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BEYOND THE BRICKS PROJECT
WASHINGTON KOEN MEDIA

THE BEYOND THE BRICKS PROJECT IS A MEDIA AND A NATIONAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE SOLUTIONS FOR ONE OF AMERICA'S CRITICAL PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION: THE CONSISTENTLY LOW PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOL AGE BLACK MALES, AND ALL THOSE WHO ARE PART OF THE STAGGERING ACHIEVEMENT GAP. THE FILM FOLLOWS AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS SHAQUIEL INGRAM AND ERICK GRAHAM AS THEY STRUGGLE TO STAY ON TRACK IN THE NEWARK, NJ PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM. WEAVED INTO THE BOYS' STORIES IS COMMENTARY FROM SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S FOREMOST LEADERS, EXPERTS AND SCHOLARS FOCUSED ON EDUCATION AND BLACK BOYS INCLUDING NEWARK MAYOR CORY BOOKER, THE REVEREND AL SHARPTON, SCHOTT FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION PRESIDENT DR. JOHN JACKSON, DR. PEDRO NOGUERA OF THE METROPOLITAN CENTER FOR URBAN EDUCATION AND DR. IVORY TOLDSON, SENIOR ANALYST FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION, AMONG OTHERS. THOUGH THE FILM FOCUSES PRIMARILY ON STUDENTS FROM NEWARK, NJ, THE ISSUES ADDRESSED THERE EXTEND TO URBAN ENCLAVES THROUGHOUT THE NATION AND THE WORLD.

THE BEYOND THE BRICKS PROJECT IS A MULTI-FACETED PROJECT WITH INITIATIVES THAT SERVE THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY IN ENCOURAGING ACTION TOWARD CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP FOR YOUNG BLACK MALES. THE TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS USE THE FILM AS A GALVANIZING TOOL TO BRING DIVERSE COMMUNITY GROUPS TOGETHER FOR SOLUTIONS-BASED DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION PLANNING AROUND LOCAL ISSUES THAT CONTRIBUTE THE FAILURE AMONG UNDER PERFORMING YOUTH. THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN 55 EVENTS REACHING OVER 10,000 COMMUNITY MEMBERS ACROSS THE US.

THE SECOND PHASE OF OUR WORK INCLUDES THE **PRODUCE! CREATE! INNOVATE! COMMUNITY PRODUCERS PROGRAM**, A BLACK MALE IDENTITY MEDIA LITERACY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CURRICULUM DEVELOPED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MEDIA MAKE CHANGE AND PRESENTLY BEING IMPLEMENTED THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAM TARGETS BLACK MALE TEENS WHO UTILIZE 21ST CENTURY TOOLS TO BUILD SELF-CONFIDENCE, SELF-AWARENESS, CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS AND CITIZENSHIP. SELECT STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM BECOME BTB SCHOLARS THROUGH THE BB FELLOWS INSTITUTE.

THE BEYOND THE BRICKS FILM IS AVAILABLE WITH DISCUSSION GUIDES TO ASSIST SCHOOLS, TEACHER TRAINING/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN DEVELOPING NEXT STEPS IN CLOSING THE EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL ACHIEVEMENT GAP FOR YOUNG BLACK MALES AND OTHER LOW PERFORMING STUDENTS. PLEASE CONTACT US AT INFO@WASHINGTONKOEN.COM OR VISIT THE WEBSITE/STORE FOR MORE INFO AND PRICING.
WWW.BEYONDTHEBRICKSPROJECT.COM.