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The Malcolm Jenkins Foundation and Drexel University culminate 2nd annual Summer S.T.E.A.M. program at the Philadelphia Eagles NovaCare Complex

*Area elementary and middle school students in the Promise Zone
participated in a 6-week long summer program*

PHILADELPHIA, PA (July 21, 2017) – The Malcolm Jenkins Foundation (TMJF) second annual collaboration with Drexel University's ExCITe Center offering the Young Dragons Summer S.T.E.A.M. program, a unique transdisciplinary day camp for 78 elementary and middle school students in the Philadelphia Promise Zone, culminated with a special field trip at the Philadelphia Eagles NovaCare Complex practice facility.

Initially piloted with the ExCITe Center in 2016, the TMJF Summer S.T.E.A.M. camp collaboration, called Young Dragons, offers elementary and middle school students living near Drexel's campus the opportunity to participate in a FREE six-week program. This summer's camp merged the Summer S.T.E.A.M. curriculum piloted in 2016 with the established literacy and enrichment programs of 21st Century Learning Center and Lindy Center for Civic Engagement. Students were given the opportunity to learn, experiment and experience the interplay between science, technology, engineering, arts, athletics and mathematics through a variety of modules.

Today, the Athletics module was featured in depth at the NovaCare Complex through an interactive program led by the Eagles high performance staff to offer the students the opportunity to see how science and technology enhance sports and physical training.

Students participated in the modules with Philadelphia Eagles Pro Bowl Safety Malcolm Jenkins as well as presented their individual inquiry-based projects in a show-and-tell format to highlight their learning. The Eagles-led modules available to students included: Weight Training (usage of Dynamometers, Eliteforms, Force Plates and other technology to track/monitor the player's progress), Field Training (usage of RFID – Radio Frequency Identification tags to track/monitor the players' speed/movement and progress), Sleep, Recovery & Nutrition (usage of Polar Heart Rate Monitors to track training sessions, Lark Sleep Band to collect data and MyFitness Pal to track and assist with nutrition).



“The goal of this unique transdisciplinary program is to engage, educate and inspire students, regardless of their background or financial resources, to explore science, technology, engineering, arts, athletics, and mathematics — STEAM — in a creative and engaging format. We are grateful and appreciative to the Eagles staff for delivering a compelling module that enhanced our program,” said Youngmoo Kim, Director of the ExCITE Center.

As part of the six week camp, students in Young Dragons also explore Music Technology (Acoustics and Sound Synthesis), Visual Arts (Geometry and Drawing/Painting), Computer Game Design & Coding, and Dance (Biology and Movement).

The Young Dragons program has been designed specifically to meet the needs of children living in close proximity to Drexel, in a two-square-mile area called the Promise Zone that has been federally designated for support due to the challenges it faces associated with persistent poverty. “The expanded offerings in the Young Dragons program allows us to reach more children in the Promise Zone and engage them in the 21st Century skills enabled by STEAM learning,” Kim said.

The Malcolm Jenkins Foundation is thrilled by the increase of participation. In 2016, TMJF offered Summer S.T.E.A.M. to 25 area youth and tripled in size (78 youth in 2017). “Our goal with Summer S.T.E.A.M. is to expose as many youth as possible to new experiences. Today’s S.T.E.A.M. module with the Eagles showed them how technology impacts my and other players’ daily training, which is something they probably never knew existed. Through this program, we hope to open their minds to new potential careers and motivate them to complete their education,” said Malcolm Jenkins, Eagles Safety and the Founder & Chairman of The Malcolm Jenkins Foundation.

The Young Dragons program is an extension of the educational programs currently offered by the Foundation, including Project R.E.W.A.R.D.S., a life skills curriculum and The Malcolm Jenkins Scholars.

About The Malcolm Jenkins Foundation

Founded in 2010, The Malcolm Jenkins Foundation (TMJF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity with a mission to effectuate positive change in the lives of youth, particularly those in underserved communities; by providing resources, innovative opportunities and experiences that will help them succeed in life and become contributing members of their community. The Foundation is committed to youth development initiatives and programs, which emphasize character development, leadership, education, life skills health and recreation. With a presence in New Jersey, Louisiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, the Foundation’s work is guided by the mission of Project REWARDS: Reinforcing Education with Activities, Recreation, & Developmental Supports.

For more information visit: <http://www.themalcolmjenkinsfoundation.org/>



About the 21st Century Community Learning Center

The 21st Century Community Learning Center grant provides academic and recreational enrichment opportunities to children during non-school hours, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. This program helps students meet state and local standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math. In addition, it offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs as well as offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

For more information visit: <http://www.21stcclc.org/index.cfm?pageid=4242>

About the Lindy Center for Civic Engagement

Drexel's vision of a comprehensive and progressive urban university striving to be the most civically engaged in the nation comes to life through the Lindy Center for Civic Engagement. The Lindy Center for Civic Engagement is housed within the Office of University and Community Partnerships at Drexel University. In collaboration with the community, and in support of Drexel's strategic plan, the Lindy Center for Civic Engagement furthers the public good on the local and national levels while enriching the scholarship and character of Drexel students. The Lindy Center works with more than 75 community partners on 200-plus civic engagement projects annually. The Center's personnel also lead several student leadership programs, and support community-based learning through course development and faculty research projects.

For more information visit: <http://drexel.edu/lindycenter/>

About the ExCITe Center

The Drexel Expressive and Creative Interaction Technologies (ExCITe) Center was established in 2013 as a University-wide strategic initiative for research innovation. The Center pursues activities at the intersection of Technology, Design, and Entrepreneurship, reframing Drexel's founding pillars of art, science, and industry for the modern era. The transdisciplinary approach of ExCITe employs a diversity of perspectives to foster creativity, personal expression, curiosity, and group collaboration. The Center incubates novel research activities and academic initiatives and brings into proximity individuals whose work exemplifies a diversity of perspectives and who will lead others to embrace collaboration across disciplines. The academic activities of the ExCITe Center emphasize the arts-integrated approach of STEAM.

For more information visit: <http://drexel.edu/excite/>

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