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Local Partnership Provides Homeless Children with the Ultimate College Experience

DALLAS [May 27, 2015] – For two decades, **Rainbow Days, Inc.** and **The University of Texas at Dallas** have joined forces to provide more than 300 local homeless children with a positive college experience at the annual **Kids' University (KU) summer camps**. Two separate sessions will be held on the UT Dallas campus: **KU(I): June 9-12, 2015** and **KU(II): June 22-25, 2015** in **Classroom Building 1 and 2**, located at **800 Campbell Road in Richardson** from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** each day. Special Graduation Ceremonies featuring prominent community speakers will be held on **Friday, June 12 and Thursday, June 25 at 1:00 p.m.** in **Hoblitzelle Hall – Room HH 2.402**. The camps and graduation ceremonies are **closed to the public, but photographers and media affiliates are encouraged to attend.**

Kids' University, a four-day camp for children from local homeless shelters, teaches participants to aim for higher learning aspirations, while improving their academic, social, and developmental skills. "Kids University at UT Dallas provides deserving children with a memorable experience of what their futures can be," said Dr. George W. Fair, Professor and Dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Vice President, Diversity and Community Engagement at UTD. Each session's Graduation Ceremony is highly emphasized, allowing each child to envision themselves graduating from a higher institution. Graduates walk across the stage in bright colored caps and gowns, receive their diploma, and shake Dr. Fair's hand.

This unique education university-based camp is made possible thanks to partnerships with Perot Museum of Nature & Science, The Home Depot, Frito Lay, UTD, and more. Classes include: the Perot Museum of Nature & Science's Physics and science classes, How Animals Adapt and Survive, and simple and compound machines; Cranium Kids' educational computer classes; and Frito Lay's Partners in Education's engineering class. In addition, the homeless children participate in Rainbow Days' Award Winning Curriculum-Based Support Groups (CBSGs®), which teach imperative fundamentals including: coping skills, building resilience, setting and achieving goals, and learning to make healthy decisions such as staying drug-free.

One program participant commented, "When I attended Kids' University, I learned about different careers that colleges have to offer and it helped me think about what I wanted to be when I grew up. For one week, I was able to forget about where I was living and have fun with other kids my age."

Kids' University (I) Graduation Ceremony commencement speaker, **Daryl Sprout**, long-time educational performer and Founder of Snake Encounters, will deliver inspirational messaging focused on overcoming every day fears that prevent one from achieving goals and dreams. Kids' University (II) commencement speaker, **Nathan "Chip" Minton III**, American former bobsledder and professional wrestler, will challenge the children to discover their inner strengths and abilities to achieve greater success.

Since 1982, Rainbow Days has been providing drug-free alternative activities, prevention and support groups, and positive mentors to children living in high-risk situations helping them develop the skills needed to overcome adversity and create bright futures. To date, Rainbow Days has served more than 180,000 children in the Dallas area and trained more than 42,000 youth-serving professionals throughout the U.S. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Rainbow Days relies on the generosity of individuals, corporations and organizations for donations. For more information about Kids University or Rainbow Days, please visit our website at www.rainbowdays.org or call (214) 887-0726.

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