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NYC GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS UNITE FOR THE STRUGGLE FOR ETHNIC STUDIES THROUGH A FUNDRAISING SCREENING OF THE DOCUMENTARY *PRECIOUS KNOWLEDGE*

New York, NY September 19, 2011—A coalition of educators and community-based organizers led by New York Collective of Radical Educators, Latino Educators for New York Independent Schools and Celebrate Cesar Chavez have announced the start of a New York City-based grassroots campaign to both defend the Tucson Unified School District's Mexican American Studies Program as well as to raise awareness of the struggle for ethnic studies.

This fundraising screening and discussion will be on Saturday Nov. 12, 2011 at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, a division of The New York Public Library. The event will feature a special guest, Curtis Acosta, one of eleven teachers who have put their job on the line by suing the state of Arizona for banning the Mexican American Studies program despite the fact that the students who have participated in the program have surpassed their peers academically.

The day's events will be centered on two special screenings of the documentary *Precious Knowledge*, the critically acclaimed documentary that chronicles the struggles of the teachers and students of Arizona who have worked tirelessly to defend the program from elimination. The film does a magnificent job of demonstrating the benefit that the Mexican American Studies Department has on the education of Tucson students. The film also documents the attempt of conservative Arizona officials to dismantle the program and provides an important lens for all Americans to be aware of as we continue to struggle to create spaces of education and healing.

The schedule of events is as follows:

10-12: Special Screening for Youth

Youth from around the city will participate in a free special screening of the documentary followed by a conversation with Curtis Acosta where they brainstorm ways youth in New York City can support the struggle in Arizona as well as discuss how to bring the struggle to New York City.

3-4: Community Mixer

Youth and adults will come together to discuss ways to support the struggle for ethnic studies. A variety of local organizations will have tables to share information about educational justice issues and ways to become involved.

4-7: Special Screening for Financial Contributors

Another screening of the film will be offered to financial contributors to Save Ethnic Studies (www.SaveEthnicStudies.org), the grassroots organization in Arizona defending ethnic studies followed by a Q & A with Curtis Acosta.

The press is welcome for the entire event. Those who express interest in advanced will be offered a backstage pass that include exclusive interviews with Curtis Acosta as well as with the planning committee. For more information, visit, <http://www.nycore.org/preciousknowledge>.