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MEDIA ADVISORY V#2

STUDENTS STAND UP AGAINST VIOLENCE AT DOWNTOWN RALLY

Request Funding for Jobs and Education as New Report Shows Increases in Out of School & Out of Work Youths

Successful Education and Jobs Programs Demonstrate Good News of What Works

The Alternative Schools Network and Many Other Programs Have Re-Enrolled, Employed and Graduated Over 20,000 Previously Out of School and Jobless Youth

WHAT: The Challenge of 45% young black men 20-24 who are out of school and jobless in Chicago is daunting. This challenge will be met and resolved with the success demonstrated by the Alternative School Network (ASN) and other programs over the past 25 years that have successfully educated and graduated over 20,000 previously out of school and jobless youth. To reduce violence, these successful programs should be expanded.

Students from community-based high schools in the Alternative Schools Network will rally in downtown Chicago with the message **No More! No Mas! Our Youths Should Grow Old, Not Die Young**. ASN students are calling for students from around the region to join them, to show the schoolmates, friends and family of those teens who have been killed by the city's ongoing eruption of violence that they are not alone.

They will be voicing support for increased funding for summer jobs, year-around jobs programs, job training, and best practice small schools that have demonstrated how to reach, teach and graduate out of school youth. These programs are critical in a time when, despite news of economic expansion, teens and young adults are seeing high, and in Chicago rising, levels of joblessness.

A new report, ***Out of School and Jobless: A Continuing Crisis For Youths In Chicago And Beyond***, contains the latest data from research by the University of Illinois, Great Cities Institute showing the enormous inequity confronting Black and Latino youth. The latest data, 2017, from University of Illinois at Chicago Great Cities Institute.

WHO: Speakers & attendees include:

- **Students with friends shot and killed**
- **Students seeking work**
- **Jack Wuest, executive director, Alternative Schools Network**

WHEN: Noon, Friday, May 3

WHERE: James Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St., Chicago

WHY: In just the last four weeks three teens who were students at ASN schools have been murdered. In the period between April 9 and April 22 in Chicago there were 50 shootings recorded by police. Meanwhile the latest research from the University of Illinois at Chicago Great Cities Institute, commissioned by ASN, shows that among the city's Black young adults nearly half, 45.2 percent are out of school and out of work.

Demonstrated successful programming will solve the violence by expanding educational and employment opportunities for tens of thousands more youth and young adults in Chicago who are jobless and out of school.

The connection between violence and young people who have nothing to do is obvious and well documented. Yet former Gov. Bruce Rauner had cut funding for summer jobs programs amidst a crisis of violence in Chicago streets.



Alternative Schools Network
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The youth at the rally will voice their support for the work of Gov. J.B. Pritzker, House Speaker Mike Madigan and Senate President John Cullerton and many members of the General Assembly to provide more funding so solve this problem through more educational and employment opportunities. The rally aims to expedite this process for equity for the youth in Chicago and across Illinois that need these opportunities to become successful adults.

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