



To: Media Organizations
From: Jacqueline Silas-Butler, Executive Director of Project GRAD Akron
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Re: Project GRAD Akron's 8th Annual March GRADness
Date: February 28, 2022 (FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION)

"Project GRAD Akron to Host 8th Annual March GRADness"

Akron, OH - Project GRAD Akron (PGA) is hosting its 8th Annual March GRADness fundraiser and you are invited to join the fun! Whether or not you enjoy keeping up with the NCAA Men's and Women's Divisions Basketball Tournaments, also known as March Madness, every year, March GRADness has something for everyone to enjoy! The event will be held on **Monday, April 4, 2022** from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Greystone Hall, 103 S. High Street, Akron, Ohio.

March GRADness is a basketball-themed, casual, "Happy Hour" event and proceeds will support PGA's programs, services, and scholarship fund, which benefit students in the Akron Public Schools. Project GRAD Akron is grateful for The University of Akron for being the Ultimate Championship Sponsor of the event.

This year boasts another great team of volunteers who are serving on the committee and are being led by Event Chairpersons and Board members, **Ben Comston & Tom Peeples, Jr.** *"Project GRAD Akron is such a wonderful asset to the schools in our community and has proven results in improving outcomes for students. I've been so happy to have the privilege of supporting the organization as a Board Member and mentor."* - **Event Co-Chair and Board Member, Ben Comston**

"I've been involved with Project GRAD Akron as a GRAD Mentor since 2017. I will gladly continue to serve this organization, on the board, co-chair of March GRADness or in whatever other capacity I can because I have personally witnessed the power mentorship can make in the trajectory of a young person's life. Project GRAD Akron is a catalyst for kids in our community to achieve things many of them didn't know existed, let alone believed to be possible." - **Event Co-Chair and Board Member, Thomas Peeples, Jr.**

Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy delicious food stations, win door prizes and raffles, and play competitive games, including Family Feud, Kahoot, and a basketball shoot-out! After March GRADness, guests will be able to leave in time to watch the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship game from the comforts of their own homes.

The fun part about March GRADness is that you can choose how you wish to participate: you can come alone or with friends; stay a short time or a long time; wear your sports or casual attire or dress in business attire; eat a little or eat a lot; or play games or watch games. This "party with a purpose" allows you the opportunity to financially support a worthy organization while supporting students in our community. It will be a Slam Dunk event!

Since 2002, in collaboration with community partners, Project GRAD Akron provides a system of programs, supports, and scholarships for underrepresented students to achieve success from kindergarten through career. In addition to PGA's programs and services, the organization has awarded over \$2 million in scholarships since 2006.

Please visit www.projectgradakron.org for sponsorship and ticket information. VIP tickets are \$100 each and general admission tickets are \$40 each. General admission tickets at the door are \$50. All tickets are tax deductible. For additional information about the event or Project GRAD Akron, please contact 330-761-3113 or email

info@projectgradakron.org. **Jacqueline A. Silas-Butler, Esq.** is the Executive Director of Project GRAD Akron and **Martin Belsky, Esq.** is the President of the Board of Directors. **Christine Fowler-Mack** is Superintendent of the Akron Public Schools.



Benjamin Comston, Esq., March GRADness Co-Chairperson & Board Member



Thomas Peeples, Jr., March GRADness Co-Chairperson & Board Member



March GRADness - Ultimate Championship Sponsor