From:	Stermer, Jerome </O=STATE OF ILLINOIS/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=JEROME.STERMER>
Sent:	Saturday, November 21, 2009 8:05 PM
To:	Saddler, Michelle <Michelle.Saddler@illinois.gov>; Irving, Toni <Toni.Irving@Illinois.gov>
Subject:	FW: Thank you
Attach:	Education Week_ Anti-Violence Program Targets Chicago Boys.pdf

Interesting article – I know one of the people at this lab. This all relates to the violence prevention work we have been talking about.

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From: Crime Lab [mailto:crimelab@uchicago.edu]
Sent: Saturday, November 21, 2009 11:29 AM
To: Crime Lab
Cc: Ludwig, Jens O; Pollack, Harold; lbrinkman@uchicago.edu; Ander, Roseanna
Subject: Thank you

November 21, 2009

Dear Crime Lab Friends,

We wanted to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for all of the help, guidance and support you have provided to the University of Chicago Crime Lab. We are very pleased to share with you some of the coverage Wednesday's public launch the Design Competition winner, BAM (Becoming A Man) Sports Edition received. We look forward to keeping each of you apprised as this project moves forward and also on the development and implementation of other Crime Lab projects.

Finally, many of you have served since the Crime Lab's inception as informal advisors, sounding boards and perhaps even unpaid staff. In the coming months we would like to develop a more formal and structured advisory board. If you would be open to considering playing such a role or have suggestions for people who we should reach out to as potential candidates for advisory board members, we would appreciate hearing from you. Our hope is to assemble a relatively small group of civic and business leaders who share our concern about violence and crime and who see the value of rigorous research in identifying effective and cost effective strategies for improving this area of social policy.

Below we have pasted the full text of the ***Chicago Tribune*** front page story about the BAM Sports Edition launch followed by links to a sampling of other coverage. We have also attached a copy of the story that appeared in Education Week. You can find the all the coverage on our website.

Again, thanks for all the generosity and support getting us to this point.

Sincerely,
The Crime Lab Team
Jens Ludwig, Harold Pollack, Roseanna Ander and Laura Brinkman

www.chicagotribune.com/news/education/chi-school-violence-prevention-1nov18,0,1111118.story

chicagotribune.com
SEEKING SAFE PASSAGE

Do violence-prevention programs work? University of Chicago study hopes to find out. Researchers will take hard look at results of education and counseling project

By Stephanie Banchero
Tribune reporter
November 18, 2009

The University of Chicago has partnered with two community groups to launch a $1 million youth anti-violence program that will include a rare component: a rigorous, scientific evaluation to determine whether it's cost-effective.

The program, called Becoming a Man-Sports Edition, aims to help adolescent boys in Chicago public schools curb their impulse to use fists and guns to settle disagreements. It addresses the problem on two fronts, by using character education and counseling as well as training in Olympic sports, such as archery and fencing.

During the 27-week initiative, which begins Wednesday, university evaluators will use a research model akin to clinical trials in medicine to determine whether the program is reducing violent behavior and helping boys stay in school.

Public officials continue to grasp for solutions to youth violence in Chicago. They've launched programs in schools, boosted police patrols and thrown public and private money at the problem. Earlier this year, Chicago schools chief Ron Huberman launched a $30 million violence-prevention effort that targets the most at-risk students and the most troubled schools.

Still, little is known about which programs are effective and worth the expense.

"Unfortunately, the anti-violence field is littered with programs that are not grounded in solid research so we have no idea if they are really working," said Jens Ludwig, a professor at the University of Chicago and the director of the University of Chicago Crime Lab. "This program will allow us to generate scientifically credible evidence about a program and show whether it works, and why."

The lab was created in 2008 in partnership with the city of Chicago to gather crime data and research and identify solutions. It garnered $1 million in grant money and then selected B.A.M.-Sports Edition from among 30 anti-violence programs that applied.

The program is a joint venture between Youth Guidance, a private group that has provided counseling to troubled teens for decades, and World Sports Chicago, a legacy of Chicago 2016 that brings Olympic sports to Chicago's youth.

The program will operate in 15 Chicago elementary and high schools. It will be offered to an estimated 550 boys at risk of dropping out or landing in the criminal justice system. These are not the most at-risk students, but rather the ones just beginning to get into trouble.

The lab will analyze the students' academic achievement, attendance, school discipline and juvenile court records during the 27 weeks and compare the information with data from a control group of 550 similar students who did not participate. They hope to determine which parts of the programs worked, for which students.

Scott Myers, executive director of World Sports Chicago, sits on the Youth Guidance board of directors and helped marry the two programs. He said after-school sports help students develop self-discipline, respect for authority and responsibility.

"There's a lot of anecdotal evidence about sports being a social development tool, but we realize there is not a lot of real empirical research to prove it," Myers said. "We are hoping this study will help define a model that can become a 'best practice' so other cities who want to use sports as a tool to help kids can understand the maximum benefit."

During school, the selected students will work with counselors in the Youth Guidance program.

Tony Di Vittorio, the Youth Guidance counselor who developed B.A.M. a decade ago, said the program provides one-on-one counseling and behavior strategies for boys in junior high and high school. It's not an anti-violence program, per se, he said, but rather a character education course.

Learning to control impulses, channel anger and develop coping skills are all part of the package, he said.

"I started challenging these young men and forcing them to think about their lack of responsibility and their own integrity," he said. "I challenged their tendency to project the blame outward, instead of looking inward. We talk about ways of expressing anger and leaving a situation with your self dignity."
Bruce Moore, a senior at Clemente High School in Chicago, spent three years in the B.A.M. program. He credits it with helping to improve his grades and keep him out of trouble.
"I was bad and couldn't get along," he said. "But Tony taught me integrity and how to keep my word and act like a man. I used to blame my teachers for my bad grades. Now I know I have to put effort into it and it's up to me to earn the good grade."
sbanchero@tribune.com
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http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/education/chi-school-violence-prevention-1.ar0nov18,0,513075.story

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