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STUDENTS TAKING INFORMATION ON POSITIVE CHOICES TO THE MEDIA

By REBECCA MYERS CUTCHINS, STAFF WRITER May 16, 1997 Publication: Virginian-Pilot, The (Norfolk, VA) Page: 08 Word Count: 281

In the next three months, about two dozen students will participate in a media blitz to send positive messages about making good choices to their peers. They'll star in their own radio and television public service announcements, perform in a live theater production, pen their own newspaper editorials and plaster their artwork on local billboards.

All five campaigns will tout the same message: ``Choices . . . The Stuff Destinies Are Made Of."

The goal of the project, which is being funded by a \$13,738 grant to the city from the state Department of Criminal Justice Services, is to curb juvenile delinquency in Portsmouth, said Carol Pratt, who helped the city apply for the grant. Pratt manages the city's government access channel.

The public service announcements and newspaper columns, which will be produced by the students themselves, will be pitched to local newspapers, and television and radio stations. Winning entries from an art contest, to be held in the schools, will be displayed on billboards throughout the city. For those who enjoy acting, a play will be staged.

The campaign will culminate in the fall with a ``Back To School Youth Summit," where all the projects will be showcased again.

The committees and the participants, who could sign up for more than one group, include:

Art: Keven James, Larry Thomas, Jumaane Clark and Yen Nguyen.

Journalism: Tracy Pastian, Lori Harrell, Sarah Blake, April Lamb and Kimberly Bowers.

Radio: Antonio Whitaker, Jareem Johnson, Marquis Wescott, Jamal Johnson, Jumaane Clark, Sarah Blake, Lori Harrell and Jonathan Parker.

Drama: Latrese Carter, Chiquita Carter, Rashida Kelley, Je'aime Powell and Yen Nguyen.

Video: Je'aime Powell, Rashida Kelley, Marquis Wescott, Sherrie Grant, Jonathan Parker, Latrese Carter, Sarah Burke, Lori Harrell and Kimberly Bowers.

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