



For Immediate Release

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20 teens from Chicago's southside are Determined To Obtain Pure Excellence!

This group of teens have been mentored by Chicago's leaders and executives, set big goals and have vowed to be excel in their communities.

Chicago, IL (March 04, 2018) – D.O.P.E., Inc. (Determined to Obtain Pure Excellence) will honor 20 teens who have successfully completed their 10 week youth program. These teens have shown dedication, commitment and a yearning to succeed, proving that they are Determined to Obtain Pure Excellence.

During the ten week program, the participants have been mentored by affiliates of the University of Chicago, the United States Department of Justice and the Illinois Psychological Association. In addition, they have heard from C-Level Executives, Entrepreneurs and those who have chosen STEAM careers. They have discussed bullying, depression, self-esteem, physical wellness and multicultural/diversity issues. The graduation will be held March 16, 2018 at the Hyde Park Arts Center.

After a successful introduction of the D.O.P.E. program in California, including, Congressional Recognition of our participants, we chose Chicago as our second city. Why Chicago, well, Gun Violence. In 2016, 764 families lost their loved ones to homicide, where 90% of the deaths were due to gun violence. Of the 764, a disheartening 78% were African American, and 16% we're Hispanic. Sadly, 64% of the victims were between the ages of 10-29, while 76% of the arrested suspects were ages 10-29. 54% of the victims were gang affiliated. These alarming and staggering statistics warranted us to choose Chicago in order to give the youth of Chicago a fighting chance at living healthy and prosperous lives.

Want to get involved? The D.O.P.E., Inc. 2018 Graduation is a great opportunity for your business or organization to support the fight against gun violence while simultaneously receiving valuable exposure, as we do expect media presence. Your involvement will make this year's event a special and successful celebration.

For more info on sponsorship please visit dopeyouthlead.org or contact Dr. Niama Malachi 773.569.6200 or Contact@Dopeyouthlead.org

About D.O.P.E

Founded in Pasadena, CA (2015), the D.O.P.E. (Determined to Obtain Pure Excellence) Youth Development Program, is a ten week program that serves adolescents from under-served and under-represented communities. The objective of the program is to uplift the adolescents in order to help them achieve their potential and goals.

About our Founders

Dr. Niama T. Malachi holds a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, is a scholar, and author of “A Hip-Hop State of mind” which explores the Social Psychological impact of Hip Hop on the Black Community. She is the Co-founder of D.O.P.E. along with Elder Gloria Davis an advocate for the youth, local and greater communities.