



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Shy Quon Ely, sely@igniteindy.org
Chrystal Ratcliffe, cratcliffe@indynaacp.org
Garry Holland, education@indynaacp.org

MEDIA ADVISORY

ECUMENICAL GATHERING TUESDAY WILL CELEBRATE PRAYER RIGHTS IN SCHOOLS

What: An ecumenical prayer gathering will celebrate faith and spiritual diversity and peace for children, parents and the local community. The gathering also celebrates prayer rights in schools under recently enacted state legislation in House Enrolled Act 1024, supported by the Greater Indianapolis NAACP Branch 3053 in the 2017 legislative session.

When: Tuesday, August 1, 7 pm

Where: Ignite Achievement Academy at Elder W. Diggs School 42
1002 W. 25th Street, Indianapolis

Who: School principals Shy-Quon Ely II and Brooke Beavers, and faith leaders from Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist and Hindu faith traditions

Background:

The Greater Indianapolis NAACP Branch 3053 supports the implementation of [House Enrolled Act 1024](#), which prohibits discrimination in public schools based on religious belief or expression and allows religious expression in schools. The branch also supports Ignite Achievement Academy in its implementation of the new law.

“With the passing of House Bill 1024, Ignite Achievement Academy at the historic Elder W. Diggs School seeks to serve as a trailblazing institution that allows faith and spiritual diversity as a means to find ties among our collective that bind humanity culturally and socially,” said **Principal Shy-Quon Ely II**. “Our community and nation is reeling with

separation and social stratification, injustice, inequity, inequality, systemic oppression, etc., and the effects of such result directly in impoverished, mis-educated, dilapidated, and violent communities filled with many mentally and physically dis-eased citizens. We at Ignite Achievement Academy at the historic Elder Diggs School believe that all people of each faith can and should be encouraged to summon a Higher Power within and without the school setting, in order that a divine intervention might take place so that our communities and nation may experience a fresh embrace of tolerance; a forward progression toward diversity ; a genuine appreciation for human dignity; an incomprehensible commitment to peace; and a pervading love for all people that is built on a mutual respect of culture and human-kind.”

— END—

About NAACP: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest, largest and most widely recognized civil rights organization. Our mission is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights for all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.