

Written by Ivan Phifer, Staff Writer
Tuesday, 26 February 2013 09:08



To celebrate Black History Month, Minneapolis' South High School student group UMOJA hosted National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) in the school's media center.

The event featured keynote speaker Jesse L. Mason, Jr., Ph.D., as well as vendors from Job Corp and the TRIO Upward Bound Program.

"Without the students of UMOJA, staff and administration, this day would not be possible," said South High Principal Cecelia Saddler. "What's great about South High is you have a lot of students and staff that already have an invested interest to make sure parents are involved."

NAAPID is a yearly event that, according to organizers takes several months to plan. A relationship built through Minneapolis Community & Technical College (MCTC) enabled UMOJA to feature Dr. Jesse L. Mason Jr. as speaker for South High's NAAPID.

Mason opened his speech with a poem, titled "The Skin I'm in," which depicted the love not only of himself, but his people despite negative stereotypes; as well as showing appreciation for other cultures. Mason asked students a simple, yet perplexing question.

Cross-culture within culture: South High School UMOJA recognizes, reflects diversity of African American

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