

For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh Public Schools 9th Grade Nation to Gather for 2010 Civics Summit

PITTSBURGH, May 13, 2010 – As part of their *Civics: Be the Change* coursework, students of the District's 9th Grade Nation will gather for the 2010 Civics Summit. This culminating event planned in collaboration with Pittsburgh Cares will be held at Duquesne University May 17-20, 2010. The Summit will provide the students with a forum to present and discuss the results of their civics class service projects and to engage in a mini-, on-site, service project. Each day will feature a keynote speaker of local prominence and sessions on topics determined by the 9th Grade Nation students in each school.

All District 9th graders are required to complete a service-learning project that will benefit their community as part of the civics course *Civics: Be the Change*. This 9th grade class focuses on young people beginning a journey of civic awareness, empowerment, and engagement. The city of Pittsburgh acts as a lens through which District students are able to examine important civic values.

One aspect of this course is the creation and completion of a service project. Students engage in service-learning by researching a youth-related community or school issue and addressing that issue through the development of a hands-on project. These projects can range from long-term to short-term projects and many are on-going. For example, students at Pittsburgh Allderdice recently completed their "Stuff a Bus Food Drive."

The chart below details the dates and participating high schools. A schedule of daily activities follows.

Date	Participating Schools
5/17	Pittsburgh Brashear, Pittsburgh Peabody, Pittsburgh Westinghouse
5/18	Pittsburgh Carrick, Pittsburgh Obama, Pittsburgh Science & Technology, Pittsburgh Student Achievement Center
5/20	Pittsburgh Allderdice, Pittsburgh Langley, Pittsburgh Oliver
5/21	Pittsburgh CAPA, Pittsburgh Perry, Pittsburgh McNaugher, Pittsburgh Milliones

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Schedule of Daily Activities

- 9:30 – 10:00am **Arrival and Registration**
Students will be escorted off of their busses and through campus to the Power Center at Duquesne University.
- 10:00 – 10:25am **Welcome Activities & Student Panel**
Students will receive a welcome from Duquesne staff and a student panel of PPS alums who attend Duquesne University.
- 10:25 – 10:45am **Keynote Speaker**
Dynamic speakers will speak to the themes and issues that students have identified via their in-school Roundtables and their work on service projects. The following are the keynote speakers for each day:
- Monday, May 17th: Chaz Kellem, Manager of Diversity Initiatives for the Pittsburgh Pirates
 - Tuesday, May 18th: Demetrius Ivory, WTAE Weatherman
 - Wednesday, May 19th: Niecy Dennis, Workforce Development Global Alliance
 - Thursday, May 20th: Chuck Herring, Chuck Herring Speaks
- 10:45 – 11:00am **Transition to Breakout Sessions**
There will be 10-12 breakout sessions per day with approximately 50 students (cross school) in each session. Students will remain in their breakout rooms in Fisher Hall for lunch and the remainder of the afternoon.
- 11:00 – 11:30am **Lunch**
- 11:30 – 12:15pm **Issues Analysis Ice Breaker/ Report Out on Service Projects**
Students will be engaged in an activity that encourages cross-school discussion about the problems and issues in their communities which they identified as part of their introductory work on service projects. Student presenters will have 5 minutes to present their project.
- 12:15 – 1:20pm **On-Site Project: Mural Painting**
Students will remain in their breakout session and the Session Facilitator will engage them in a mini-project. The project will involve creating a tile for a mural representing the 9th Grade Nation's vision of "What makes Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh?"
- 1:20 – 1:30pm **Depart for Buses and Return to School**

Photo Opportunities Available

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