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**Motivational Speaker Eric Morris Recently Honored for His Work Inspiring and Educating Young People to Stay Clear of Gangs, Drugs and Poor School Performance**

CHICAGO – (February 24, 2016) – Growing up on the streets of Chicago, Eric Morris knows the many temptations of living in a big city where drugs, gangs and crime are beckoning around every corner. After learning from his own poor choices, Mr. Morris realized he been given the opportunity to instill hope and confidence in the next generation of adults.

Today, his mission is to inspire young people and open their eyes to the world of opportunities available to them.

“I tell all my audience members that anything is possible with hard work and discipline,” says Eric Morris. “My particular passion is developing the morals and mindsets of young men to rescue them from the pitfalls that are all around them. I know they can rise up and be bigger than these negative influences.”

On February 11, 2016, Eric Morris was honored by the National Network of Safe Communities and their Chicago Violence Reduction Strategy team for his exceptional message of hope and inspiration to the young men and women of Chicago.

“It is truly an honor to be presented with this award,” said Eric Morris. “I am blessed to be able to stand with others in the Chicago community who are also dedicated to stopping violence and ensuring that our young people stay on the right track.”

Mr. Morris states that he did not even realize that he was going to win the award, since the National Network of Safe Communities appreciation event was billed as simply an opportunity to gather with other advocates in the community and share successful strategies and outreach ideas.

Eric Morris uses his coaching background to mentor, inspire and teach young people and has helped youth and organizations learn team building skills, cultural and athletic diversity and overall success in athletics, academics and accountability. His goal is to make sure each young person growing up in

Chicago is able to reach their highest potential and stay clear of negative influences.

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Eric Morris provides both youth and adults with the encouragement, hope, and tools to overcome all inner and outward obstacles that keep them from achieving success and victory in their current situations and lives. It is his sincere desire to bring his inspirational message of change and determination to the masses.

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The National Network for Safe Communities: Chicago Violence Reduction Strategy (VRS) has dedicated, full-time National Network staff on the ground assisting Chicago the community and law enforcement partnership to conduct call-ins and custom notifications in many of the most volatile districts. VRS uses frontline intelligence and innovative new social network analysis techniques to identify the group members at highest risk for violent victimization or offending and give them individualized messages about their vulnerability, the help available to them, and their legal risks. This focus reduced violence dramatically in 2013 while the Chicago Police Department made 7,000 fewer arrests.