

# HARVEST TIME



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## 5TH QUARTER EXPERIENCE

### PLAYERS AND COACHES MAKE TIME FOR REAL CONVERSATIONS

What do you offer a group of (Inner city) high school football players who know what long days of hard practices feel like coupled with the realities of their daily lives? A chance - A chance to explore beyond the boundaries of their zip code and a glimpse into their dreams. This is what we set out to do with our 5th Quarter Experience. We took a group of student athletes on a trip to Northern Illinois University to see just what it requires to be a STUDENT ATHLETE at a top university and to show the importance of establishing the necessary disciplines now. They sat down with coaching staff and players and one student-athlete who was a resident of their neighborhood. They left with the understanding that what you do on and off the field affects everything and that character is built when you make the hard choices in tough situations.



## THE MONSTERS OF THE MIDWEST

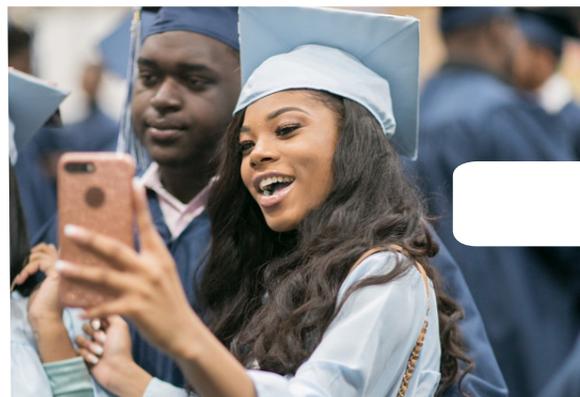
### 5TH QUARTER EXPERIENCE TAKES STUDENTS ATHLETES TO SOLDIER FIELD



During the 5th Quarter experience students not only got to visit NIU but they also got a chance to visit Soldier Field home of the Chicago Bears. We wanted them to see just how far they could go with the right attitude and self-discipline. We would like to thank NIU and Coach Carey and his staff for giving our young men a world class experience and an eye-opening encounter. We are expecting great things out of these young men after graduation!

## WE MADE IT! #CO2017

### SENIOR GRADUATION AT TINLEY PARK CONVENTION CENTER



Graduation is always a time for celebration and excitement! This was our first graduating class for our TriO Talent Search program since we began working with Hillcrest High School in the fall of 2016. Our students plan to enroll in various institutions all throughout the country from South Suburban College all the way to Alabama A&M!



## COMMUNICATION AND CODE SWITCHING

**EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IS NECESSARY IN EVERY CAREER FIELD AND SITUATION. SPEAKEASY INTRODUCED AND EXPLAINED THE ART OF CODE SWITCHING TO HELP STUDENTS NAVIGATE DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.**

Communication is a major problem. A famous quote that illustrates this point is from George Bernard Shaw and it states, "The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." Checking for understanding and using different tools and techniques all work together to increase communication skills. Lauren Wells from Speakeasy is an amazing communicator. She has helped multiple speech teams to win state championships and has helped numerous students to secure scholarships as well as jobs in entertainment. In her own right she has performed in different stage plays throughout the city and has a reputation

for pulling the best out of her students. During rising senior camp, she played interactive games to help students to identify negative communication habits. After that she made them do various group and team activities that forced them out of their comfort zones. They had to meet and introduce a person that they did not know to the entire group. The last 2 areas that she addressed were code switching and the importance of sensoring their social media personas. The students were very engaged through her entire presentation and hopefully they left with more tools in their communication toolbox that they can utilize in the near future as they prepare for college.

## KICKOFF 2018

**STUDENTS GET A HEADSTART BY TAKING INITIATIVE!**



Our goal for the kickoffs are simple. Engage, Acknowledge, Reward and Set the tone for the rest of the year. After an initial meet and greet and a game of trivia, the staff dove right in. The atmosphere was electric as DJ Cell spun the turntables and the chatter from our students filled the air. This is how you start the semester!

## RISING SENIOR ADVANTAGE

**SUMMER EXPERIENCE LOOKS TO PREPARE SENIORS BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS**



During the summer time students usually work and preparing for college is not normally on the list of things to do. With rising senior camp we leverage all the free time that summer offers and use it for financial aid conversations and college applications. This helps to alleviate a lot of pressure that begins to build when classes and homework begin and students have to add college to their already full plate. We partnered with ISAC as well as Scholarship mom to assist with identifying and applying for local scholarships.