

## Ecotek Student Scientists Speak at CUBE's 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference



**left to right:** Briana Young, Amber Young, Malik Bassett, Ms. Deborah L. Keys, Jayla Hubbard

Getting an education is vital to surviving in a global economy. In many urban communities throughout the United States education is not keeping pace. Some schools do not have textbooks or science labs while others do not even have quality teachers (multiple substitute teachers throughout the school year). Today the term 'education' is more about protecting budgets and increasing profitability, than building future leaders.

It is unfortunate, but the students get overlooked in the education debate. Their viewpoints are never heard. This dynamic changed on October 4, 2013. With the leadership of Ms. Deborah L. Keys, Director of the Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) at the National School Boards Association (NSBA), and support by corporate partners from Chartwells School Dining Services and Thompson Hospitality, Ecotek Lab students were able to let their voices be heard.

Jayla Hubbard (12<sup>th</sup> grader at Grosse Pointe North High School), Amber Young (10<sup>th</sup> grader, Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School), Briana Young (12<sup>th</sup> grader at Detroit Edison Early College of Excellence) and Malik Bassett (9<sup>th</sup> grader at Detroit Edison Early College of Excellence) participated in the 2013 Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

The conference was attended by board members of urban school districts throughout the United States and the Virgin Islands. The students discussed the importance of science, technology, engineering, and math in urban communities. They emphasized the importance of changing the perception of science in urban communities as well as the importance of enhancing ones scientific skills through the development of a college ready STEM research portfolio.

The attendees were very pleased and interested in the viewpoints of the students. They asked several questions at the conclusion of the presentation ranging from inquiries regarding student backgrounds to how to replicate the Ecotek Lab program in their school districts. This was an awesome experience that will stay with the students and board members for quite some time.

### **About the Ecotek Science Program**

Ecotek is a science research lab program for young inventors and researchers in grades 5 thru 12. Student scientists work on projects aligned with the issues being addressed by world leaders at the United Nations. To learn more about Ecotek Lab go to <http://www.ecotek-us.com>

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### **Contact Information**

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