

# Whitney M. Young, Jr. 1921-1971



[Return to Outstanding People](#)

Born in Lincoln Ridge, Kentucky to a family steeped in the educational leadership of the state, he graduated at the age of 19 from Kentucky State University. He rose to the rank of Executive Director of the National Urban League, then a professional social work agency that provided a variety of social services for urban African-Americans, in August 1961.

Throughout the 1960's, the League remained one of the more conservative groups working for civil rights, but the sophisticated and articulate Young broadened the League's programs and supplied it with more aggressive and outspoken leadership. Mr. Young, remembered for his vision and conscientious effort to improve the economic and social needs of the urban poor, launched in 1963, The National Skills Bank. One of the League's most successful projects, the Bank collected job profiles on skilled African-Americans and placed them in positions in government and industry.

Mr. Young was also known as an important figure in the Council for United Civil Rights, participated in the March on Washington and testified in the Congressional Hearings for Civil Rights in April of 1964. While still Executive Director, Mr. Young's life came to a tragic end when he accidentally drowned in Nigeria, West Africa in March, 1971.

**Mo'Better Marketing Communications and PNC Bank of Kentucky would like to thank the resources of Kentucky State University and the Center of Excellence for the Study of Kentucky African-Americans at KSU.**

**A special acknowledgment and thanks goes to Ms. Karen McDaniel, Director of Blazer Library at KSU.**

[HOME](#)

[Virtual Art Museum](#)

[1998 Calendar](#)

[Who We Are](#)  
[Business to Business](#) | [What Can BlackInSite™ Do For You?](#)

[People of Color](#)

[Links](#) | [E-Mail](#)