



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YEP Students part of Greater New Orleans 10th Annual Adult Education Graduation Ceremony

New Orleans, LA – On Saturday, May 13, 2017, the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) will celebrate the success of the non-profit's most recent graduating class of students at a special, region-wide graduation ceremony at Loyola University in New Orleans.

This year, 36 individuals engaged with YEP have completed the necessary courses and testing to earn their High School Equivalency (HiSET,) -formerly known as the GED- through YEP's New Orleans Providing Literacy To ALL Youth (NOPLAY) and Village programs. The keynote speaker will be former U.S. Attorney Kenneth Polite, Jr.

WHAT: 10th Annual Adult Education Regional Graduation Ceremony organized by the Literacy Alliance of GNO

WHEN: Saturday, May 13, 2017

WHERE: Loyola University (Nunemaker Hall) 6363 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118

WHEN: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

YEP has a wide range of students who are participating in the graduation ceremony and who are willing to share their personal stories of perseverance and success: Here is one YEP student profile:

- **Arione > Arione, 18, left the traditional school system in 9th grade, after struggling to find the support she needed. One day on her bus ride home, Arione met a former YEP student who told her about YEP's HiSET program, the Village, that specializes in supporting high school aged students who dropped out of school. After researching the program, she decided to try it and enrolled in YEP's Village program. Arione says that the staff at the Village treated her like a person rather than a statistic. Now, she is graduating and feels like her options for the future are unlimited.**

YEP's NOPLAY is one of only five state-recognized adult education programs in Orleans Parish. YEP's Village program is a subset of NOPLAY that provides out-of-school young people ages 16-21 with comprehensive, wraparound supportive services and instructional support.

ABOUT YEP: Founded in 2004, the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) is a community-based non-profit organization that engages underserved young people through community-based education, mentoring and employment readiness programs. In 2016, YEP served 1201 young people through a total of 11 programs at 6 sites. To learn more visit: www.youthempowermentproject.org or follow: @YEPNOLA

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