

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Ceylon Mitchell, cmitch9@umd.edu, 301.852.3042

College Park Dream Team establishes mentoring and tutoring program after five years of success for local youth

COLLEGE PARK, Md. - The CP Dream Team, a University of Maryland initiative designed to showcase relationships between community youth and local law enforcement officials through food, fun, and friendly basketball games, will celebrate its five-year anniversary on Friday, September 15th at 7 p.m. at the College Park Community Center. Local youth will play with officers from University of Maryland Police Department, Prince George's County Police Department, and The M-NCPPC Park Police in an effort to build trust, camaraderie and mutual respect.

In conjunction with the Lakeland Heritage Weekend schedule of events, Friday's game will include door prizes, University of Maryland student volunteers, and a halftime performance from the Talent Group for Children, a multi-talented performance group with community youth ranging from 8 to 16 years old. This organization networks with various non-profit and government agencies, including local police departments, as a means to better serve area youth, (regardless of their socioeconomic status).

"This is one of the office's best projects ever," states Gloria Aparicio Blackwell, director of the University's Office of Community Engagement. "It has been incredible to see the CP Dream Team grow into a regular event that the participants look forward to attending. "This year, we are thrilled to add an educational component to take this initiative to the next level of engagement."

Together with the Embry Center for Family Life, the Office of Community Engagement has recruited various student groups to serve as tutors for youth grades K-12 residing in Lakeland, the historic African-American community of College Park, MD. On weekday evenings, UMD students will provide these individuals with the academic supports, resources, and enrichment activities necessary to become successful learners and leaders. In addition, University staff from the Career Center and Human Resources departments will lead job skills and training workshops to empower local families.

The CP Dream Team, a partnership between UMD, The M-NCPPC College Park Community Center, Lakeland Community Heritage Project, Embry Center for Family Life, and local law enforcement agencies, was previously featured on the [BigTen Network](#) and at a [Maryland Women's Basketball](#) game.

For more information about the CP Dream Team, visit: oce.umd.edu/college-park-dream-team



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