



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Matthew is Gone and Events are ON!**

*Weekend festivities throughout the Grand Strand to go on as scheduled*

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C., October 12, 2016 – Despite ongoing Hurricane Matthew recovery operations, the Myrtle Beach Area is bouncing back and welcoming visitors. Mike Bettles of the Weather Channel said during a live broadcast from the Boardwalk yesterday, "It's sunny and beautiful and business as usual here in Myrtle Beach... why not come on out!"

Great events taking place this week/weekend:

Pawleys Island Festival of Music & Art – Thursday, October 13 through Saturday, October 15

Georgetown Boat Show – Friday, October 14 – Sunday October 16

Myrtle Beach Seafood Festival – Saturday, October 15

See more Grand Strand events [here](#).

"Myrtle Beach is back in business and it's going to be a great weekend," says Brad Dean, president and CEO of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. "Myrtle Beach is known for its resilience. Power crews have been working around the clock and have done such an amazing job that it's hard to imagine just a few days ago we were dealing with a huge storm, now we're welcoming back visitors. But it's not just about the visitors. We know a lot of people depend on tourism for their jobs and livelihoods, so getting our economy back up and running is good for everyone."

An ongoing survey by the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce reveals that many businesses are open or well on their way to being open for business! For an updated list of business openings visit the chamber website as well as the Visit Myrtle Beach website.

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### **About The Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce**

Since 1938, the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce has stood as the unified voice of the Grand Strand's business community. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has awarded the MBACC its five-star accreditation, one of only several chambers in South Carolina to earn this distinction. The MBACC serves Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, Surfside Beach, Little River, Atlantic Beach, Garden City Beach, Loris, Conway, Aynor, Murrells Inlet, Litchfield Beach and Pawleys Island. For more information, visit [MyrtleBeachAreaChamber.com](http://MyrtleBeachAreaChamber.com). The Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce is the proud recipient of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives' "2015 Chamber of the Year" award.



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## **CONTEST SHOWCASES STUDENT TALENT AND DESIRE TO BE COLLEGE-READY** ***New Visions for Public Schools Announces Kicks Off “Good to Go (G2G) Campaign”***

**NEW YORK, February 26, 2010** – New Visions for Public Schools, the largest education reform organization dedicated to improving the quality of education children receive in New York City’s public schools, today announced plans for a four-year college-readiness campaign aimed at building excitement about college and career readiness among students as young as ninth grade.

“College and career seem like a far off places for ninth graders, both in terms of geographical distance as well as in time,” explained Robert Hughes, President of New Visions. “The G2G campaign is a new and exciting step in making career and college-readiness a culture-changing attitude among students and parents who too often think it’s out of reach academically and financially.”

Intended for New York City public high school students who attend New Visions schools, the *Good to Go Contest* is a unique opportunity for students to demonstrate through the arts why being college and career ready — or “good to go” (G2G) — is important to them, their school or their family. All entries must be written, produced, choreographed and/or created and performed by a New Visions HS student or students in one of the four categories:

1. **Video/Skit:** Three to five-minute film or skit uploaded to [www.nycg2g.com](http://www.nycg2g.com) in a video format.
2. **Song/Dance or step routine:** Three to five-minute song, dance or step routine.
3. **Artwork:** Drawing, painting or sculpture (including, but not limited to, pottery, stained glass, metal work, ceramics and mosaics).
4. **Essay, editorial, speech or poem:** A 1,000 to 1,500-word manuscript that does not rely on visuals, graphics or images.

“The quality of the entries is just extraordinary,” said Keith Pierce, Director of Communications at New Visions and creator of the G2G campaign concept. “The campaign had already generated a lot of buzz in our schools. The added enthusiasm displayed by the sheer amount of time and effort students put into the contest, is a good indicator that we are boosting awareness of what it takes to be college and career-ready.”

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The contest began in late January. Voting began immediately after entries were uploaded and ends at 11:59 p.m. today, Feb. 26, 2010. Submissions that earn the highest number of votes per category will be forwarded to official contest judges made up of professionals related to each of the four categories. Video/skits are being judged by writer/director, Matt Jablin of MTV. Song and dance routines are being judged by Tony Award-winning composer and Tony Award-nominated actor, Lin-Manuel Miranda; writer of Broadway's "In the Heights." Artwork is being judged by Nathan Sensel of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Essays are being judged by author and former New York Times reporter, Paul Tough.

Each judge will select the top three winners among the top 10 vote-getters in each category. Submissions are judged on **relevance** to the meaning of G2G (50 percent), **overall creativity** (30 percent) and **performance/presentation** (20 percent).

The nearly fifty entries uploaded by the deadline of February 19, generated over 10,500 hits on the G2G Web site and roughly 2,000 total votes. With fourteen submissions, Port Richmond high School submitted the highest number of entries.

For each category, New Visions will award one first-place prize of \$1,000, one second-place prize of \$400, and one third-place prize of \$200. Students contributing to winning group entries must share their winnings among all participants.

Finalist will be announced at the G2G Talent Show Extravaganza on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at Brooklyn Museum. A reception, hosted by representatives from area colleges and universities who will provide value college information to students and parents, will begin at 6 p.m. Performance and awards ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. and feature a performance by the Academy Award-nominated Harlem youth group, Impact Repertory Theater.

#### **About New Visions for Public Schools**

New Visions for Public Schools, founded in 1989, is the largest education reform organization dedicated to improving the quality of education children receive in New York City's public schools. The organization uses data to focus instruction, provide customized support to leadership teams and advocate on behalf of schools. New Visions' staff is made up of former principals, superintendents, school founders, teacher leaders, professors, researchers and community leaders, all with extensive experience in leadership, curriculum and instruction, school-based operations, parent and community involvement, youth development and advocacy.

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**Oprah Winfrey's New Education-Focused Philanthropy Program, O Ambassadors, Selects Two *MicroSociety* Schools to Participate**

PHILADELPHIA, PA January 10, 2008 —Two *MicroSociety* schools, Chula Vista Community Learning Center in Chula Vista, California, and Sarah Cobb Elementary in Americus, Georgia, have been chosen to participate in Oprah Winfrey's O Ambassadors program. "We're thrilled with the news, though not necessarily surprised," says Carolynn King Richmond, President and CEO of MICROSOCIETY, INC. a Philadelphia-based education non-profit. "Global awareness and a strong focus on service learning is at the heart of the *MicroSociety* program, as well as being a hallmark of the administrations running both of these outstanding schools," Richmond explained.

The program, a partnership by Oprah's Angel Network and Free the Children, pairs schools in North America with people in developing nations around the world. Efforts will rally around one of the United Nations' four Millennium Development Goals: poverty, education, health, and sustainable development.

Through classroom activities or extra curricular after school programming, selected O Ambassador Schools will focus on one of the five regions in our world worst hit by poverty, hunger, and disease: West Africa, East Africa, South Asia, East Asia, and Latin America. Students will plan and execute activities to help raise funds for development projects in their chosen region, and to increase awareness within the school community about difficulties facing men, women, and children there.

Currently in their first year of program implementation, Sarah Cobb Elementary is a new addition to the *MicroSociety* community. Conversely, Chula Vista Community Learning Center, an internationally themed charter school, is one of *MicroSociety*'s most senior sites, with eleven years of programmatic experience.

In the *MicroSociety* program, students create a microcosm of the real world within the classroom. Each student has a role in running that world. Young entrepreneurs produce goods and services, elected officials establish laws, Peacekeepers keep the peace, and reporters track down stories. All citizens earn wages and pay taxes, tuition, and rent. For one class period per day, in a society of their own design, students assume the role of citizens and learn by playing, doing, and working as they discover the rules of justice and the functions of money, markets, and property.

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MICROSOCIETY, INC. is a non-profit organization representing an innovative research-based approach to K-8 education that introduces relevancy into learning by incorporating real-world experiences into basic school curriculum and helping students apply classroom learning to real-life situations. Designed to empower young people to take an active role in their own education, *MicroSociety* programs incorporate student interests such as citizenship, leadership, performance, journalism, and entrepreneurship into the learning process. Student jobs in a *MicroSociety* program reinforce basic academic skills and lessons, providing them with opportunities for drill and practice and preparing them to be leaders.

The *MicroSociety* program provides the motivational tools necessary for students to envision a future of exciting possibilities and make the academic and career choices required to achieve that future. Find out more about MICROSOCIETY's national conference as well as its programs and services at [www.microsociety.org](http://www.microsociety.org) or call Keith Pierce at 215-922-4006.

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