



For Immediate Release
Media Contact: Lisa Desatnik, 513-984-5474

'Manifesting Your Destiny' Event To Inspire Teens To Make Their Own Success

May 26, 2009 -- Northern Kentucky University and the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati Black Achievers Program are teaming up to produce a FREE event called Manifesting Your Destiny – June 26 to June 27 – for area teens aimed at encouraging them to be their own success.

Through dialogues and panel discussions led by influential professionals and educators, teen participants will gain a deeper sense of understanding about black history, social justice and culture. Youth will also explore their passions and sense of personal self worth.

"The YMCA and Northern Kentucky University are committed to engaging young people, giving them hope and helping them to grow in positive ways. It is our goal that teens who attend 'Manifesting Your Destiny' will leave with a greater sense of value and purpose to affect positive change in their own lives and communities," said Toni Miles, executive director of the YMCA Black Achievers Program.

Other event partners include R.E.A.L. Truth, Inc., OTR Youth, and other community supporters. Among the panelists will be:

- Carl Westmoreland, senior advisor for Historic Preservation, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
- Annie Ruth, community advocate, inspirational artist & poet
- Cincinnati Police Officer Eric Smoot, gang prevention expert
- Judge Fanon Rucker, Hamilton County Municipal Court
- Lisa K. Crawford, Attorney, NKU Chase Law School alum
- Rufus Johnson, Founder, Real Truth Inc.
- Khalid Abdul Samad, Cleveland, OH activist, director of peace in the Hood; and spokesman for the National Council for Urban Peace, Justice and Empowerment.

'Manifesting Your Destiny' will begin June 26 at 7 p.m. and conclude at 7:30 a.m. June 27 at Northern Kentucky University Recreation Center (Nunn Drive; Highland Heights, KY 41099). It is open to teens in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. Registration deadline is Friday June 19. To register or receive more information, the public can call Michael Griffin at NKU (859-572-6684) or email him at griffinm3@nku.edu.

Since its beginning, the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati Teen Achievers Program has awarded more than \$150,000 in scholarships, and engaged more than 4,000 adult volunteers through a

network of corporate and community partners. The Program includes college prep and leadership development activities focusing on study skills/time management, interviewing techniques, financial management, team-building field trips, community service-learning projects, college tours and more. It strongly incorporates the Abundant Assets – 40 critical factors for the successful growth and development of young people – and centers around the relationships of adult professional mentors and teens. The 2009 to 2010 goal is to serve over 500 students in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky communities.

The Northern Kentucky University Office of African American Student Affairs and Ethnic Services is the primary source for designing, implementing and coordinating strategies to support African American students, faculty, staff and alumni. AASAES develops alliances within the greater Northern Kentucky University community to address social justice issues and institutionalized systems of oppression in pursuit of a more inclusive campus environment.

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