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The Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (WHEELS)

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Please visit our website at [www.levelthefieldnyc.org](http://www.levelthefieldnyc.org) to learn more about our organization and support our program

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## TRAINING CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE

### PROBLEM

This organization addresses problems that adolescents in low income areas face, specifically the lack of opportunities to learn, absorb and practice social skills. Adolescents in low-income areas do not have the same opportunities as those in more affluent communities to participate in organized activities and acquire these important skills. Unfortunately, their inability to absorb social skills affects their performance in the classroom and inevitably will affect their success in life.

### MISSION

The mission of Level the Field is to cultivate social skills and develop a work ethic in adolescent students by working with collegiate athletes that compete in urban communities. With the commitment and guidance of collegiate athletes in urban communities, we will teach adolescent students the personal and social skills required to be the champions of change in their communities.

### VISION

All students, no matter their background have the potential to do great things in this world. However, they often do not have the confidence or the opportunity to tap into their potential. This program will offer adolescent students a foundation for building social skills and the confidence that they need to meet challenges inside and outside the classroom in order to reach their fullest potential.

### FOUNDER'S RATIONALE

Sports teach invaluable skills that cannot be learned in any text book. College athletes possess the skills that are required of every productive and socially responsible citizen. College athletes have learned these skills on the track, soccer field, and any other grassy area they could find, to practice their craft. Many of these athletes compete in urban areas where their fields co-exist with the parks and schools inhabited by local children. It is our belief that children need social skills, and what better resource than talented college student athletes competing in their very own community.

