



**Media Contact:** Sharon Adams  
Adams Communications Public Relations  
972.773.9289 | [adamscomm1@aol.com](mailto:adamscomm1@aol.com)

**Rainbow Days Contact:** Tiffany Beaudine  
214.217.3814 | [tiffanyb@rainbowdays.org](mailto:tiffanyb@rainbowdays.org)

**Kids' University Contact:** Kelly Wierzbinski  
Office 214.887.0726 | Cell 214.850.7927 | [kellyw@rainbowdays.org](mailto:kellyw@rainbowdays.org)

**MEDIA ADVISORY  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE [June 6, 2017]**

**Rainbow Days, Inc. and UT Dallas partner for 22<sup>nd</sup> year of Kids' University summer camp, inspiring local homeless youth to aspire for higher education**

**WHAT:** Rainbow Days, Inc. and University of Texas at Dallas will host the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual **Kids' University** summer camp, two separate four-day sessions for local homeless children, ages 4-15. Through diverse classroom experiences such as robotics, geology, engineering and more, Kids' University teaches participants to aim for higher learning, while improving their academic, social and developmental skills. Both sessions conclude with a highly emphasized Graduation Ceremony where participants wear colorful caps and gowns and receive diplomas onstage, allowing each child to envision him or herself graduating from a higher learning institution in the future.



**WHO:** Rainbow Days, Inc. and University of Texas at Dallas

**WHERE:** 800 W. Campbell Road, Richardson, TX 75080  
*Kids' University classes will be held in Classroom Building 1 and 2 plus additional locations in other buildings for special assemblies. See additional attachment for specific locations on UTD campus map.*

**WHEN:** **Kids University 1: June 6-9, 2017** and **Kids' University 2: June 19-22, 2017**  
from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
Graduation Ceremonies: On **June 9** and **June 22** at **1:30 p.m.** in Hoblitzelle Hall, there will be a unique Graduation Ceremony featuring special commencement speakers Tory Gant of Just Say YES on June 9 and Robert Barkers, American Airlines First Officer on June 22.

**WHY:**

Kids' University gives over 300 local homeless children and youth a positive, rewarding and educational summer camp experience. As they explore different career opportunities throughout the week, Kids' University attendees will be exposed to a collegiate environment and the value of higher education in their lives. Participants will attend interactive, educational courses such as: **Frito Lay's Partners in Education** engineering classes, **Perot Museum of Nature and Science's** physics, geology and Fire and Ice classes, and **Cranium Kids'** computer science classes, **Heart of Texas Dog Therapy** will provide classes about professions with dogs, and learn social-emotional learning skills through Rainbow Days' **Curriculum-Based Support Group (CBSG®)** all of which will inspire them to stay in school and pursue college and career choices. Kids' University participants will also attend dance classes taught by **UT Dallas Associate Dean for the Arts Michele Hanlon** and witness an exciting magic show from **Drakeley Magic**. Additionally, Rainbow Days is grateful for the generosity of the **Intrinsic Foundation** who will provide several meals throughout the week and to **Mi Cocina** who will provide a delicious lunch to all children for two days of camp and to **Frito Lay** for their donation of snacks.



On the final day of each Kids' University session, children will wear brightly colored caps and gowns and proudly walk the stage to receive their Kids' University diplomas from UT Dallas Vice President of Diversity and Community Engagement, **Dr. George W. Fair**. Graduates will also hear commencement speeches from prominent and inspiring community figures. This year's graduates of the first Kids' University session will hear **Tory Gant** from **Just Say YES** and graduates of the second session will hear from **Robert Barkers**, **American Airlines** First Officer. The ultimate goal of Kids' University is to help homeless youth learn about potential career opportunities, how to set and attain goals, and the value of education as a means to unlock their futures.

Since 1982, Rainbow Days has been providing drug-free alternative activities, prevention and support groups, and positive mentors to children living in high-risk situations, helping them develop the skills needed to overcome adversity and create bright futures. For more information about Kids University or Rainbow Days, please visit our website at [RainbowDays.org](http://RainbowDays.org) or call us at (214) 887-0726.

**INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Kelly Wierzbinski, Director of Family Connection, Rainbow Days, Inc.
- Dr. George W. Fair, Professor and Dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Vice President, Diversity and Community Engagement, UTD
- Robert Barkers, First Officer Boeing 737, American Airlines
- Tory Gant, Speaker, Just Say YES

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