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CHA Teens Meet to ‘Decode’ Talents, Prepare for the Future *Moguls of Industry, Entertainment and Scholarship Advise, Encourage Students*

WHAT: Decoded: CHA Youth Summit 2011
WHERE: Illinois Institute of Technology, Hermann Hall
WHEN: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday, April 18, 2011
WHO: Keke Palmer, Actress & Star of Nickelodeon’s “True V.P.”
Jerry Azumah, Sports Commentator & Retired Chicago Bear
Leon Rogers and DJ Timbuktu, Radio Personalities
Representatives from the Lupe Fiasco Foundation, Swish
Dreams and other non-profit agencies
200 thirteen- to 18-year-olds living in public housing

CHICAGO – For many CPS students, Monday marks the beginning of spring break. For 200 students living in public housing, it marks the beginning of a bright future.

On **April 18**, from **9:30 a.m.** to **3:30 p.m.**, CHA will host ‘Decoded,’ a day-long summit to connect teens to scholarship opportunities, summer employment and other information to help guide attendees to a successful academic and professional career. The summit will take place at the **Illinois Institute of Technology** at **Hermann Hall**.

Named after hip-hop icon Jay-Z’s memoir of the same name, CHA’s ‘Decoded’ aims to show youth how to interpret their talents and skills to find success in whatever career they choose.

A council of 20 youth volunteers helped plan the topics and events of the day, which include an entrepreneurship seminar that explores how to turn a hobby into a business, a community service forum to inspire kids to get involved in their neighborhoods and an etiquette and attire workshop to show how young men how to wear a tie and young ladies how to dress for success.

WGCI’s Leon Rogers will host the event with appearances from a number of sports, movie, television and entrepreneurial super stars.

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Decoded: CHA Youth Summit 2010
Schedule of Events

9:45-11:00am

POWER PANEL

(See attached for bios)

11:15-12:00pm

MALE + FEMALE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(No press for these sessions)

12:15-1:00pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(See attached for more details)

1:00-1:30pm

SUMMIT WRAP UP

1:30-3:30pm

PIZZA + BOWLING PARTY

(DJ'd by the Heavy Hitter DJ Timbuktu)

POWER PANEL



KEKE PALMER IS A STAR IN TV, FILM + MUSIC. HER VOCAL WORK APPEARS ON THE ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACKS OF *AKEELAH AND THE BEE*, *NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM*, + DISNEY CHANNEL'S *JUMP IN!* IN 2007, SHE RELEASED *SO UNCOOL*, HER DEBUT ALBUM. PRESENTLY, SHE HAS THE LEAD ROLE IN "TRUE JACKSON, V.P." ON NICKELODEON. SHE ALSO HAS AN EXCITING WEB SERIES: "KEKE ON THE REEL". LOOK FOR KEKE IN THE UPCOMING FILM *JOYFUL NOISE* WITH QUEEN LATIFA + DOLLY PARTON.



JOSHUA MERCER IS THE PRESIDENT + FOUNDER OF SWISH DREAMS SPORTS + EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION. PAIRING BASKETBALL WITH MATH + LANGUAGE ARTS, SWISH DREAMS REACHES HUNDREDS OF YOUTH THROUGH ITS "SWISH EDUCATION" PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPROVING THE GRADES + SKILLS OF 250 STUDENTS. AN ALUMNUS OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY, JOSHUA ALSO HOLDS A MASTERS IN EDUCATION FROM NATIONAL-LOUIS UNIVERSITY. JOSHUA ALSO TEACHES IN CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.



ASHA KAMALI MAY HAS ACTED IN COMMERCIAL, ON STAGE + IN FILM, + DIRECTED THEATRE PRODUCTIONS AROUND THE U.S. AS A DANCER + CHOREOGRAPHER SHE'S PERFORMED ON THE WASHINGTON WIZARDS DANCE TEAM + PERFORMED WITH RECORDING ARTISTS ERIC BENET, MYA, DESTINY'S CHILD + MADONNA. AS PART OF THE PRODUCTION COMPANY BROWN PAPER DOLLS, ASHA IS CO-CREATOR, CO-WRITER, PRODUCER + STAR OF ITS DEBUT SERIES, *MILK + HONEY*.



LAVELLE "V-DOT" SYKES HAS OVER 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE FOOTWEAR + URBAN APPAREL INDUSTRY IN BUYING, MARKETING + DESIGN. IN 2005, LAVELLE BECAME ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF SELF CONSCIOUS BY V-DOT, A LIFESTYLE BOUTIQUE. TWO YEARS LATER, HE OPENED A SECOND BOUTIQUE, ENCORE BY V-DOT. A FORMER RESIDENT OF CHA'S ROBERT TAYLOR HOMES, LAVELLE RECENTLY TEAMED UP WITH CHICAGO NATIVE + NBA FORWARD BOBBY SIMMONS TO OPEN SUCCZZ, HIS NEWEST BOUTIQUE IN THE SOUTH LOOP.



AYESHA JACO IS CO-FOUNDER OF THE LUPE FIASCO FOUNDATION, AS WELL AS FOUNDER OF DAUGHTERS OF DONIA, A CHICAGO-BASED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT PROMOTES POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN GIRLS AGES TEN THROUGH 18. DAUGHTERS OF DONIA SERVES GIRLS FROM THE AUSTIN, NORTH LAWDALE + ENGLEWOOD COMMUNITIES.



CHRIS MALLETTE WORKS IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE AS THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES, WHICH FOCUSES, IN PART, ON YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION + JUVENILE JUSTICE. PRIOR TO HIS CURRENT ROLE, CHRIS HELD SEVERAL POSITIONS WITH THE CITY OF CHICAGO, THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF ST. SABINA + CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS. CHRIS IS A PRINCETON UNIVERSITY GRADUATE + AN ALUMNUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS: CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLLEGE FOR YOU!

EXPLORE THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS + LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES.

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS + SENIORS ARE PRE-SELECTED FOR THIS WORKSHOP.

FACILITATORS: AL HOGAN (**COLLEGE ACCESS + OUTREACH**),
LESHANE SADDLER (**UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME**), DARRELL WILSON (**REVOLUTION PREP**)



J CREW OR J's?: ETIQUETTE + ATTIRE

THIS SESSION WILL EXPLORE PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION SKILLS + ATTIRE. FROM INTERVIEW ETIQUETTE + ATTIRE TO PERSONAL HYGIENE, TATTOOS, THIS SESSION WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO 'DRESS FOR SUCCESS.' YOU'LL WALK AWAY FROM THIS WORKSHOP READY TO IMPRESS EMPLOYERS, ADMISSIONS OFFICERS + THE CAMERA!

FACILITATORS: JERRY AZUMAH (**CHICAGO BEARS**), KELLY FAIR (**POLISHED PEBBLES**)



HOBBIES TO BUSINESS: ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP

THIS SESSION WILL EXPLORE HOW TO START A BUSINESS + KEYS TO TAPPING INTO YOUR OWN SKILLS + ENTREPRENEURIAL TALENTS. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH AN INTEREST IN OWNING THEIR OWN BUSINESS ARE PRE-SELECTED FOR THIS WORKSHOP.

FACILITATOR: PATRICIA PERKINS (**EXODUS COACHING**), WILL HALL (**COMMUNIGIZE, INC.**)



POSSE SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATION SESSION

THIS SESSION WILL INFORM ELIGIBLE STUDENTS ABOUT THE POSSE SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATION + INTERVIEW PROCESS. EACH POSSE SCHOLAR WINS A FOUR-YEAR, FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND ONE OF POSSE'S PARTNER COLLEGES + UNIVERSITIES. RISING JUNIORS WITH A 3.0 OR HIGHER GPA ARE PRE-SELECTED FOR THIS WORKSHOP.

FACILITATOR: HAREEM KHAN (**POSSE FOUNDATION**)



SWAG THAT GIVES BACK

MEET THE CHANGE MAKERS WHO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THEIR COMMUNITY. ALSO LEARN ABOUT SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, HOW TO GET INVOLVED + MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. STUDENTS WITH AN INTEREST IN COMMUNITY ISSUES + ACTION ARE PRE-SELECTED FOR THIS WORKSHOP.

FACILITATOR: KEITH HERRON (**CENTERS FOR NEW HORIZONS**)



LEARN + EARN ENROLLMENT SEMINAR

THIS SESSION WILL HIGHLIGHT THE BENEFITS + OPPORTUNITIES IN CHA'S LEARN + EARN SUMMER PROGRAM. ELIGIBLE STUDENTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 13 + 15 ARE PRE-SELECTED FOR THIS WORKSHOP.

FACILITATORS: **CHICAGO DEPT. OF FAMILY + SUPPORT SERVICES, CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF**