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Press Release

Winter in Yellowstone for Pittsburgh Teens

Pittsburgh, PA January 25, 2017:

On February 16th the Change the Game, CTG team will be winging their way west for an experience unlike any other. Fourteen young adults from the Propel Braddock Hills High School will see first-hand the beauty and adventure that Yellowstone National Park has to offer during the winter months. This trip will also launch Change the Game's "Move Movement" a call to action for young people and those who support them to daily find a way to move with intention.

Co-founder and head coach of Change the Game Michelle Parolini. *"Cold weather and snow shouldn't be an excuse to stay indoors. The activities we have planned with our partners in Yellowstone bring us closer to wildlife and geological features not possible in the summer. The silence of Yellowstone in the winter offers a chance for our teens to fully connect with the outdoors. In 2017, we're living in an instant gratification, two-dimensional world. Walking outside into the biggest intentional space around allows us to recharge, pushing our limits in that outdoor space allows us to tap into a side of us usually reserved for likes, retweets and snaps. Movement matters and is an integral part of education. Change the Game is igniting The Move Movement in an effort to rejoin the link between outdoor movement and learning and education within the four walls of the classroom."* (Follow our countdown to #themovement on Instagram and Twitter.)

In October 2016, a team of junior and senior Propel Braddock Hills High School students were selected for a 12-month program that takes them outside, where there are no boundaries, no excuses, just possibilities and endless opportunities to discover their true physical and emotional capacity that resides outside their comfort zone. Yellowstone is just one mile marker in this year long trek.

The Change the Game team, which includes four coaches, have spent the first quarter of this year working on team building and collaboration; in addition to CPR/AED certification classes and various networking events our team spent time teambuilding outside on the Allegheny River with the Pittsburgh Paddlefish, in the treetops of North Park with GoApe, traversing in the footsteps of Rachel Carson on the Rachel Carson Trail and completing a community service project at Laurel Hill State Park in honor of the MLK, Jr. holiday. While in Yellowstone, our students will showcase their physical capacity and team skills with snowshoeing, data collection and citizen science. They will also participate in a mock town hall debate on current bison management issues with a group of students from Moscow, Idaho representing Ecology Project International. Upon their return from Yellowstone, the students will begin to explore the Ohio River and Lake Erie watershed as they prepare for a two-week summer trip to the Gulf of Maine completing scientific experiments and enjoying the vastly different ecosystem of Acadia National Park.

The trip to Yellowstone National Park is made possible through a partnership with Park Journeys, Inc and donations from friends and family of CTG. For information on being a sponsor for our teens, please visit www.ctgpitt.org or contact Michelle Parolini at 412.256.8775.

About Change the Game:

Change the Game's mission is to support a young person's transition from high school to post-secondary life by challenging their ability to critically think, work in teams, persevere and adapt. Mindful decision making combined with an intentional mindset allows our teens to see beyond their preset perceptions of themselves and others. Our vision is set in the belief that meaningful connections happen through purpose and intention. To learn more visit www.ctgpitt.org or call us at 412.256.8775.

About Propel Schools

Propel Schools is a network of public charter schools that transforms the lives of children in underserved communities through innovative, student-centered learning. Propel sets a standard for creating productive citizens by prioritizing academic excellence and fundamental life skills. Based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Propel has become one of the largest, fastest-expanding charter school organizations since it was established in 2003. Today, Propel serves 3,700 students at 11 Allegheny County locations. Visit propelschools.org to learn more.

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