

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Monday, Feb. 27, 2017

Contact:

Jarrold Jones: 980.343.0967, 336.587.3105, jarrod2.jones@cms.k12.nc.us

Dee Grano: 704-604-7640, dgrano@kelso-communications.com



Middle School Students across Project L.I.F.T. face-off in Black History Brain Bowl

School, community collaboration educates scholars!

Charlotte, NC - Project L.I.F.T. schools collaborate to celebrate black history and execute innovative ways to drive student achievement in the second annual “The Black Expo” Brain Bowl on Saturday, Mar. 25, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at West Charlotte High School, located at 2219 Senior Dr., Charlotte, NC 28216. Six middle school teams will face-off for jaw dropping prizes, bragging rights and pride in this black history quiz bowl designed by West Charlotte IB students, with support from Charlotte City Councilman James “Smuggie” Mitchell, and his wife, former astronaut Joan Higginbotham.

Middle school students enrolled at Ashley Park K-8 School, Bruns Academy, Ranson Middle School, and Walter G. Byers School have created teams of six students for this zone wide competition. They have spent months preparing during classes and afterschool. The event will be moderated by several community leaders such as County Commissioner George Dunlap, Councilwoman Luwanna Mayfield, NC Teacher of the Year James Ford and former Mayor Harvey Gantt.

“We want our kids to know about the rich opportunities awaiting them at West Charlotte. Developing relationships with IB students now can make this a possibility,” said the Mitchell, who serves the Charlotte City Council At-Large.

The International Baccalaureate students at West Charlotte began to tutor the middle school students in February as a way to earn community service hours and network with rising Lions. There will be three rounds in the bowl consisting of true false, multiple choice and single elimination questions, asked in a “Family Feud” type format.

Questions, written by the Quiz Bowl Steering Committee composed of educators and community members, and are derived from the book Life Upon These Shores written by Dr. Henry Louis Gates. Students received these books during first semester. Local business leaders donated the books.

“The teachers have created such rigorous lesson plans around this bowl; I am anticipating a superb competition. Our scholars, both middle and high school level will learn more about the African American culture, how to work well as a team and the joy of multi-school collaboration,” says Monica Martin, the West Charlotte IB Program coordinator.

Parents and the community are encouraged to support their favorite middle school. Schools will also display their talents in the arts through their art clubs, step teams and choral performances. The school who exhibits the most school spirit will receive an award along with the first and second place winners. Partners of Project L.I.F.T. have donated fantastic merchandise to the zone.

“The Brain Bowl has become a true community project, inspiring collaboration between City officials, community members and our schools. Community engagement is a strong reason why Project L.I.F.T. works. We are looking forward to the competition and I will cheer for all schools equally,” said Denise Watts, Project L.I.F.T. Zone superintendent.

Project Leadership & Investment For Transformation (L.I.F.T.) is a public/private partnership operating as one of seven learning communities in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. Our work directly impacts nine schools in the west corridor of Charlotte. Project L.I.F.T. seeks to transform the way students who traditionally perform poorly in school are educated by ensuring they are equipped and well-prepared. We are a community of mission-aligned educators with the goal of closing the achievement gap. Learn more about Project L.I.F.T. and what makes our formula for success bold, unconventional and innovative, visit us online at www.projectliftcharlotte.org.

###