

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHOTO/VIDEO OPPORTUNITY

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***American Ninja Warrior* Star Najee Richardson to Give Keynote Address at The Food Trust's High School Youth Leadership Summit**

160 youth leaders from across Philadelphia and Camden, NJ, gather to learn about North Philly native's inspirations, challenges and positive outlook

WHEN: Wednesday, October 17, 2018

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Interview Availability: 9:40-10 a.m.

Keynote: 10:05-10:20 a.m.

Dance Performance: 10:20-10:50 a.m.

WHERE: Temple University Student Center South, Room 200BC

1755 N. 13th St., Philadelphia PA 19122

WHAT: **Najee Richardson**, star of NBC's hit show *American Ninja Warrior*, will give the keynote address at **The Food Trust's annual HYPE High School Youth Leadership Summit** on the morning of Wednesday, October 17 at Temple University.

Richardson, aka "The Flying Phoenix" to his fans, is a fitness coach and former gymnast from North Philadelphia. The 27-year-old has competed in four seasons of *American Ninja Warrior* in addition to being the team captain of the "Phoenix Force" on competition spinoffs *Team Ninja Warrior* and *American Ninja Warrior: Ninja vs. Ninja*. According to a recent piece in *Philadelphia Magazine*, Richardson is also a motivational speaker who visits inner-city schools to talk to young people about his time in North Philly, his success and how it's influenced his life.

"High school is such an important time for young people to figure out who they are and how they can make an impact on the world," says Richardson. "Positive energy is part of what got me where I am today, so I'm really excited to talk to Philly's future leaders about being a good role model."



HYPE (Healthy You. Positive Energy.), The Food Trust's youth leadership development program, works with thousands of students across the city and beyond to support and engage youth in becoming leaders for healthy change in their schools and communities. HYPE supports youth councils in approximately 70 middle and high schools, all working to get their schools HYPE by improving access to healthy foods, decreasing the availability of unhealthy foods and increasing opportunities for physical activity. As a part of the HYPE campaign, youth councils have the opportunity to attend the annual high school and middle school Youth Leadership Summits, where students meet peers from other schools, participate in leadership development activities and create healthy action plans.

The Food Trust's HYPE High School Youth Leadership Summit is made possible with support from the Aetna Foundation's Cultivating Healthy Communities grant program.

About The Food Trust

The Food Trust, founded in 1992, works to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food and information to make healthy decisions. Working with neighborhoods, schools, grocers, farmers and policymakers, we've developed a comprehensive approach to improved food access that combines nutrition education and greater availability of affordable, healthy food. We've brought supermarkets to communities that have gone decades without one. We've helped corner store owners introduce fresh produce, low-fat dairy and whole grains. We've taken soda and junk food out of schools, and we've taught students to appreciate foods like apples and cherry tomatoes. To learn more about The Food Trust, visit thefoodtrust.org.

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