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CREW MEMBERS BEGIN TRAINING ON MONDAY FOR 8,000-MILE MIXED RACE AWARENESS TOUR

(Seattle) Five months after MAVIN Foundation announced a national search for the faces of the Generation MIX National Awareness Tour, **five young men and women from across the country will arrive in Seattle on Monday, March 21st to begin their two-week training.** From March 21st to April 3rd, the Generation MIX crew will receive over 140 hours of training to prepare them for their 8,000-mile, 5-week journey. After an April 4th kick-off, the Tour will stop in 15 cities around the nation, returning to Seattle for a community celebration on May 10th.

The training is designed to prepare the crew members for their ambitious schedule of activities, including 15 one-day activity fairs and keynote presentations, community outreach, media interviews and driving 8,000 miles in a 26-foot RV, all the while staying upbeat and friendly to crowds *and* each other! To ensure a successful Tour, crew members will partake in dozens of interactive workshops on topics like "Conflict Resolution," "RV Driving and Maintenance" and "Public Speaking."

Workshop sessions will be led by an impressive roster of international experts, including psychologist **Maria P. P. Root, Ph.D.**, an independent scholar and editor of the award-winning book, *Racially Mixed People in America* (1992), who will help crew members cope with the psychological impact of five weeks of sustained identity exploration. Other workshops will be led by specialists like Seattle-based attorney **Joseph A. G. Sakay, Esq.**, freelance writer and diversity trainer **Lisette Austin**, and documentary filmmaker **Justin Leroy**.

"As the faces of the Generation MIX National Awareness Tour, our crew has a phenomenal responsibility," says Tour project manager, Marinda Melonson. "In order to best impact people's lives, they must be well-prepared for all of the possible scenarios that will inevitably come up." The two weeks won't all be hard work, however, with **a camping trip, a bowling competition against MAVIN Foundation staff and sightseeing** also incorporated into their rigorous preparation.

The Generation MIX National Awareness Tour is a project of MAVIN Foundation, the nation's leading organization that celebrates and advocates for mixed race people and families. Since 1998, MAVIN's award-winning projects like MAVIN magazine and the MatchMaker Bone Marrow Project have raised awareness of this rapidly growing population. For more information, visit www.mavinfoundation.org or www.generationmix.org.