support for education grants and initiatives that foster growth for youth in the metro east.

Senator Clayborne continues to tackle the disparity of local youth by supporting initiatives that help more at-risk youth complete their high school studies and even encourages them to continue on into college. Each year the Senator sponsors bus loads of youth from the community as they visit several colleges around the country to expose them to the college experience and to boost their knowledge about options for college attendance. He is a champion for education and provides support not only for the YMCA but for many of the local education agencies and local school districts.

YMCA of Southwest Illinois

The YMCA of Southwest Illinois is a leading nonprofit strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. In the MetroEast counties of St. Clair, Madison, Monroe and Randolph, the YMCA of Southwest Illinois, with seven branch locations, engages more than 40,000 men, women and children – regardless of age, income or background – to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. The Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change.

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