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LOUISE GILL

THE CHIEF

404.910.3588

LOUISE@LUVSICKMEDIA.COM

A PROGRAM SO GOOD IT HAS TO BE DONE TWICE

ATLANTA, GA Nov. 22, 2004-- The success of the first session of Mindstorm Mentoring has urged members of The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and Operation P.E.A.C.E. to offer another session beginning Jan. 2005.

“We had a great turnout for mentors and mentees,” Program Director, Engrid Gibbs said. “Overall it was definitely a success and I am looking forward to doing it again.” To keep the mentor-mentee ratio balanced; seating is limited to 20 children. In order to give every interested child a chance to join, preregistration for Mindstorm Mentoring is now available and will be until Dec. 01.

Mindstorm Mentoring is a free 10-week program. Under the supervision of the NSBE mentors, the participants will build various robots from Lego pieces then later develop software to add motion capacity. The volunteers from NSBE will meet with the children every Saturday to successfully guide them through the program and to also provide the support unit of a mentor.

Gibbs designed Mindstorm Mentoring to provide an outlet for children that come from backgrounds that do not typically foster the possibilities of careers in math, science, and technology. “Being that most children of minority decent and impoverished backgrounds shy away from these professions, this program is right on point,” said Gibbs.

Operation P.E.A.C.E is a non-profit organization located in an area that, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 60 percent of families are living below the poverty level. Operation

(more)

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P.E.A.C.E. is a multi-service, neighborhood development organization serving the Village of Bedford Pines. The non-profit was founded in 1995, after 25 college students residing in the low-income neighborhood of the Village of Bedford Pines met to discuss how to eradicate problems children face in the community.

NSBE with more than 10,000 members is the largest student-managed organization in the country. NSBE's mission is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community. Some of NSBE's present activities include tutorial programs, group study sessions, high school/junior high outreach programs, technical seminars and workshops, a national communications network (NSBENET), two national magazines (NSBE Magazine and the NSBE Bridge), an internal newsletter, a professional newsletter (The Career Engineer), resume books, career fairs, awards, banquets and an annual national convention.

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