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Project MALE Student Success Program Scheduled to Launch Its 2016-17 Year With Opening Session at Antioch Baptist Church



(L to R) Dr. Jennifer Wimbish, Former President of Cedar Valley College, and Jarlene DeCay, Dean of Student Success at CVC, presented awards to Project MALE participants on June 4, 2016.

DALLAS, September 30, 2016—The Project MALE student success program will launch its 2016-17 year with an opening session from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. October 8 at Antioch Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 7550 Hampton Road in Dallas.

Parents and students are invited to the free program, which will feature Jabari Johnson, a retired pro athlete, entrepreneur and philanthropist who has established several successful companies in the real estate, business development and sports marketing industries. He is also the visionary founder of The Heads Up! Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the lives of youth through mentoring, education, and sports.

Established in 2014, Project MALE (Making Aspiring Leaders Excel) is a collaborative effort of various organizations in Southern Dallas County united to create a student success program for African-American males in the kindergarten through fifth grade levels (ages 5-11). One of the main goals of Project MALE is to promote college readiness among African American male students and completion rates when they are in college. Generally speaking, less than 50 percent of African American males complete college.

The Dallas Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority became a sponsor of the organization in response to its national EMBODI program initiative. EMBODI stands for Empowering Males to Build Opportunities for Developing Independence and is designed to address issues related to STEM education, culture, self-efficacy, leadership, among others. Other sponsors and participants have included Cedar Valley College, Lancaster ISD, AT&T, Comerica Bank, Concord Church, DART, and Inspiring Body of Christ Church.

During the 2015-2016 year, the curriculum included activities to engage students in solving real-life problems. For example, students had the opportunity to earn incentive points that they can trade for items they want or will enjoy. This year's program will include, but is not limited to, the following: Monthly sessions for students and parents (2-3 hours), field trips, a career fair, presentations by African-American professionals, college visits, a summer reading program, and opportunities to enroll in free summer camps.

"This is a community effort that aligns and connects with President Barack Obama's My Brother's Keeper program," said Dr. Jennifer Wimbish, former president of CVC, who has been involved with Project MALE since its inception. "We are grateful to all of our sponsors and participants who provide their time and resources to make Project MALE a success. They recognize the need to prepare young African American males for success in school, college and beyond."

For more information on Project MALE, please call (972) 860- 8027 or visit projectmaleprogram.net.

About Project MALE

Project MALE (Making Aspiring Leaders Excel) is a collaborative effort of various organizations in Southern Dallas County united to create a student success program for African-American males in the kindergarten through fifth grade levels (ages 5-11). Visit projectmaleprogram.net.

About Cedar Valley College

Cedar Valley College is one of seven independently accredited colleges that make up the Dallas County Community College District, one of the largest community college systems in the United States. Nationally recognized for its award-winning academic programs, Cedar Valley College equips students for successful living and responsible citizenship in a rapidly changing world, while providing economic benefits to taxpayers, businesses and the community-at-large. Established in 1977, Cedar Valley College has an enrollment of more than 6,500 students and is designated by the U.S. Department of Education as an African-American Serving Institution and Minority Serving Institution. Located in economically disadvantaged southern Dallas County, Cedar Valley College's 75 square-mile service area includes the Dallas neighborhoods of Highland Hills, Pleasant Grove and Red Bird, as well as the suburbs of Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville, Glenn Heights, Hutchins, Lancaster, Seagoville and Wilmer. For more information on Cedar Valley College, visit www.CedarValleyCollege.edu.