



**For Immediate Release Contact:** Dr. Porter Lee Troutman, Jr.- 895-3369

## **Town Hall Meeting**

**National Youth Sport Academic Program**

**8:30 a. m. -2:30 p.m., Saturday May 31, 2008**

**Martin Luther King Family Health Center**

**1700 Wheeler Peak Drive**

**Las Vegas, Nevada, 89106**

## **UNLV – National Youth Sports Program Comes Together for Town Hall Meeting on Underage Drinking**

Today UNLV- National Youth Academic Sports Program in Las Vegas, Nevada, became one of hundreds of communities nationwide that held a Town Hall Meeting to alert the community to new research on the risks of underage drinking and empower the community to take action to stop it. The Federal Government's Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD) is supporting Town Hall Meetings that are taking place in communities across America during the week of March 31– August, 2008, which coincides with April's Alcohol Awareness Month. The Town Hall Meeting educated parents, teachers, officials, youth, and other community members about the impact underage drinking has on the community. Together, they discussed possible ways to address the issue.

Underage drinking is an important community concern. Among eighth graders, about 1 in 20 (5.5 percent) reported being drunk at least once in the past month. Nearly 1 out of every 5 10th graders (18.1 percent) and about 3 out of every 10 12th graders (28.7 percent) reported being drunk at least once in the last month. [Insert local statistics or a story to reinforce the message (for example, the number of underage drinkers involved in traffic crashes or other community events tied to Alcohol Awareness Month).]

Research indicates that families exert a great deal of influence on whether a child uses alcohol later in life. "What parents may not realize," says Terry L. Cline, Ph.D., Chairman of ICCPUD and Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), "is that children say that their parents' disapproval of underage drinking is a key reason they have chosen not to drink."

SAMHSA reports that children and teens are less likely to abuse alcohol if parents are involved in their children's lives, make and enforce clear rules, and are positive role models.

###

1 National Institute on Drug Abuse. 2007. *Monitoring the Future Survey* (electronic version). Retrieved from [www.drugabuse.gov/DrugPages/MTF.html](http://www.drugabuse.gov/DrugPages/MTF.html).