

**news
release**

HCC and Fifth Ward Enrichment Program Team Up To 'Tee-Up' This Fall For Minority Males

HOUSTON, TX (September 15, 2009) – Houston Community College and the Fifth Ward Enrichment Program (FWEP) join with others in hosting the first annual Fall Golf Classic to support the HCC Minority Male Initiative and FWEP. Both programs are designed to curb area high school dropout rates while preparing young males for tomorrow's workforce and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Friday, October 23 at Hermann Park Golf Course, business leaders and area officials will tee off starting at 8:30 a.m. to raise \$100,000 dollars for the cause. All Houston area golfers are encouraged to sign-up early as space is limited to just 35 teams.

HCC began its Minority Male Initiative to counter the on-going crisis throughout America of a diminishing presence of young Black and Hispanic males on the campuses of higher learning, in corporate America and in entrepreneurial endeavors. Its mission is to mentor and support young minority men of the Houston area as they successfully complete their high school education and go on to college.

"Many young minority men find the struggles they face just to get into college and the challenges of an academic commitment are daunting. Consequently, few Black and Hispanic young men view college as an option," said Minority Male Initiative Program Director, John Gilmore, III. "The program nurtures and encourages new opportunities to increase the participation rates of minority males at HCC. Supporting HCC's Minority Male Initiative is imperative now and will be more so in the future as these young men become the leaders of tomorrow."

For twenty-five years FWEP has empowered boys to become responsible men and productive members of their families and community through its youth leadership and development program for at-risk males aged 12 - 19.

"We saw the opportunity to collaborate with the biggest continuing educational system in the state, HCC," said Mr. Charles Savage, agency executive director. "This partnership effort enriches FWEP services while helping HCC link its male initiative program of career mentoring with those youth that can benefit the most."

Sponsorship levels are Triple Eagle Sponsorship - \$10,000, Double Eagle Sponsorship - \$5,000, Eagle Sponsorship - \$2,500, Birdie Sponsorship - \$1,000 and Par Sponsorship - \$700.

For more information go to www.hccs.edu/golf or contact John Gilmore, III at john.gilmoreiii@hccs.edu or 713.718.5061.

About HCC

HCC is an open-admission, public institution of higher learning whose relevance to Houston and the surrounding areas is reflected in its status as the No. 1 community college in the country for international students. The learning opportunities offered by HCC prepare individuals in our diverse communities with the essential tools for success in an increasingly international and technological society.