For Immediate Release
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THE HIP-HOP EDUCATION CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, SCHOLARS, AND TEACHING-ARTISTS PARTNER FOR GETTING REAL III: HIP-HOP PEDAGOGY, PERFORMANCE, AND CULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND

NEW YORK, July 16 2012 – The Hip-Hop Education Center (HHEC) partners with the University of Wisconsin–Madison’s Office of Multicultural Arts Initiative (OMAI) for the lecture series, Getting Real III: Hip-Hop Pedagogy, Performance, and Culture in The Classroom and Beyond. The partnership will offer the lecture series to New York University and Columbia University students, faculty and staff through teleconferencing technology.

The Getting Real III series, curated by OMAI Director Willie Ney and HHEC Director Martha Diaz, will be co-hosted by Chris Walker (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Pedro Noguera (NYU’s Metropolitan Center for Urban Education) and Ernest Morrell (Columbia University’s Institute for Urban & Minority Education). Guest speakers will include MC Lyte, Gloria Ladson-Billings, Marcella Runell Hall, Jen Johnson, Christopher Emdin, Joe Schloss, Pop Master Fabel, and Carlos “Mare139” Rodriguez. Class topics include: Promising Practices for Utilizing a Social Justice Hip-Hop Pedagogy: Notes from the Real World; Art for the Next Century: How Graffiti Transformed Contemporary Art and Remixed History; From the Source to the Course: Issues and Strategies for Collaborative Hip-Hop Scholarship; Rhyme, Rhythm & Resistance: Afro-Cosmopolitanism, Art and Public Pedagogy in South Africa’s Social Justice Struggles; Reality Pedagogy: #HiphopEd and STEM Education.

Getting Real: Hip-Hop Pedagogy, Performance, and Culture in The Classroom and Beyond was initially launched in 2011 by OMAI at University of Wisconsin-Madison and included lectures from seminal scholars and leaders in the growing field of Hip-Hop studies. Damon A. Williams, Vice-Provost, University of Wisconsin-Madison states, “The University of Wisconsin-Madison is proud to be in partnership with the Hip-Hop Education Center and its partners for this fall’s “Getting Real” Videoconference. Our role as the only university campus with a spoken-word and hip-hop arts residential learning community is magnified and supported through these innovative approaches to teaching an emerging discipline in cutting-edge art. This cooperative venture will bring learning into a virtual forum and result in the creation of a transcendent national instruction network.”

Since launching in 2010, the HHEC has cultivated Hip-Hop scholars, teaching artists, cultural workers, activists and social entrepreneurs to utilize the Hip-Hop to educate and transform communities. Having already partnered with New York University’s Metropolitan Center for Urban Education and Columbia University’s Institute for Urban and Minority Education, Director of the HHEC, Martha Diaz, explains,

“We are excited to partner with the University of Wisconsin-Madison on this project. They have the number one School of Education in the U.S. and one of the most progressive Hip-Hop education initiatives in Academia. The partnership with the University of Wisconsin’s Office of
Multicultural Arts Initiative is an extension of the Hip-Hop Education Center’s mission that will create a new platform to provide context to the work in the field.

“The Hip-Hop Education Center continues to keep us connected to the current work in the field, but this time through technology,” said Pedro Noguera, Metro Center director. “I’m looking forward to collaborating with our partners to engage our students and the public at large in this Hip-Hop conversation to illustrate how this phenomenon continues to impact education, culture, and society.”

“We too are excited to be able to partner with the University of Wisconsin and NYU to be able to offer this lecture series. We need more opportunities to bring leading scholars and artists into communication with K-12 educators and the larger community to discuss the potential of Hip-hop education to transform teaching and learning for our youth. We envision this as just one part of a larger focus at Teachers College on Hip-hop education in City Schools that will be bolstered by the work of Martha Diaz at the HHEC and our dynamic faculty members such as Marc Lamont Hill and Chris Emdin, who are established leaders in the field.”—Ernest Morrell, Teachers College, Columbia University

Getting Real III: Hip-Hop Pedagogy, Performance, and Culture in the Classroom and Beyond will be offered in the Fall 2012.

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About The Hip-Hop Education Center
The Hip-Hop Education Center (HHEC) cultivates and supports Hip-Hop scholars, teaching artists, cultural workers, activists, and social entrepreneurs in the effort to professionalize the field of Hip-Hop Education and inform the larger education sector. It achieves this through qualitative and quantitative research, program evaluation, community outreach and programming, teacher training and placement, policy development, advocacy, archiving, and social enterprising.

www.hiphopeducation.org

About The Office of Multicultural Arts Initiative
The Office of Multicultural Arts Initiatives (OMAI) provides culturally relevant and transformative arts programming to promote positive social dialogue and to give cultural art forms a legitimate academic forum. By harnessing the broad cultural influence of spoken word, hip hop and emerging, as well as traditional art forms, OMAI initiatives create learning environments that improve retention and graduation success and prepares future leaders to reinvest in their communities. By continually refreshing this paradigm that integrates traditional academics and cutting edge arts activism, OMAI empowers transnational leaders with new tools for inclusive community building. Founded in 2005, OMAI is a unit of the Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity and Climate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. http://omai.wisc.edu

About The Institute for Urban and Minority Education
The Institute for Urban and Minority Education (IUME) was created in 1973 to serve the interests of those students who are often hidden, disregarded, or underestimated. IUME’s mission is to use research and practice to illustrate the most promising practices in schools and out-of-school settings where youth are learning powerfully and feeling good about themselves while doing so. IUME is also interested in rethinking the way we conduct research as well as how we often perceive those populations who are the focus of research in urban education. Through work with university based researchers, classroom teachers, students, parents, community advocates and elected officials they hope to create networks committed to the relentless pursuit of educational excellence. http://iume.tc.columbia.edu/index.asp

About The Metropolitan Center for Urban Education
The Metropolitan Center for Urban Education (Metro Center) is a comprehensive, university-based center that focuses on educational research, policy, and practice. The Metro Center is a partner and resource at the local and national levels in strengthening and improving access, opportunity, and the quality of education in our schools. Our mission is to target issues related to educational equity by providing leadership and support to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and policy makers. For 40 years, the Metro Center has been a transformational
force inspiring positive change in schools, districts, and regions across the country. http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter