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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Top National Banker Takes on Mentorship Role with Students at Chicago's Crane Tech

Investment banker Gary Hall says his goal is to 'pay it forward' in serving as a mentor to students at Chicago's Richard T. Crane Technical Preparatory High School.

Hall, who grew up in the Cabrini Green housing project and attended Chicago public schools, met with students at Crane Tech in early December to talk about education and career opportunities.

Administrators at the school selected four students, two seniors and two juniors, to then be mentees of Hall, who serves as National Head of Investment Banking at Siebert Brandford Shank & Co., L.L.C. (SBSCO), the nation's largest women and minority owned municipal underwriting firm.

SBSCO, which has offices in Chicago and 20 other cities, has financed over \$1.2 trillion worth of critical infrastructure projects, including hospitals, universities, bridges, water systems, airports and more. The firm, co-founded by Wall Street legend Muriel Siebert, has a long history in opening career doors and mentoring young talent. It was Siebert who shattered the financial industry's glass ceiling as the first woman to hold a seat on the New York Stock Exchange.

Early in his career, Gary Hall worked for the U.S. Department of Treasury as a White House Fellow, focusing on fiscal policy for President Clinton's domestic economic agenda. Along the way up this career ladder, he also practiced law and served in Mayor Richard M. Daley's Administration. He recently joined SBSCO after working for J.P. Morgan, where he served as an executive director in the public finance investment banking group.

"Do not play the victim. There is no 'can't.' Take that word out of your vocabulary," Mr. Hall told the students. "Do not fear failure. Failure is success turned inside out. Failures are ripe with learning lessons and 'not trying' is the only true failure."

Richard Smith, Crane Tech's principal said, "We are honored to have Gary Hall, an accomplished Chicago native and product of our public school systems, to mentor our students. His life story and his commitment to hard work will inspire our students. If you have a can-do attitude and the right perspective you will go far in life."

The mentees include Crane Tech seniors Yabreon Kight and Trey Roberts, and juniors Qu'main Calvin and Domonique Moses. During the mentoring program, Mr. Hall will be guiding the students in their education and studies and advising them with their career choices.

Among some of the planned activities will be trips to the Willis Tower for lunch and to a Chicago Bulls game. Other activities will continue throughout the year. Mr. Hall stresses that he hopes working with these youngsters will reinforce that each student's life path is entirely up to them.

Yabreon Kight, who intends on majoring in pre-law and is expected to be Crane Tech's class of 2014 valedictorian, said that Mr. Hall's visit taught her and her fellow students that "no matter where you come from, you can make something of yourself."

Trey Roberts, who plans on majoring in business, said, “If you are dedicated and willing to put in the hard work to reach your goals, it will pay off in the end. We can be anything we want to be by making the right decisions.”

Qu’main Calvin, who wants to major in graphic arts and design, said that when he sees Mr. Hall again, he wants to share with him his plans for the future. He realizes that “everyone ‘can’ if they put in hard work and dedication.”

Domonique Moses, who wants to become a surgeon, said, “It’s all about education. Slackers never win and my decision making now and the choices that I make, determine the situations that affect my future self.”

“I really hope that I reached a couple of students to ignite a passion for success and a greater appreciation for a strong work ethic despite their challenges,” said Mr. Hall.

Richard T. Crane Technical Preparatory High School was founded in 1922 currently has a student population of 160, educating juniors and seniors. The City of Chicago has suggested it could be phased-out following the upcoming school year, once these students have graduated.

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Siebert Brandford Shank earned the distinction in 2010 of becoming the first minority-owned firm to be among the top 10 municipal bond underwriters as ranked by the Bond Buyer. Since its inception in 1996, the firm has acted as a managing underwriter for municipal bond transactions exceeding \$1.2 trillion and is ranked among the top 10 in seven infrastructure categories. SBSCO maintains 21 offices nationwide. It is dually headquartered in New York and Oakland with offices in Anchorage, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, El Paso, Fort Worth, Fort Lauderdale, Honolulu, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Philadelphia, Sacramento, San Antonio, San Diego, Seattle, St. Louis, and Washington, DC.



Ricard T. Crane Technical Preparatory High School Principal Richard C. Smith along with Vice Principals Sydney Golliday and Christopher Robbins hosted Gary Hall, National Head of Investment Banking at Siebert Brandford Shank & Co., L.L.C., to speak with students about the importance of prioritizing education. Mr. Hall came to Crane Tech to take on the role of mentor to some four Crane Tech high school students. SBSCO is the nation's largest minority- and women-owned municipal underwriting firm.

(L-R) front row: Mr. Richard C. Smith, Principal; Mrs. Sydney J. Golliday, Assistant Principal; Jadonna Anderson; Mentee - Yabreon Kight; Mr. Gary Hall; Ashaunti Robinson; Alveta Moore; Aniesha Boyd; Geraldine Pryor; Christopher Robbins, Assistant Principal

(L-R) back row – Mentee - Domonique Moses; Mentee- Qu'Main Calvin; Mentee-Trey Roberts; Corey Haralson; Devon Dortch; Sharon Horner



Crane Tech junior and (Mentee) Qu'Main Calvin, presented career mentor Gary Hall, National Head of Investment Banking at Siebert Brandford Shank & Co., L.L.C. with a souvenir, a Crane Tech High School Shirt.