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THE VERDICT IS IN: STUDY CITES MOSAIC'S UNDENIABLE IMPACT ON DETROIT AREA YOUTH *Mosaic Model includes University of Michigan research funded by The Wallace Foundation*

DETROIT, April 8, 2008 – Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit announces the release of *Excellence on Stage and in Life: The Mosaic Model for Youth Development through the Arts*, findings of a three-year study led by University of Michigan professor Dr. Lorraine M. Gutiérrez with faculty and students of the University of Michigan Department of Psychology and School of Social Work. Funded by The Wallace Foundation in New York, the study evaluates the ground-breaking youth development impact of Mosaic's internationally acclaimed professional performing arts training programs.

Mosaic has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts and the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities for its national model for youth development through the arts. While Mosaic's participants are disproportionately minority and from low-income families, 95 percent of Mosaic alumni have been admitted to college, dramatically above the national average for young people of similar backgrounds. This study by the University of Michigan is the first to comprehensively identify and assess Mosaic's methods and outcomes. The evaluation methods for the three-year study included pretest and posttest measures, literature reviews, statistical analyses, focus groups with youth, parents and staff, and an extensive survey of 175 alumni of the Mosaic Youth Ensemble.

In addition to finding significant impact on artistic ability, the University of Michigan study found Mosaic had a positive impact on academic achievement, including improved grade-point averages, educational aspirations, and confidence regarding academic goals. More than 89 percent of Mosaic alumni stated that the program positively impacted their ability to consistently maintain high academic performance and see themselves as capable of academic success. The study also found that Mosaic's Ensemble program had a significant impact on both the personal and professional development of youth participants and alumni, including positively impacting their ability to conduct themselves in a professional manner, effectively organize/manage their time, manage stress in healthy ways, effectively lead a group, maintain a positive sense of self/identity, interact effectively with people

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of different backgrounds, and expect great things from themselves and others. Nearly 81 percent of Mosaic alumni reported that they experienced more personal growth and transformation at Mosaic than in any other activity they participated in as a teenager.

Mosaic founder Rick Sperling states, "We believe this University of Michigan study will have long-ranging implications, not only for Mosaic and other youth arts organizations, but for anyone looking for innovative solutions to the crisis facing young people in our cities." Sperling continues, "I think policy-makers need to look long and hard at how arts programs like Mosaic are uniquely suited to address the youth development needs that are currently unmet for so many urban youth."

Sperling is currently touring national conferences, sharing important findings of the study, including the National After School Association Conference, The Wallace Foundation National Conference and the American Alliance for Theatre and Education Conference. Sperling is also available for interviews.

Named *Best-Managed Nonprofit* by *Crain's Detroit Business* in 2006, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit is a national model for youth development through the arts. Mosaic's mission is to empower young people to maximize their potential through professional performing arts training and the creation of first-rate theatrical and musical art. Mosaic's all-teen performances have toured Africa, Asia, Europe and the U.S., and have been featured on NBC's *Today Show*, NPR's *All Things Considered*, and was the subject of the Michigan Emmy Award®-winning PBS documentary, *And They Flew: The Story of Mosaic Youth Theatre*.

For more information on Mosaic's Youth Ensemble, Intermediate Training Program and Education Programs please visit www.mosaicdetroit.org.

The Mosaic Model is now available for download at <http://www.mosaicdetroit.org/mosaic-model.htm>

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