

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **iDREAM for Racial Health Equity Announces Finalists for its First Annual S.M.A.R.T. Moms Award**

*Award Honors Student Mothers who Successfully Balance Self-Care, Work and Family Life while Continuing Higher Education*

**LOS ANGELES – (May 3, 2013)** - In recognition of National Minority Health Month, iDREAM for Racial Health Equity, a project of Community Partners, announced the finalists for its First Annual S.M.A.R.T. Moms Award (Student Mothers Achieving Rightful Tribute).

The S.M.A.R.T. Moms Award honors student mothers who embody strength and courage by balancing self-care, work and family life while pursuing higher education. She also has a clear vision for her future and is a role model to her children.

With more than 20 nominations submitted, 11 extraordinary finalists were chosen. They are as follows:

1. **Kenia N. Alcares**, CSU Northridge
2. **Valarie Brookins**, USC
3. **Morena Castellanos**, CSU Los Angeles
4. **Kubie Edelen**, CSU San Bernardino
5. **Ashanti T. Hands**, San Diego State University
6. **Lauren Hoyd**, USC
7. **Kimm James**, CSU Northridge
8. **Tabatha Jones Jolivet**, Pepperdine University
9. **Adriana Duran Levine**, West Coast Ultrasound Institute
10. **Sequoia Phillips**, Compton Community College
11. **La Trina Reed**, UCLA

As a student mother attending the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1974, iDREAM founder and executive director, Wenonah Valentine, established the S.M.A.R.T. Mom award to honor the sacrifices and perseverance exhibited by student mothers as they strive to secure a better life for themselves and their children. Today, she guides the next generation of community health advocates and millennial leaders, to address health disparities for mothers and babies throughout the lifespan.

The S.M.A.R.T. Mom of the Year and runners-up will be announced May 13, 2013 in celebration of National Women's Health Week (May 12-18, 2013). The winners will participate in a public celebration that will recognize the nominators and nominees for this inaugural event. Finalists are also invited to participate in a Vision Board Playshop to help unlock dreams for wellness and living in good health.

For more information about the S.M.A.R.T. Mom Awards or to learn about iDREAM, please visit [www.idreamnow.org](http://www.idreamnow.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/iDreamnow](http://www.facebook.com/iDreamnow).

#### About iDREAM for Racial Health Equity

iDREAM for Racial Health Equity, a project of Community Partners celebrates a rich 16-year history as a dynamic change agent for African-American families predisposed to preterm births, low birth weight and infant mortality. The organization is a leadership, training and advocacy development network dedicated to equipping a pipeline of millennial and community health advocate leaders to address the complex health issues impacting mothers and babies throughout the life course. To learn more, visit [www.idreamnow.org](http://www.idreamnow.org).

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