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For Immediate Release

One year after Mayor warns of a "lost generation," Chicago youth step up to #changethestory

400 teens from 56 CPS schools will showcase their activism efforts to address Chicago's most pressing issues

CHICAGO, IL, May 26, 2016 – In response to the Mayor's call to pay attention to youth who've become "invisible" in our city, Mikva Challenge in partnership with the CPS Office of Civic Engagement and Service Learning will host our 14th Annual Action Civics Showcase on May 26th. The event will bring together 400 teens from around the city to celebrate their extraordinary efforts to tackle some of Chicago's most pressing issues. These young people want to change how youth of color and disadvantaged youth are portrayed by the media and instead draw attention to the positive things they're doing to improve their schools and neighborhoods.

To strengthen police-youth relations, youth from Peace and Education Coalition Alternative High School launched a campaign to host basketball games with the police officers from the 9th district. To increase teen employment in the summer, youth from Excel Academy in Roseland hosted a job fair with over 25 businesses offering employment opportunities. Youth at North Lawndale College Prep got trained as peer health educators and conducted school-wide workshops on how to prevent teen pregnancies and high STI rates among their peers.

Youth will meet political and community leaders at the showcase and will be awarded badges for civic action, research and community building.

When: Thursday, May 26, 2016 from 4pm-6pm

Where: Venue SIX10 at the Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

VISUALS: Over 400 young people will have their project on display at the event. You'll also see teachers, politicians and community leaders at the event.

Action Civics Showcase 2016 – Project Highlights

School	Project Title	Description
Sullivan High School	Participatory Budgeting	After surveying Sullivan students to learn what issues they care most about, the Peace and Leadership Council worked with the 49th ward office and the Participatory Budgeting Project to create and successfully campaign for a \$150K proposal for new and brighter residential streetlights around both their school and Kilmer Elementary.
Peace and Education Coalition Alternative High School	Shooting Hoops, Not Guns!	In order to counteract past negative experiences with police that left them feeling marginalized, voiceless and powerless, students at Peace and Education started a campaign to mend this broken relationship by organizing a basketball game with 9th district CPD officers on April 7th.
Chicago Excel Academy	Connecting Youth to Jobs	Worried and frustrated with the high rate of youth unemployment in the Roseland community, youth and teachers collaborated to bring over 25 businesses and other agencies to a school wide employment fair.
North Lawndale College Prep - Christiana	Sexual Health Education	Students at NLCP examined data collected last year to identify several large gaps in student knowledge about sexual health. In order to help close these gaps, 16 seniors then got trained as Peer Health Educators and visited freshmen and senior advisories on 9 separate occasions to conduct workshops for their peers about sexual health and healthy relationships.
Alcott College Prep	Student Power Contract	The civics club at Alcott is making a push for a student contract! The group facilitated an On The Table discussion about power dynamics between adults and students in the building and the need for negotiations over a student contract that addresses discipline, extra curricular eligibility, workload and grading, classroom structure/conduct, and school policy procedures.