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CONTACT:

Madona Cole-Lacy

My Time Has Come

516) 965-3242

madona@mytimehascome.org

Long Island Teaching Artist and Students Connect the Dots of Multiculturalism and Inclusion with a Coat of Many Cultures™

(Bellmore, New York, April 16, 2018) Madona Cole-Lacy, Long Island Teaching Artist and Creative Director of My Time Has Come Program, has created a Coat of Many Cultures™ in collaboration with students of Bellport High School. This celebration of cultural heritage through art - The Bellport Coat of Many Cultures™ - which was funded by The South Country Education Foundation is now at the Artist's showroom in North Bellmore, New York, and is scheduled for permanent installation at Bellport High School in July 2018.

The giant Coat of Many Cultures™ depicts creative ways students have incorporated various aspects of their cultural identities in a series of theme-based textile designing and print-making workshops at the school. With a focus on heightening the students' sense of pride, belonging

and accomplishment; Mrs. Madona Cole-Lacy motivated students to record the connection with their roots by creating fabric panels of original art inspired by their cultural heritage and countries of origin. These panels and elements of the artist's own cultural heritage and original textile art have formed the foundation of the work of art for students from Mrs. Barbara Gallagher's art class and Mrs. Monica Tetuan's ESL class in the residency.

“What is so exciting about designing a Coat of Many Cultures™ is my overall experience with participants who have never given thought to the role art and culture play in their lives. To experience their willingness to engage and be engaged once they realize how empowering it was to openly celebrate their ethnic and cultural identities is simply priceless! Another element of excitement for me is the anticipation of what each coat will look like. The enthusiasm and resulting work of the students determine the nature of the coat. It is the ongoing visual, emotional and cultural response to what they offer me that makes the creative expression authentic and satisfying.” -Madona Cole-Lacy-

For further details on The Coat of *Many Cultures*™ and how *My Time Has Come* creatively engages students, parents, teachers and communities, visit the website:

www.mytimehascome.org or contact Madona Cole-Lacy: (516) 965-3242

<mailto:madona@mytimehascome.org>

Bellport High School Contact: Mrs. Barbara Gallagher BGallagher9@southcountry.org

About Madona Cole-Lacy

Mrs. Cole-Lacy is a Visual and Teaching Artist registered with Eastern Suffolk and Nassau BOCES. She was born in Sierra Leone, West Africa, to parents who were instrumental in giving her a broad educational experience by making it possible for her to study art and design in both England and the United States. Madona Cole-Lacy takes full advantage of her multi-cultural and professional teaching experiences and skills gained from working with youth and adults in schools, colleges and communities to passionately motivate, educate and inspire her workshop participants as she acquaints them with a variety of art-making techniques.

Through My Time Has Come Program Madona Cole-Lacy uses "art, culture and education as a vehicle with which society can develop and maintain self-esteem, as well as, cultivate racial/ethnic and generational tolerance." "Our goal is to foster a sense of belonging, accomplishment and pride for all participants." - Madona Cole-Lacy -

My Time Has Come is the second “dot” of creativity in Madona Cole-Lacy’s quest to take ART and CREATIVITY beyond the confines of the studio to impact life in a number of positive ways through her concept “I Connect the Dots of Creativity”. Please visit

www.iconnectthedotsofcreativity.org for more on this philosophy.

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See Pictures Below

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1. The Bellport High School Coat of Many Cultures™ - A creative collaboration between Textile Artist, Madona Cole-Lacy, and Students of Bellport High School

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2. Textile Artist, Madona Cole-Lacy with the latest Coat of Many Cultures™ at her showroom

3.



3. Madona Cole-Lacy at work on Coat of Many Cultures™ in her studio



4. Madona Cole-Lacy, attired in her cultural garb - the Krio Kabaslot - acquaints students with the Coat of Many Cultures™ Project

5.



5. Mrs. Madona Cole-Lacy and Mrs. Barbara Gallagher answer student's question as Mrs. Cole-Lacy demonstrates hand stamping process at Bellport High School

6.



6. My Time Has Come Program Workshop Facilitator works with student on panel for Coat of Many Cultures Workshop

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#7. Bellport Students preparing stamps for print-making on Irish Linen fabric

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