



**Columbus  
Urban League**

*Empowering Communities.  
Changing Lives.*

**Ohio**

**Commission on  
Fatherhood**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Columbus Urban League**

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**Fatherhood Summit to Offer Information, Resources – and a Family Night at COSI**

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood and the Columbus Urban League have teamed up to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Fatherhood Summit and Luncheon from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 30 at the Columbus State Community College Center for Workforce Development, 315 Cleveland Ave., Columbus. All fathers and families are welcome to attend. This free event will feature workshops, a “Celebration of Fatherhood” luncheon, a resource fair and more. To kick off the weekend, COSI will open its doors to dads and kids from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, June 29. Anyone interested in attending should call the Columbus Urban League at (614) 372-2331 to receive a special COSI pass for free admission. (Parking costs \$5). The COSI passes are limited, and visitors must have a pass to receive free admission. Attendees will be able to visit all the regular exhibits, including its newest one, “Water.”

This year, the summit will spotlight financial education, with the theme “Healthy Fathers, Wealthy Families.” Several workshops will focus on employment and financial education, and the resource fair will offer on-site employment assistance through [www.OhioMeansJobs.com](http://www.OhioMeansJobs.com). Staff from Ohio’s child support program and Franklin County courts also will be on hand to provide information about child support, child custody, visitation and other issues. The luncheon will feature remarks by Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Michael Colbert and State Representative Tracy Heard, as well as a Q&A session with former Ohio State basketball players Lawrence Funderburke and Scoonie Penn.

“The Summit will be an excellent way for fathers to learn more about a variety of issues that affect them on a daily basis,” Colbert said. “It also will underscore the tremendously important role fathers play in their children’s lives. By providing information and solutions to fathers, we can make a difference in the lives of both them and their children.”

“Children with involved fathers tend to have better cognitive outcomes, higher self-esteem, less depression, higher grades and more economic stability,” said Kimberly Dent, interim director of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, which is housed within ODJFS. “That’s why we’re so happy to be co-hosting this summit, to help spread the word about how important fathers are to their children’s development and future.”

“To empower communities and change lives is what our team is committed to,” said Stephanie Hightower, President and CEO of the Columbus Urban League. “This Summit is an extension of our effort to promote family stabilization. We want to make sure that families who need help with employment, housing or education know that we are here for them.”

Admission is free, but advance registration is recommended due to limited luncheon seating. To register, go to [www.123signup.com/2012Fatherhood](http://www.123signup.com/2012Fatherhood) or call Rachel Holbert at (614) 457-4338.