

2010 MLK Spirit Award Recipient

Nicole Reed Hutcherson Adewale

Nicole Reed Hutcherson Adewale, a 1986 graduate of University City High School (UCHS), is an engineer, business leader and community volunteer. Adewale is an active parent, volunteer and citizen. She recently co-chaired the School District of University City's Destination U. City Schools Public Engagement in 2008.

Working with a team of District staff and parents, she helped bring FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics to University City public schools. In 2007, she was inducted into the UCHS Hall of fame and was recognized by the District superintendent as being Uniquely University City in June 2009. She is a former member of the Black Jack City Council and has won many other awards for her professional and community work.

As a successful engineer, Adewale has worked to actively recruit more minorities and women into the profession. Through her work with a number of civic and professional organizations such as the National Society of Black Engineers, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the St. Louis Science Center and FIRST Robotics, Adewale also encourages young girls to pursue engineering as a career.

Armed with \$1,000, their faith, two computers and an engineering plotter, she and her husband, Abe, founded ABNA Engineering, Inc. in 1994. Within 10 years, the company increased its employees from two to 56, averaged annual revenues of \$3 million and expanded their firm's reach to East St. Louis and Chicago, Illinois. In 2009 the company celebrated its 15 year anniversary and looks forward to many more years of serving the community.