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"NO MORE DREAMS DEFERRED" A NEW MUSICAL BY LOCAL YOUTH THEATER COMPANY

New Orleans - On Wednesday, February 16, 2011, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on the campus of Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Louisiana (3400 Tulane Ave) in Mid-City, the Creative Forces teen theater company will present a world premiere script-in-hand reading of their new play about the hopes and challenges of New Orleans' young people entitled "**No More Dreams Deferred.**" By touring this new work of music, drama and poetry to afterschool programs and summer camps in the area, the group will inspire children to claim ownership of their career aspirations and act on them early.

In "No More Dreams Deferred," we meet four teenagers, each with their own hopes and challenges to face. There's *Tasha*, who wants to be an actress but her parents will never approve; *Rasheed*, the nerd with a secret to hide; *Laylaa*, the single mom who struggles with self-esteem issues and sexual harassment in the workplace; and *Jalen*, caught up in the "game" and not sure he can make it in the world of his dreams. Each performance will include a "talk-back" session led by the teens in the company. Lead teaching artist Ed Bishop says: "in order for them to be effective as actors, playwrights and peer educators, we get them to listen to the stories of others and reflect upon their own life stories about work. This creates an organic feedback loop that will help launch the teens into postsecondary life as it inspires younger children to begin to do the same."

This production is collaboration between Job1/Goodwill Industries and Crossroads Institute for Arts, Learning & Community, a non-profit organization that documents and develops best practices in youth development through the arts. Creative Forces' teens have performed in the French Market, LA State Capital, House of Blues, JazzFest and Essence Fest, as well as festivals and universities around the country, since 2006.

For more information about this event, please contact Mathew Schwarzman, Executive Director, at (504) 858-1855 or schwarzman@xroadsinstitute.org.

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