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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

School District of Philadelphia Hosts Special Olympics Philadelphia's Unified Youth Summit

Seven Philadelphia schools will come together to share ideas on how to bring inclusion and respect to schools.

(PHILADELPHIA, PA October 5, 2015) – Special Olympics Philadelphia will partner with the School District of Philadelphia to bring the fall Unified Youth Summit to the Education Center at 440 N Broad Street. The Unified Youth Summit will run from 9:00am to 1:00pm. More than 100 students and teachers are expected to attend. Schools that are represented include: Abraham Lincoln High School, Universal Charter Audenried High School, Frankford High School, Furness High School, High School of the Future, Martin Luther King High School, and Thomas Edison High School. Also in attendance will be, Bettyann Creighton, Director of Health, Safety and Physical Education as well as Jack Perry, Deputy Chief of Academic Enrichment.

This year's theme of the Unified Youth Summit is *I Have a Voice*. The Summit will kick off with SOPA Athlete Jordan Schubert sharing his journey through Special Olympics and how the high school atmosphere has changed from when he was in high school. During the Unified Youth Summit, students' voices will be heard as they discuss how to create and sustain a Unified Youth Committee (UYC) within their schools and activities they can plan to promote inclusion and respect. This is a student group comprised of students with and without intellectual disabilities working together to plan events and opportunities within the school for inclusion and respect.

This Summit is part of Special Olympics' Interscholastic Unified Sports (IUS) program which is currently in 22 schools throughout the city of Philadelphia. IUS is made possible through the partnership between Special Olympics Philadelphia and the School District of Philadelphia. With the support of Superintendent Dr. William Hite, more than 700 students have participated in IUS throughout Philadelphia in the past school year.

Special Olympics Pennsylvania Interscholastic Unified Sports® (IUS) is a fully-inclusive co-ed high school sports program which successfully facilitates social inclusion by bringing together a proportional number of students with and without disabilities on teams for training and competition. By providing opportunities for students with all types of disabilities and without disabilities to participate in sports meaningfully and by engaging other students in the school community, Interscholastic Unified Sports helps promote inclusion, acceptance, and respect. For more information about IUS, visit our website at www.specialolympicspa.org/unified.

If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Kristin Craven at kcraven@specialolympicspa.org or 610-603-9450 x252.

(more)

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About Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 22 Olympic-type sports to more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For more information about how SOPA inspires greatness, visit our Web site at www.specialolympicspa.org.

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