THROUGH THE STORM
After Hurricanes Sandy and Irene hit, 18, and her family
homeless in 2012, the highschool sophomore threw herself
into her schoolwork as an escape. The poverty trap, who
graduated in May, was accepted to the seven Ivy League
schools to which she applied. She’ll attend Harvard in the fall.

CLOSING THE GAP
New Orleans has seen big improvements in its education
system since Hurricane Katrina. According to Education Now, a
nonprofit for education reform, underperforming schools with
large Black populations saw their average ACT score rise by
two points since 2005. The dropout rate among high school
students in the city has fallen to 4 percent from 11 percent.

SETTING THE STANDARD
Communities with higher numbers of Black-owned
businesses are more likely to have lower rates of
violence among Black youth. A study cited by the
Urban Affairs Review. Researchers say that the
concentration is due to the increased availability of
mentors and an increase in job opportunities for teens.

BLACK GIRL MAGIC
After noticing that her 7-year-old
dughter Nalata was frustrated with
her natural hair, Florida native Angela
Nixon encouraged her to create a hair-
positive comic book. The Adventures of
Movie Girl. It centers on a Black girl who
uses her hair’s superpowers to save a
library from destruction, Nalata and
her mother later entered into a local
competition, where the comic won first
place and a cash prize of more than
$16,000. The money will be used to
publish and sell the book nationwide.

"To the youth of the city, I will seek justice on your
behalf. This is a moment. This is my moment. Let’s
ensure we have peaceful and productive rallies that
will develop structural and systemic change for
generations to come. You’re at the forefront of this
together, and as young people, our time is now." —Baltimore State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby, at a May
press conference where she announced that six officers
would be charged in the death of Freddie Gray.

POLITICAL STAR
In April, 37-year-old Deeshia Dyer was named the
White House’s new social secretary, putting her in
charge of coordinating presidential events, such as
the White House Governors’ Ball alongside First Lady
Michelle Obama. The D.C. native, who dropped out
of college to pursue community advocacy and hip-
-hop journalism, returned to school before landing an
internship at the White House just six years ago. She is
the second Black woman in history to hold the job.

ON THE RISE
Black woman-owned businesses are growing steadily.
According to a report by American Express Open and
Womenable, an organization dedicated to women’s entre-
preneurship, there were 1,237,900 businesses owned by
Black women in 2014, a 25 percent gain since 1997. Our
businesses still employ 267,000 workers and generate a
whopping $49.5 billion for the U.S. economy.

HISTORY MAKER
When Juneanna Richardson
was a student, she noticed a void
in Black archival and oral history.
After college, she founded The
HistoryMakers, a nonprofit that
has compiled the nation’s largest
sound and video archive of
African-American stories. The collection is currently
hosted in the Library of Congress, and earlier this year,
Benedict University received a $50,000 grant from the
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation that will help expand The
HistoryMakers’ reach to colleges across the country.

MIRACLE REPAIR
SEE WHAT WOMEN ARE SAYING
AT #UNDOTHEHURT