

Media Alert

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Contact:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Darlene Cusanza

President and CEO/ Crimestoppers

(504) 837-8477

Crimestoppers of Greater New Orleans

announces our new

Teen Ambassadors Against Crime Leadership Program

Crimestoppers President and CEO Darlene Cusanza will introduce the new **Teen Ambassadors Against Crime** (T.A.A.C) on **Saturday, September 25, 2010** at the orientation retreat, being held at **Cox Communications offices, 2121 Airline Drive** in Metairie.

The **38** Teen Ambassadors represent **27** public, private and parochial schools from Jefferson, Orleans and St. Tammany parishes. The TAAC students will participate in a year long program which will focus on issues facing our youth with regards to crime and teen victimization. Teens will spend time visiting criminal justice professionals, allowing students to ask questions and gain first hand experience of the issues. Also, teens will network with victims and their families, as well as have an opportunity to learn from media representatives on the ethics of covering crime stories. Ambassadors will also participate in a forum with leaders in the Criminal Justice Field, as well as planning of a community wide Peace Summit. At the end of the program, the Ambassadors will complete a service learning project that includes producing a Public Service Campaign to counter the "No Snitch" mentality our children have learned and to empower fellow youth to make a positive contribution to community safety.

The names of the schools participating will be released at Saturday's Orientation, which will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guest speakers include: U.S. Attorney Jim Letten, J.P.S.O. Sheriff Newell Normand, N.O.P.D. Superintendent Ronal Serpas and Mr. Michael Prevosti. The media is invited to attend.

TAAC Leadership Program Goals

Crimestoppers Teen Ambassadors Against Crime (TAAC) Leadership Program will help students gain a better understanding of the criminal justice arena, including the role that students can and do play in community safety. Our goal is to help students engage law enforcement and other

community partners, and to become empowered to serve as crime prevention role models for their peers and other teens in their community. The TAAC Leadership Program educates students about the costs and consequences of crime, both in personal loss as well as economic, their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and their ability to bring about meaningful change through advocacy and service. It provides youth interested in public safety and crime prevention an opportunity to engage in ongoing, active participation in crime prevention, to help groom them as future leaders who will make positive impacts on our community.

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