

IUME | Institute for Urban and Minority Education

TEACHERS COLLEGE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –



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TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTE FOR URBAN AND MINORITY EDUCATION (IUME) PARTNERS WITH THE NCAA®

(NEW YORK, April 1, 2013) – The NCAA Championships Community Programs and Youth Clinics, in partnership with YES Inc., and the Institute for Urban and Minority Education (IUME) at Teachers College, Columbia University will present “A Healthy Mind, Body, and Community” Youth Day Program to approximately 400 middle-school students during the 2013 Men’s Final Four® Basketball Youth Day program on Friday, April 5, 2013 in Atlanta.

The program will take place at the Georgia World Congress Center, and will provide students from the Fulton County School System with an opportunity to gain a stronger understanding of the benefits of community service and maintaining a healthy mind and body. IUME partnered with the NCAA® to foster partnerships that promote institutional services in the community, as well as civic engagement and social responsibility among youth.

“IUME and Teachers College, Columbia University are very excited to be a part of the NCAA Final Four® Youth Day,” said Veronica Holly, IUME assistant director. “We’ve designed an exciting program that’s both fun and informative for middle-school students around important topics students navigate each day. We are also pleased to be able to assist YES Inc., our Harlem community incubation partner, forge a meaningful educational partnership with the NCAA®.”

The program will include a public service presentation on the importance of community service, as well as an art education collage making session on maintaining a healthy mind and body, focusing on topics such as leadership, diversity, fitness and nutrition, self-esteem, teamwork and anti-bullying.

“Partnering with IUME and Teachers College for this year’s Youth Day is a natural fit for the NCAA®,” said Victor Hill, NCAA® associate director of championships community programs and youth clinics. “The addition of engaging and informative programming at the Final Four Youth Day will greatly benefit those in attendance.”

“As a former student deeply involved in collegiate athletics, I am extremely appreciative for the opportunity to work with the NCAA® and excited for the prospect of combining IUME’s resources with the NCAA® in pursuit of society’s greatest good -- enhancing the lives of youth,” said Barry Goldenberg, Teachers College master’s student and IUME research fellow. “We are all eager to collaborate with the NCAA®, and our other partners on achieving this important goal.”

“I’ve had the opportunity to work on amazing projects connecting the community with Columbia,” said Cyndi Bendezú-Palomino, Teachers College master’s student and IUME research fellow. “IUME is unique because of our connection to the community in Harlem and NYC. We have a distinct vantage point of connecting youth participatory action research with the community along with several projects supporting youth leadership development. NCAA® Youth Day is an amazing opportunity that will allow us to work with youth and engage them on timely topics while having fun.”

The NCAA® presented IUME incubation partner YES Inc. with the opportunity to develop its Youth Day program and YES Inc. generously expanded the partnership to include IUME. “It is a honor for YES Inc. to be attached to this first of a kind experience that will positively touch lives of students and a city,” said Russel Shuler, Chief Executive Officer, YES Inc.

“As a former NCAA® student-athlete in football at Syracuse University, this project holds a special place in my heart. During my college career, I competed against the University of Georgia in the Peach Bowl in Atlanta. We were victorious on the field, but it was the wonderful experiences associated with the Atlanta community that left a lasting impression on me as student. Returning to the city of Atlanta as a professional in this capacity is an honor and we are extremely proud to have created this opportunity for IUME to work with us in partnership with the NCAA®. Youth Education through Sports, Inc. is committed to making the Men’s Final Four Youth Day a special day for all of the participating middle school students who will be attending. Engaging youth through this event with a focus on community service and healthy lifestyles is truly a pleasure.”

“The Identity Orchestration Research Lab (IORL) at Morehouse College is pleased to work with the Institute for Urban and Minority Education for NCAA® Youth Day,” said Professor David Wall Rice of Morehouse College. “The activity of authentic engagement with community is cornerstone in the type of education and development that both Teacher’s College and Morehouse offer. To have the opportunity to collaborate in the best interest of Fulton County school students is a terrific opportunity afforded by the NCAA® that demonstrates a special kind of investment in our future.” The Identity Orchestration Research Lab at Morehouse College is committed to high caliber research through a strengths-based personality psychology lens. The Lab explores expressions of identity balance through the authentic engagement of varied contexts and personal narratives. 15 to 20 students from the IORL will serve as co-instructors during the Youth Day morning program.

YES Inc. is one of six incubation partners IUME has in the Harlem community. IUME’s Technical Assistance and Incubation Program provides advice, technical direction, program development and managerial support to Harlem-based non-profit organizations, and works to encourage a network of supplemental education services throughout the Harlem area. For almost forty years, IUME has used advocacy, demonstration, evaluation, information dissemination, research and technical assistance to study and seek to improve the quality of life chances through education in the communities of urban and minority people. The Institute continues to focus on the implications of population diversity in the context of the demand for pluralistic competencies for the design and management of teaching and learning transactions in schools and other environments for education.