



# BP Educational Consultation

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## The Young Icons

Episode #1114

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Participants: **Leroya Sanford – Comedian**  
**Alex Mendoza – DJ and Music Producer**  
**Laura Kellman – Scientist**  
**Maxim Knight – Literacy Advocate**

### General Synopsis for Episode #1114

In this episode, committed and talented ‘Young Icons’ share their stories of dedication and success. The guests open up the personal side of their journey and what made them decide to pursue their goals. **Leroya Sanford** started telling jokes at the age of 4. In four years, she has become a professional comedian performing at the Improv, the Comedy Store and Laugh Factory. She uses her comedy to address issues that kids deal with every day. She states, “It’s all about giving back to the community and making people happy”. Fifteen-year-old **Alex Mendoza** entered a DJ competition and realized he enjoyed ‘turntable mixing and scratching’. He turned to a mentor to perfect his DJ skills and now is known as DJ Chubz. He is able to live his dream through his determination and talent. High school senior **Laura Kellman** developed the love of science through her parents. She is a busy gifted eighteen year old who works in a lab at UCLA on a research project relating to Alzheimer’s, teaches self defense classes and has a passion to make jewelry. This brilliant student has received a merit scholarship to attend Yale in the fall. Eleven year-old actor **Maxim Knight** shares that he worked hard to become an actor, “I don’t take shortcuts, I give everything I have”. After participating in the Read Across America program, he wants other kids to participate in the program and to read for pleasure sharing that it opens up your imagination.

### Observation and Conclusion

In episode #1114, these high achievers who have specific plans and have set goals will inspire teens. They are supported and partnered by family and mentors who assist these young icons in achieving their passion and dreams. This episode of The Young Icons delivers an educational and informational message that supports current social, intellectual and emotional aspects of children ages 13 and up. Attributes and advice emphasized by guests instill a grounded balance of priorities, commitment, and perseverance children can apply to their lives.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Pierce, MA Ed.

Educational Consultant