

"The Public Service Leader for Today and Tomorrow"

Kankakee County Soldiers and River Valley Metro Team Up to Motivate Youth

April 23, 2010

The Kankakee County Soldiers, Kankakee County's own professional basketball team and River Valley Metro visited the Lincoln Cultural Center to help motivate students and teach them about public transportation.



Players arrived on the River Valley Metro bus advertising the team. Players making the trip were guard Barry Bradford, forward Erik Rhinehart, guard Stan Chismark and center Ce Ce Malone.

With spring arriving it is very hard to keep students focused, so the Soldiers held an assembly with all students urging them to keep focused and finish the year out strong. Barry Bradford from the Soldiers, thanked the teachers for all they do and stated it is their work that shapes the leaders for the future. Bradford also addressed the students stressing that they can do anything in life if they put their mind to it. They just need to work hard and stay focused.

River Valley Metro also had the opportunity to address the assembly and explain the public transportation service available to all of them. Director of Marketing, Michelle Brutlag, also explained that the buses are there to help anyone in need as well. "If anyone ever feels unsafe, all they have to do is get on the bus and asked a driver for help and we will make sure that it happens" stated Brutlag. Customer Care Supervisor for River Valley Metro, Rass Powell also explained about the student summer pass program that runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day and instructed students of proper behavior while riding the bus.

To finish off the assembly 10 students and 2 staff members had the opportunity to play "The Grand Prize Game" to win Kankakee County Soldiers prizes. Students then got the opportunity to get their pictures taken with the team in front of the bus and get autographs from all players.

"This was a great opportunity to give back and mentor our students keeping them on a positive track" stated Bradford. "Any opportunity we get to be a positive role model and teach our youth is priceless."

For more information on the Kankakee County Soldiers or River Valley Metro visit their websites at www.kcsoldiers.com or rivervalleymetro.com.