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HILLMAN STUDENTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact:

Billie Smith/HSMHA

202/xxx-xxxx

[Email Address](#)

HILLMAN STUDENTS TO LAUNCH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN WITH “MENTAL HEALTH DAY”

NOTED AUTHOR TERRIE M. WILLIAMS TO HIGHLIGHT DAY’S ACTIVITIES

Year-long Slate of Events Kicks Off During Homecoming Festivities

Washington, DC – October 1, 2009 – The Hillman Students for Mental Health Awareness (HSMHA), a new, student-led organization dedicated to raising awareness around mental health issues impacting Hillman College students and the surrounding community, will officially launch its year-long awareness campaign with a “Mental Health Day” observance during the school’s week of Homecoming festivities.

“Mental Health Day” will take place Thursday, October 22, 2009, on Hillman’s main campus, located at 2401 Florida Avenue NW; noted author and public relations trailblazer Terrie M. Williams will highlight the day’s activities with a luncheon presentation on depression in the Black community. The day-long observance will also feature panel discussions, film screenings and a special candlelight vigil commemorating the end of apathy surrounding mental health issues. All the events are free and open to students and community members.

Also, a mental health awareness booth will stand in the student center throughout the day. The booth, which will be stocked with informative brochures, pamphlets and other handout materials, will be a regular fixture in the student center each Friday following Homecoming. Additional details of HSMHA’s year-long campaign will be announced during the luncheon. All events (except for the vigil) will take place in the student center.

“What better time to launch our campaign than Homecoming,” says Dwight James, president of HSMHA and a third-year Hillman College student. “The energy of that week provides the perfect setting to get this important dialogue underway. And we are excited to have Terrie Williams joins us as our first major speaker.”

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Terries M. Williams is a renowned public relations pioneer and author of several books, including *Black Pain – It Just Looks Like We’re Not Hurting*, an insightful take on the Black community’s ongoing bout with depression.

Tentative Schedule of Events:

10:00 AM Panel – “The State of Mental Health in Black America”

11:00 AM Panel – “Mental Health Issues and College Students”

12:00 PM Lunch – Keynote Terrie Williams (“Understanding Depression”)

2:00 PM – Film Screenings (short films and documentaries)

6:00 PM – Candlelight Vigil (outside, on main campus)

(Events/topics are subject to change. Lunch is a first-come, first-served basis, as seating is limited.)

For more information about “Mental Health Day,” please contact HSMHA’s Communications Director Billie Smith at (email address/phone here).

About Hillman Students for Mental Health Awareness

Hillman Students for Mental Health Awareness (HSMHA) is a newly founded, student-led organization dedicated to raising awareness around mental health issues impacting Hillman College students and the surrounding Washington, DC, community. Its efforts involve conducting seminars, workshops, speaker series, film presentations, exhibits and other special events aimed at getting more students and community members informed and involved in a wide range of mental health issues.

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