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Acclaimed motivational speaker coming to Lynchburg City High Schools

Lynchburg, VA – In allied partnership, Central Virginia Addiction and Recovery Resources (CVARR), Horizon Behavioral Health, and Lynchburg City Schools are proud to welcome Shaun Derik, renowned Motivational Speaker, and celebrated Engagement Specialist to the stage at E.C. Glass High School, The Empowerment Academy, Fort Hill Community School, and Heritage High School on Friday, November 11th, 2022.

Affectionately known as "The Speaker for the Dreamer," Shaun's expertise in effective youth engagement derives from his 10 years in youth development, 8 years in prevention, and 5 years in philanthropic event planning. He will be speaking to local youth about the importance of avoiding alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, how to recognize mental health struggles in yourself as well as others, and goal-setting strategies for a bright future.

Shaun is passionate about motivating the next generation of leaders to achieve their life-long goals and recognize their natural born gifts. "There's nothing more important than in watering in the decision-makers of the next 30-40 years," says Shaun Derik, Motivational Speaker, Host, and Virtual Engagement Specialist. "High schoolers are our next leaders... period. That's why I start there."

This educational opportunity was made possible by the Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Federal Block Grant and the Drug Free Communities Grant.

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Central Virginia Addiction and Recovery Resources was created to help foster a community-wide approach to stop addiction and promote recovery and healthy lifestyles across the central Virginia region with the goal to connect people with the resources they need to find their own path to treatment and recovery. By bringing organizations and citizens from different sectors together, CVARR helps the community maximize resources, support, and solutions.

Horizon Behavioral Health has been the primary public behavioral healthcare provider in the Region 2000 area for more than 50 years. In the last year, Horizon provided services to approximately 12,000 adults and children, addressing problems with mental health, substance use and intellectual disabilities. Horizon is accredited by CARF International. This represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to a behavioral health organization.

Lynchburg City Schools offer educational services to more than 8,000 students enrolled in preschool through adult classes in two high schools, three middle schools, and eleven elementary schools. Alternative elementary, middle, and high school programs, gifted programs, and programs for the disabled are also available. Their elementary schools provide an optimal academic environment and accelerated learning opportunities. Along with basic learning skills, students are taught basic concepts of character development and citizenship.