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**“Work Locally, Think Globally” - ESF Promotes Summer Jobs Initiative For Philadelphia’s Youth**

**Philadelphia, PA / March 21, 2011** – Children are the future of our economy and it is our job to prepare them for that role. We need to provide them with the tools and necessary skills to be successful in the workforce not only on a regional level, but a global level as well. This summer, the Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN) and Explorers Sans Frontières (ESF) will open up a world for these youth filled with opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable.

Every summer, the PYN organizes a summer jobs initiative for thousands of the city’s young people. The summer jobs program includes three program model types: “service learning” and “work experience” serve the younger youth (grades 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>) in community or non-profit settings, and “internships” in business settings serve the older youth (grades 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>). One component of the internship model focuses on private sector companies allowing these young people to work in settings they normally would not have been able to access. The overall goal is to prepare these youth, provide a support system, and inspire them to think beyond what is right in front of them.

One way the PYN hopes to provide this inspiration is to have Shonta D. Collins, Founder and President of ESF, deliver the keynote speech during the older youth’s internship orientation. ESF is a grassroots organization whose goal is “to build cultural connections, one person and one community at a time, impacting our local and global communities”.

In the three years since its inception, Collins has already spearheaded many community outreach projects to the under-served populations of Philadelphia as well as gained recognition for ESF’s numerous global initiatives including the completion of the Global Health and Wellness Clinic in Haiti.

The theme of this summer’s program is *Work Locally, Think Globally*. Collins embodies this concept wholeheartedly and plans to share her experience with these youth.

“I feel that my speaking in the presence of 500 youths is inspirational and this is a pivotal moment for everyone to exam how we can support these young people with productive experiences that translate into opportunities,” states Collins.

“I believe that adequate training can be validated through measurable outcomes, advanced education, having a self-starter attitude, but also understanding the value in serving as a leader in the community – community is the key to success!”

She hopes that if nothing else, these youth will learn to make informed decisions based upon knowledge not assumptions and use the tools they are given to grow into the responsible global citizens that we all deserve.

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### **About Explorers Sans Frontières (ESF)**

*ESF was founded in January 2008 with a goal to cultivate relationships within local and global communities as well as generate humanitarian efforts in education, healthcare, and community outreach. This grassroots organization is 100% volunteer-based and 95% of the funding is provided by private donors. The money that is raised provides disease prevention, health promotion and wellness to local and global communities.*

To inquire about volunteering with ESF or making a donation to its cause, please contact:

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