



Media Contact: Sharon Adams
Adams Communications Public Relations
(972) 773-9289 | adamscomm1@aol.com

Rainbow Days Contact: Katy Cornwall
Communications & Development Specialist
(817) 637-2643 (cell) | KatyC@RainbowDays.org

Kids' University Contact: Kelly Wierzbinski
Director of Family Connection
(214) 850-7927 (cell) | KellyW@RainbowDays.org

**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE [June 3, 2019]**

**Rainbow Days and UT Dallas to partner for 24th year of Kids' University summer camp,
inspiring local homeless youth to aim for higher education**

DALLAS – **Rainbow Days, Inc.** and **The University of Texas at Dallas** will host the 24th annual **Kids' University** summer camp for children living in local shelters. The first session will be held at the **UT Dallas** campus in Richardson from **June 4-7, 2019**, and the second session will be held **June 17-20, 2019**, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Through **diverse classroom experiences** – including science, technology, engineering, art, music, career options and more – Kids' University teaches children how to set goals and aspire for **higher education** while improving their academic, social and emotional skills.



Over two sessions, Kids' University will give more than **300 local homeless children** between the ages of 4 and 12 a positive, rewarding and **educational summer camp experience**. As they explore different career opportunities throughout the week, Kids' University attendees will be exposed to the exciting atmosphere of a **collegiate environment** and see firsthand the value of higher education in their lives. Children also benefit from caring adult staff mentors, social-emotional learning activities and participation in Rainbow Days' evidence-based **Curriculum-Based Support Group (CBSG®) Program**.



Each week will conclude with a **special graduation ceremony** during which camp participants will wear colorful caps and gowns and receive diplomas from **Dr. George W. Fair, UT Dallas Vice President of Diversity and Community Engagement**. This unforgettable experience will allow each child to envision graduating from a higher learning institution in the future. The first session's graduation ceremony will take place **Friday, June 7**, and the second week's will be **Thursday, June 20**. The ceremonies will begin at **1:30 p.m.** in **Hoblitzelle Hall (HH)** on **June 7** and **West Engineering & Computer Science (ECSW)** on **June 20**.

Graduates of the first session will hear a commencement address from **Landon Stark** of **Stark Magic**, whose thrilling performance will mix magic with healthy messages. Graduates of the second session will hear from **Keith Davis**, a former college and professional football player who now works with **Just Say Yes**. Keith will speak to the children about his life and inspire them to achieve success in their own.

During Kids' University, camp participants will attend interactive, educational courses throughout the week to experience the power of education as a means to unlock their futures. Sessions include: engineering with **Frito-Lay's Partners in Education**; physics and geology from the **Perot Museum**; computer science and technology with **Cranium Kids**; algebra tutoring led by **UT Dallas students**; dance taught by **UT Dallas dance faculty member Micki Saba**; reading time with four-legged friends from **Heart of Texas Dog Therapy**; anti-bullying workshops through **Texas Health Resources**; teambuilding with the **All Stars Project of Dallas**; photography and photo essays in partnership with **Mosaic Family Services**; aviation careers with **American Airlines** and **Southwest Airlines** pilots; and **karate**. Throughout the week, campers will also continue to develop their **coping, decision-making** and **social-emotional learning skills** through the guidance of **caring adult mentors** who serve as Rainbow Days' group leaders. Kids' University's overarching purpose is to help inspire participants to **stay in school, pursue college** and **consider a multitude of future career paths** and possibilities.



Rainbow Days would like to recognize the generosity of the **Moody Foundation, Lowe Foundation** and **Simmons Bank** for their financial sponsorships of Kids' University. Special thanks are also in order for the following foundations for their overall support of Rainbow Days' **Family Connection** programs benefiting homeless children: **The Rees-Jones Foundation, Citi, Baron & Blue Foundation, Capital for Kids** and the **United Way of Metropolitan Dallas**.

Additionally, Rainbow Days is grateful for the support of **Mi Cocina, the Intrinsic Foundation, McDonald's - Arch Fellow** and **Raising Cane's**, all of which will provide meals and snacks for the children throughout the week. Rainbow Days is also thankful for our partnership with the **Dallas ISD Homeless Education Department**, which helps provide bus transportation for the children to and from camp each day. Last but not least, we are grateful for our longtime partner, **The University of Texas at Dallas**, which has been partnering with Rainbow Days for 24 years to make this camp possible.

LOCATION and IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- **UT Dallas**, 800 W. Campbell Road, Richardson, TX 75080 // *Please see the attached map for specific locations on the UT Dallas campus.*
- Kids' University *classes* will be held in **Classroom Building 3 (CB 3)** and in other buildings as needed for special assemblies. // *Please see the attached camp schedule for specific class information.*
- The Kids' University *graduation ceremony* will be held in **Hoblitzelle Hall (HH)** for the first session and in **West Engineering & Computer Science (ECSW)** for the second session.
- Kids' University is **closed to the public** but **open to media**.

ABOUT RAINBOW DAYS: Rainbow Days is a Dallas-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Founded in **1982**, Rainbow Days has a mission to help children and youth in adversity build coping skills and resilience to create positive futures. Through support groups, camps, mentored events and tangible items, Rainbow Days serves more than **10,000 at-risk children and youth in the Dallas area** annually. For more information about Kids' University or Rainbow Days, please visit RainbowDays.org or call (214) 887-0726.

###