



EVERGREEN
Council on Problem Gambling

Treatment. Training. Awareness.



Members of the media are invited to attend ***New Directions: Tribal Youth Music Academy***. For more information or to set up interviews or photo opportunities, please call one of the contacts below.

Tribal Teens Share Passion for Prevention

Rhythm and Rap at Heart of Award-winning Program Guiding Youth in "New Directions" to Avoid Prescription Drug Abuse & Problem Gambling

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A national-award-winning original music video, "Game Over" created by students with the guidance of Todd Denny's Gear Up with Music and Music Mentors, inspired a handful of tribal teens to ask for more. That passion was contagious. More than 70 tribal and non-tribal teens and adults from Shelton to Bellingham and Marysville to Yakima, will gather at Warm Beach Camp & Conference Center in Stanwood, WA, for ***New Directions: Tribal Youth Music Academy***. Artists from Los Angeles to Puyallup will help the teens dig deep to create poignant messages about prescription drug abuse and problem gambling prevention during the six-day Academy July 19-24.

Students attending the Academy represent a wide array of talents--from budding poets to college students studying music. The Academy will include daily addiction prevention education, music and poetry project development, and nightly jam sessions. The week will begin with a visit at the 7 p.m. Opening Ceremony on Sunday, July 19, from Anthony Fernandez of The Savage Family, and culminate with a check presentation by Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna, whose office is helping fund the Academy, at the Friday, 1:30 p.m. Closing Ceremony.

Though the Academy ends Friday, music and poetry created by the teens will live on. All student projects will be professionally recorded for distribution to the participating teens, their Tribal communities, and for use on a new Web site in development on addiction prevention.

The music program director, Todd Denny, and his Washington Music Mentors won a national public awareness award from the National Council on Problem Gambling in June. "Denny does amazing work with teens," notes Rhonda Stone, community education coordinator for the Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling. "He takes everyday students and transforms them into confident speakers and performers in a very short period of time. Music, poetry, and prose are powerful and safe ways for teens to use their voices against a variety of addictions." To see the award-winning problem gambling awareness video, "Game Over," visit www.evergreencpg.org.

The Academy is funded in part by grants from the Washington State Attorney General's Office and Washington State's Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse to specifically address prescription drug abuse, the fastest growing form of addiction among teens, and problem gambling awareness. A recent survey of Washington teens revealed that one-third had gambled in the past year. Other support for the program comes from various Tribal Nations to the Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling, the Academy's host. Those tribes include the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Yakama Nation, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Chehalis Tribe, and Nisqually Indian Tribe.

The Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling (ECPG), is a non-profit organization recognizing the importance of addressing problem gambling in Washington State and

nationally. ECPG is dedicated to increasing public awareness of problem gambling, expanding the availability of services for problem gamblers and their families, and encouraging research and programs for prevention and education. ECPG is an affiliate of the National Council on Problem Gambling.

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