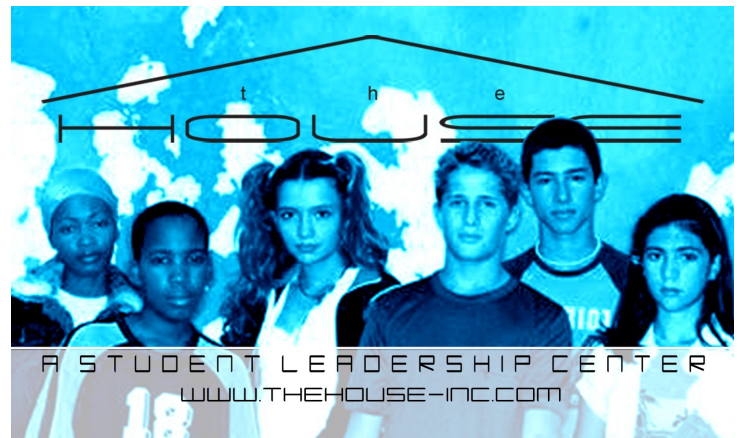


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The House, Incorporated, Gives 'EmpowerMENT' Leadership Summit to 150 Washington, DC Area Students

Washington, DC - (September 14, 2009) - On Tuesday, November 10, 2009, The House, Incorporated, in association with the Washington Field Office of the FBI, and the Willard Intercontinental Hotel, will host 150 middle and high school students selected from Washington, DC area public schools at a distance learning leadership seminar with Stedman Graham at the Willard. The Summit complements school classrooms by empowering youth with a strong incentive to excel beyond their limited means.

Graham is chairman and CEO of S. Graham & Associates (SGA), a management and marketing consulting company that specializes in the corporate and educational markets. He has authored ten books, including two *New York Times* bestsellers, *You Can Make It Happen: A Nine-Step Plan for Success* and *Teens Can Make It Happen: Nine Steps to Success*. Actively involved in education, Graham is a former adjunct professor at the University of Illinois-Chicago where he taught a leadership course based on his Nine-Step Process. He also founded and directed George Washington University's Forum for Sport and Event Management and Marketing - the first of its kind in the country.



Graham has a lifelong commitment to youth and community. In 1995, he founded AAD Education, Health and Sports, a non-profit organization with over 500 professional athletes and other civic leaders committed to developing leadership in underserved youth. AAD has served over 15,000 students through scholarships and education. For the students, he will open the door of the possibilities within their reach. Great corporations are made of great teams, and the Summit will inspire students to take teamwork back to their schools for even greater success.

"Imagine if you could go back, start over or have the answers on how to begin. The Summit will inject new strategies for students' performance into life and school," said Helen McCormick, House President. The Summit is the commitment of McCormick, President of The House, Joseph Persichini, Jr., Assistant Director in Charge Of The FBI Washington Field Office, and Herve' Houdre', Northeast Regional Vice President and General Manager of the Willard Intercontinental. These partners will bring two additional Winter and Spring forums to develop students from underrepresented populations into leaders.

"Students deserve the opportunity to learn how we did it: Follow our passion, make difficult choices, act on advice, and take risks," McCormick continued. "They need to get to the core of what drives success, and realize they can do it, too."

Lunch is provided.

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The House, Incorporated, A Student Leadership Center located at 14000 Crown Court, Suite 105, Woodbridge, Virginia, conducts before and after-school, summer day leadership programs, and weekend evening activities, and is founder of 'A Cinderella Ball' for disenfranchised middle and high school students in the greater Washington, DC area. For more information, please visit www.thehouse-inc.com. Since opening in the fall of 2005, The House has had over 60,000 student visits.

SUCCESS Magazine featured President Helen McCormick and The House in November 2008, while CNN, The Washington Post, Washington Times, NBC, CBS, FOX and ABC have also featured the work of The House.

The Willard InterContinental is located in the heart of the nation's capital on Pennsylvania Avenue near the White House, the Smithsonian museums and the downtown business and theatre districts. The Willard epitomizes world-class hospitality as the hotel of choice for heads of state and leaders of the world's business, cultural, social and political elite. The hotel's 332 well appointed large guestrooms include 40 elegant suites. Dining options include The Willard Room fine dining restaurant and Café du Parc, the popular French bistro with seasonal outdoor seating and traditional Afternoon Tea in Peacock Alley. The luxurious, 1 Spa at the Willard offers a wide array of pampering treatments. The classic Willard InterContinental combines heritage and luxury with contemporary comfort and the latest technology. An American institution, the Willard has hosted nearly every U.S. president since 1853. It was at the Willard that Julia Ward Howe wrote The Battle Hymn of the Republic, where President Ulysses S. Grant popularized the term "Lobbyist," and where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King finished his renowned "I Have a Dream" speech. www.willard.intercontinental.com.

Recently awarded the International Hotel & Restaurant Association's Environmental Award for Sustainability, and the Condé Nast Traveler 2008 World Saver Finalist Award, the Willard has embarked on a Sustainability program entitled, "Willard InterContinental - The Next 100 Years." The holistic plan is comprised of numerous interwoven sustainable projects designed for a luxurious urban hospitality experience in harmony with social and ecological consciousness. Please visit www.willarddc.com/sd, a useful guide to the Willard's sustainability programs.