

In a city 30 miles southeast of Chicago, famous for the birth of Michael Jackson and infamously known as “The Murder Capital of the United States”, Gary, Indiana’s children are being put in a position to create and capitalize on amazing opportunities. In an impoverished inner city with little to no economic growth, an 18 year old entrepreneur is dedicated to empowering the youth and inspiring the discouraged. In the year 2000, at the early age of ten years old, Brandon L. Griffin started his first business, BLG Publishing (formerly Griffin Household Press). Brandon started his second business venture, Quality Web Solutions, at the age of twelve, in 2002. For five successful years Quality Web Solutions provided web development services, and in 2007 Brandon merged the business into BLG Publishing.



In 2004, Brandon began to speak nationally to youth; motivating them to think of entrepreneurship as a way to successfully use their interests, skills, and knowledge. At a national conference for young entrepreneurs Brandon announced the launch of www.FyeBye.com, a website for youth who were interested in business. Through FyeBye (For Young Entrepreneurs...By Young Entrepreneurs) Brandon’s mission was to share the knowledge he gained when trying to start a business at a young age with other youth. In 2006, after two years of planning and preparation, BLG Publishing gained the support of **Wendy’s International** and **Comcast** to launch the first issue of FyeBye Magazine, the first national business publication with content written by youth. The magazine reached an estimated 60,000 students with its One Year Anniversary Issue in 2007 with the help of **The McKelvey Foundation** (which provides \$40,000 scholarships to youth entrepreneurs), and **Don H. Barden’s Barden Gary Foundation** (the first corporation in the United States to sponsor the publication in classrooms).

In 2007, Brandon founded the Brandon L. Griffin Foundation – A Fund of Tides Foundation, a charitable fund which promotes youth entrepreneurship. He is also the leader and founder of the **Entrepreneurship In Schools Initiative**. **CampusCalm.com**, an online community where students speak out about grades, stress, and personal well-being call Brandon, “The industry expert in youth entrepreneurship”.

Brandon works closely with Don H. Barden’s Barden Gary Foundation to motivate Gary, IN youth to take advantage of the scholarship opportunities provided by Barden’s Foundation. He is also the *Director of Corporate Development and Community Relations of Griffin Realty Company*, a growing minority-owned real estate company in Northwest Indiana.

Brandon has been featured in the following magazines: Black Enterprise, NAACP Crisis Magazine, BusiNess Magazine, & Indiana Business Magazine. **Brandon has been featured in the following books:** *Campus CEO* by Randall Pinkett, & *Make \$1,000 in 35 Days, for Young Entrepreneurs* by Kandias Conda. **He was awarded Youth Entrepreneur of the Year by each of the following organizations:** Indiana Black Expo (IBE), Illinois Institute for Entrepreneurship Education (IIEE), NWI Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Small Business Administration (SBA), the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), and Computer Resource Solutions. **The Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC) & Merrill Lynch honored Brandon as a Growing Up CEO and Merrill Lynch Atlantic Fellow.** Brandon was the first person to be inducted into the Society of Innovators under the age of eighteen, and at the age of eighteen was named one of twenty most successful business people under the age of forty by *BusiNess Magazine*. He will be featured in *Ebony Magazine* in March 2008.

Brandon is a recent graduate of West Side High School (Gary, IN) and is studying Business: Entrepreneurship at Purdue University – Calumet. **For more information about or to request Brandon to appear at your next event visit: www.ContactBrandon.com**