

Urban League kicks off conference

By Carolyn Tuft

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

07/25/2007

About 10,000 conference attendees converged on downtown St. Louis this morning as the National Urban League kicked off its annual conference here for the first time in 28 years.

National League President and CEO Marc H. Morial is set to give his keynote address to begin the conference that is being held at America's Center. Restaurant owners and hotel managers in downtown report that they are booked nearly to capacity because of that event and the Cards-Cubs baseball series going on at nearby Busch Stadium.

Mayor Francis G. Slay, Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis President and CEO James H. Buford and David Jordan, a member of the National Urban League's Incentives to Excel and Succeed youth initiative are among the speakers at the conference.

There also will be a presidential candidate forum where John Edwards, Hillary Clinton Barack Obama, as well as other Democratic and Republican contenders are expected to attend. Also expected are two former presidential hopefuls — Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton — and several political strategists.