Greetings Principal, Faculty, and Staff

On March 15th and 17th, there will be an exciting online event that can change the life of your students and community called The Undiscussable. This LIVE Zoom experience will be accessible to middle school and high school students (in two separate discussion groups). We hope you will encourage your students to participate and consider giving them class credit for doing so. The middle school event is on Monday, March 15 at 6:00pm; the high school event is on Wednesday, March 17 at 6:00pm. Students and teachers can register online at carbondalepubliclibrary.org/DISCUSS to receive a participation link. Students can also submit their questions for youth programs on an ongoing basis at surveymonkey.com/r/anonymousyouth.

Men of Power and Women of Strength Inc., Carbondale United, and the Carbondale Public Library have collaborated to present this opportunity for community activist, mentors, educators, and others to interact with students concerning their future. The Undiscussable panel will address questions and topics submitted by students through the registration process while maintaining the anonymity of students so that they can ask tough questions about issues like peer pressure, depression, fear, or bullying.

Carbondale United held a similar online event in December, Raising Boys to Men, which featured men who had overcome adversity to find success in athletics, entertainment, and business. That event reached over 500 participants.

The goal of this event is to spark dialogue and address the questions and concerns of local youth as they face life’s many challenges. The Undiscussable event will hopefully lend them insight to ease their journey. This event is a precursor to our upcoming Mentorship Project, funded by the Illinois Humanities Council, in which we will train six men to serve as youth mentors and violence interrupters in Carbondale, Marion, and Cairo. The questions and concerns shared by the students at The Undiscussable event will help to guide our work as we produce conversations that increase open dialogues, employ arts and humanities to unite us, and make an effort to reduce violent interactions by improving communication and conflict resolution skills. The Mentorship Project will serve 12 young men from each town (Carbondale, Marion, and Cairo). We hope to identify young male participants who are “at risk” of exposure to gun violence, or who have been affected by systems of mass incarceration. If you would like to refer any middle school or high school youth to this program, please reach out to us.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the following individuals:

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Nancy Maxwell
Carbondale United
Thanks in advance for your support and looking forward to seeing you on The Undiscussable event.