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On April 7<sup>th</sup> 2010, Soul Pop University artist Glenton Davis spoke and sang to our learners at the High School of the Future in West Philadelphia. The one hour performance and chat took the learners on a musical, biographical, and motivational journey towards finding their own path and empowering themselves. One learner explained: "This was the best presentation we've ever had. Everything you said totally made sense to me."

The presentation opened with a crowd-moving rendition of Michael Jackson's "Rock With You", captivating the audience of learners and educators while establishing Mr. Davis' undeniable musical ability and soaring vocal range. It wasn't until he had the full respect and admiration of everyone in the room that he began to express the importance of education in his life, and how it has empowered him to follow his true passions and identify his personal voice.

Mr. Davis walked the student body through an inspirational and engaging telling of his personal experiences, struggles, and triumphs, being sure to relate the content to his listeners, and at times bringing up audience members to participate in his demonstrations. He questioned the learners often to be sure the content was specific to their interests, while inspiring them to think about what they want to do. His reoccurring message of taking control of your goals resonated through the learner's questions, as they grew more interested in his achievements in education and business than his "Rock Star" appeal. Having heard that the school was preparing to take the state issued P.S.S.A. standardized test, Mr. Davis frequently made a point to relate his content to the importance of doing well on the test.

Following his presentation, Mr. Davis remained in the auditorium until every learner waiting to speak with him had an opportunity, and offered them email and phone contact to reach him in the future. When students jokingly inquired about internships, Mr. Davis gave them an email address to submit a resume and a letter of interest, further demonstrating his commitment to empowering youth to take action.

Soul Pop University offers the perfect blend of entertainment, education, inspiration, and empowerment in a fun and captivating presentation. Following his visit, Mr. Davis and his team have continued their contact with the High School of the Future, making plans to return and work more closely with learners interested in music and the entertainment industry. Students of all interests and ages will enjoy the Soul Pop University program!

Frank Machos  
Music Educator