



NEWS ADVISORY

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DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY DEAN TO INTRODUCE TIE-TYING CEREMONY TO GRAND RAPIDS YOUTH

*Monday, Nov. 18, at 3:30 p.m.
Head-N-Sole Barbershop*

Dr. Andre Perry, Founding Dean of Davenport University's College of Urban Education, will introduce his innovative tie-tying ceremony – featured in the award-winning documentary [Close Ties: Tying on a New Tradition](#) – to a group of Grand Rapids urban youth in cooperation with Grand Rapids Public Schools and Head-N-Sole Barbershop. Dr. Perry [initiated the ceremony in New Orleans in 2010](#) in celebration of his 40th birthday and plans to make the ritual an annual event in his new home of Grand Rapids.

The tie-tying ceremony encourages students to consider professions that require tie wearing and connects them to potential mentors and protégés. Twenty boys – many from single-parent homes and estranged from fathers – will be paired with adult mentors, including area clothiers, business owners and community leaders, who will teach them how to tie distinguishing knots. The intent of the ceremony is to introduce young urban males to social networks that will increase their likelihood of attending and completing college.

What: Tie-Tying Ceremony
When: Monday, Nov. 18, 2013, 3:30 p.m.
Where: Head-N-Sole Barbershop,
1449 Kalamazoo St., SE, Grand Rapids
Who: **Dr. Andre Perry**, Founding Dean, College of Urban Education
Jarvis Beene, Sr., Head-N-Sole Barbershop

About Close Ties

Close Ties: Tying on a New Tradition is a documentary directed by filmmaker Gemal Woods, examining the impact of how tying a necktie — an act associated with men who embody professionalism and prestige — can inspire high school boys to commit to a life of achievement and success. The movie received critical acclaim as Winner of Best of Festival at the Chicago International Social Change Film Festival, Winner of Best Documentary and Best Overall Film at the Texas Black Film Festival and winner of the Rosebud Film Festival. See more at: <http://www.closetiesdoc.com>.

For more on the ceremony's origins in New Orleans, see [The Times-Picayune article](#).

About Davenport University

Founded in 1866, Davenport is a private, non-profit university serving nearly 11,000 students at campuses across Michigan and online. With tuition among the lowest of all private universities in the state, Davenport provides high academic quality, small class sizes, conveniently located campuses, faculty with real-world experience and more than 50 dynamic undergraduate and graduate programs addressing in-demand careers in business, technology, health and, beginning in 2014, urban education. More information is available at www.davenport.edu.

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