

THE WORLD IS YOUR STAGE!

By: Charmaine Young and Shanice Wright
Contributing writers

On Monday, Oct. 24, several GSU psychology students along with faculty, attended a presentation about the ALL STARS project of Chicago featuring Mr. David Cherry to learn about the theme of social responsibility.

Other speakers on the topic included Dean Andrea Evans and Vice President Aurelio Valente. Mr. David Cherry is the City Leader for the ALL STARS Project (ASP) where he had worked helping students in poor neighborhoods to achieve greatness in life. One of the main tools ASP uses to help students become more open, comfortable, and prepared for success is Performance. Mr. Cherry, along with other staff and volunteers of the ASP, creates talent shows and activities for students to learn about public and private speaking and performing in front of a group or crowd.

The purpose of these kind of exercise is to not only help youth come out of their shells, but also to help them develop an understanding about using creative performance to see themselves as “successful.” Students learn that no matter where they go in life; they are always performing. This method causes participants to examine themselves and their characters to see if their attitudes, behaviors and attire fit their current “role” and they learn to make adjustments and to adapt to new environments. Event attendees came to see that the world is their stage whether they’re performing or directing, and that it is imperative to end the show with a bang!

One of the other methods that ASP uses to help these students embark on a new journey in life is pairing students with business leaders. The students are offered workshops to experience how to conduct themselves as professional women and men.

Another program the DSY, leads to paid summer internships, with many of the internships becoming jobs. Many students have testified that being a part of the ASP has changed their lives and career goals. It positively influences participants’ self-

image from a person who can only do one thing to a person who is capable of doing many things. The ASP is an outlet for participants to exercise or discover their talents and abilities. Participants come to realize their own greatness.

Attending this event caused many students to consider what they’re doing to give back and be an example for others. Students examined themselves to figure out how their strengths could be used to positively affect others concluding they can all use their education, wisdom, resources or life experiences to help those in need succeed.



Dr. Harris introducing speaker David Cherry from All Stars Project.

This event was sponsored by an award from the Excellence in Equity Mini-grant written by Dr. Crystal Harris, a lecturer in the Division of Psychology and Counseling. She wrote the grant in order to help psychology students develop greater awareness about social responsibility and how it impacts the world.

Mr. Cherry’s presentation really inspired students to apply what’s going on in the classroom out in the real world to serve others.