



PRESS RELEASE

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AU Screening of MAESTRA, Cuba's Remarkable 1961 Literacy Project

American University's Caribbean Circle (AUCC) in conjunction with The Bailey Institute will host a screening and panelist discussion of *Maestra* on October 12, 2011 at American University's Ward Circle Building Room #2, 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Admission is free—Flier attached;

Maestra features the young women who participated in the 1961 Cuban Literacy Campaign—a 12-month effort that provided access to education in rural areas that lacked instructors. Over 250,000 volunteer, urban youth traveled to rural areas to teach—hence the name MAESTRA, which means teacher in Spanish. Literacy in Cuba rose from 60-76% to 96% by the end of 1961.

Immediately following the screening Dr. Philip Brenner of American University and Dr. Jennifer Bailey of the Bailey Institute will participate in a panel discussion. Dr. Bailey has over 30 years of leadership experience in corporate, academic and international development. Dr. Philip Brenner's publications cover American-Cuban relations and American policy towards Central America. Attendees are invited to dialogue with the panelists and network after the film.

American University's Caribbean Circle is a student organization that serves as an active educational vehicle by promoting social, cultural, and political aspects of Caribbean life. Caribbean Circle also presents issues from a Caribbean perspective and encourages unity among Caribbean students and the greater American University community.

The Bailey Institute is a global nonprofit organization that uses technology and education to combat global illiteracy and foster workforce development among challenged populations. The Institute works in Liberia, Nepal, Trinidad & Tobago and in the United States, with the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County.

For additional information:

The Literacy Project: <http://www.theliteracyproject.org/english/index.html>

Bailey Institute: <http://www.baileyinstitute.org/aboutus.html>

Dr. Phillip Brenner: <http://www.american.edu/sis/faculty/pbrenne.cfm>

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