



## MEDIA ADVISORY

Press contact:  
Office of Communications – Chicago Housing Authority  
Matthew Aguilar: (312) 935-2646; maguilar@thecha.org;

### **Young CHA whizzes complete technical academic camp, eye the future** *Camp caters to CHA kids with interest in science, technology, engineering, math*

**WHAT: “Chance for CHAnge” S.T.E.M. Camp Closing Ceremony**  
**WHERE: Charles A. Hayes Center, 4859 S. Wabash.**  
**WHEN: 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., **today**, Aug. 12, 2011**

CHICAGO – Olojowan Purnell has always had a natural ability to draw. He’s always had a natural ability to paint. This summer, he added sculpture to his repertoire. And engineering. And math.

Purnell, a 14-year-old honor student at Chicago Bulls College Prep, participated in the “Chance for CHAnge” S.T.E.M. Camp at University of Illinois Chicago. Over the last six weeks, Purnell has been studying science, technology, engineering and math (S.T.E.M.).

“I actually designed sculptures for buildings,” Purnell said. “It was hands-on engineering. I was building skyscrapers, drawing measurements. I really enjoyed that experience.”

Purnell is one of 30 Chicago Housing Authority students who will participate in the S.T.E.M. Camp closing ceremony from **11 a.m. to 2 p.m., **today**, Aug. 12, 2011 at the Charles Hayes Center, 4859 S. Wabash.**

Students will share their experiences and projects with family, friends and well-wishers.

The camp identifies and prepares rising sophomores and juniors with a cumulative 2.5 grade point average for possible future study and career options in the S.T.E.M. fields. The program is funded in part by Ameresco, Chance Program and Premier Hill Engineering.

Purnell has been drawing since kindergarten. He wants to go to art school when he graduates from high school.

But he did want to improve his math skills. The S.T.E.M. camp provided that opportunity.

“I see myself one day flying around the world sharing my artistic skills with different states and countries,” he said.

#####