FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIV/AIDS YOUTH PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAM OPEN CALL

CHICAGO – September brings the kick-off of the football season. This month, however, there is an entirely different kind of kick-off taking place at Chicago State University’s Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing (GBC).

On Saturday, September 19, from 1 until 4 p.m., The Brooks Center will host a kick-off for its HIV/AIDS Youth Prevention Education program (H.Y.P.E.), an open call for singers, dancers, actors, rappers and poets, between the ages of 16 and 21, to audition for its AIM Poetry Performance Troupe, part of H.Y.P.E.’s youth empowerment and arts awareness initiative. This event is free and open to the public. The kick-off takes place at the campus of Chicago State University (CSU), located at 95th Street and King Drive, on the Southside. The Brooks Center is located at CSU’s old Douglass Library, room 210-A.

The H.Y.P.E. program, founded in 2004, is a multi-level program whose central philosophy is that arts and literature can be tools of empowerment in the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The poetry performance troupe is no different.

The AIM Poetry Performance Group will ultimately consist of two groups of 20 participants. Guided by seasoned, interdisciplinary teaching artists, these students create and perform assembly-length pieces that will include everything from poetry to music and dance.

Teaching artists include noted poets Kevin Coval, Krista Franklin and Toni Asante Lightfoot.

“The Performance Troupe provides an opportunity for teens and young adults to create and present their stories, their lives, to other teens and young adults, in the transformative power of art,” said Professor Quraysh Ali Lansana, Director, The Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing.

Earlier this year, the Brooks Center received a $200,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, in order to enhance its H.Y.P.E. program. H.Y.P.E has also received support from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Chicago Department of Public Health.

For more information on this event, please contact the Gwendolyn Brooks Center at (773) 995-4440 or at gbc@cs.edu/ gbrooksccenter@gmail.com.