**PRESS ADVISORY                                     FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 20, 2023                                        Contact: Dr. Carter Gilmer (248) 207-1531

**MI-RAMP Young Scholars Rising Fundraising Event**

(Farmington Hills, MI 10/20/23) – Michigan Reading & Math (STEM) Performance (MI-RAMP) will host its inaugural Young Scholars Rising fundraising event on Saturday, October 28, 2023. MI-RAMP is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. It was founded in December 2019 by Dr. T. Carter Gilmer, Dr. Neocles Leontis, Donald Dexter Ford and Ron Thomas to develop a new model for educating youth. The model distance-learning program began in December 2020 with 7 children in cohort #1. The remote program has grown with cohort #10 starting in November 2023 with 33 students. From 2020 to Nov. 2023,180 students have participated-- hailing from 5 states (MI/OH/TX/IL/CA).

The long-term approach and strategy targets children ages 4 to 12 to assure they receive the proper fundamentals in reading, math, critical thinking, and citizenship.

In reading, grades Pre-K to 2 learn how to read. When this age group learns how to read, in grades 3-6, they read to learn. If grades Pre-K to 2 do not “learn to read”, learn the alphabet, learn to recognize words, understand simple sentence structure, and build a modest vocabulary, they cannot “read to learn” in grades 3-6.

Math fundamentals are taught-- but more importantly learned-- such as, counting frontwards and backwards, converting decimals to fractions to percentages, learning the times tables, understanding/applying the Pythagorean theorem, etc.

This inaugural program is dedicated to Dr. Neocles Leontis who was a world-class scientist, spending 30 years on DNA and mRNA modeling (molecular structure used in Moderna's and Pfizer's vaccines to combat covid-19). Dr. Leontis passed away unexpectedly on December 9, 2020, due to a car accident. He was an original member of the MI-RAMP Board. He earned his biochemistry degrees from The Ohio State University (BS), Harvard (Masters), and Yale (Ph.D.)

The event will have as its MC, Detroit media personality, Chuck Stokes, and a surprise speaker that co-founder Dr. Carter Gilmer has vowed to keep secret until the event takes place on Saturday, October 28th.

When asked about the motivation to create MI-RAMP, Dr. Carter says that he was taken aback by the literacy crisis and its correlation to the school to prison pipeline. To which he often quotes the mantra, “education, not incarceration”. More information about the organization can be found on the website ([https://mi-ramp.org](https://mi-ramp.org/)).

MI-RAMP has been supported by numerous organizations, businesses, and nonprofits over the years. When asked about the present and future of the organization, Dr. Carter states, “In concert with other wholesome efforts, MI-RAMP is in the hands of bold, visionary youth and their mentors. The possibilities are boundless with long-term positive outcomes”.

**WHAT:** Young Scholars Rising Fundraising Event

**WHEN:** 1PM – 4PM Saturday, October 28, 2023

**WHERE:** Community Room 1000 Town Center Southfield, Michigan 48076

**Contact: Dr. Carter Gilmer (248) 207-1531**