

## 2nd HipHop2Vote Summit Provides Non-Partisan Voter Education

Edited by Floyd A. Galloway

The Phoenix College NAACP/BSU in conjunction with the Mesa Community College NAACP presented the 2nd Hip Hop 2 Vote Summit, Oct. 7, at Phoenix College.

The first Summit was held just prior to the 2008 presidential election. The elements of the Hip Hop community were included, with knowledge, as the primary focus. The original visionary for a HH2V Summit was JWaddy, along with artist/activist Yonasda Lonewolf and Dr. Camilla Westenberg, Phoenix College NAACP/BSU advisor.



ALVIN GALLOWAY/AAZ PHOTO

*Hip Hop music producer Iroc Daniels gives some insight during the Hip Hop 2 Vote panel discussion held at Phoenix College.*

The host for this year's event the DJ was again DJ Dark was Ramses Ja, Radio Vader. Personality for 101.5 FM and

*continued on page 2*

## HipHop2Vote Raises Awareness, Registers Voters

*continued from page 1*

Both Michael Williams and Vaughn Adesina presidents of Phoenix College NAACP/BSU and Mesa Community College BSU provided a welcome, respectively.

Cloves Campbell, co-publisher of the *Arizona Informant* and chairman of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, Phoenix Vice-Mayor, Mike Johnson, and Angel Torres from the Green Party spoke to the audience about the importance of voting.

Phoenix College

NAACP/BSU Vice President Simone Benson and Mesa Community College faculty Professor Gershom Williams facilitated the panel discussion.

The panel included: Cappadonna of Wu-Tang Clan, Iroc of Marmera Films, King Trick of Godsun Entertainment, Rampage, platinum award winner DJ Romeo, DJ Leo Blaze, West Coast Kam, Yonasda Lonewolf and Toure Masters.

Also, on the panel were Donna McHenry, of the African American Caucus of Arizona and Devin Del Palacio, Field Organizer of

Promise Arizona.

Students designed topics for the panel, focusing on voting rights, voter suppression, voter identification, voter deadlines, voter identification updates, voter reinstatement, political knowledge, and other topics.

Dr. Karen Hardin, Mesa Community College NAACP advisor, ensured that all those attending the summit were aware of the opportunity to register to vote at the event and of the voter registration deadline.

Throughout the summit the audience was

entertained with various elements of Hip Hop culture.

Performers included Toure Masters, King Trick and the New Breedz, Baby T, Yonasda Lonewolf, Iroc Daniels, Yung Wax, and Salaam. Dynamic graffiti was also on display by Vire, Wundr, Relax, and Manik, and Elijah. The summit concluded with social political interaction.

This year's Summit was fortunate to have the community advertisement of the following: Ramses Ja and The Beat 92.7, 99.3, Super Snake of 101.5 FM JAMZ, the *Arizona*

*Informant*, The Write Up, Inner City Magazine, Next Level Productions, Promise Arizona, and Puente.

Other significant supporters included Tia Oso of Wake Up AZ and Heather Jenkins of Move Forward.

Overall, "the purpose for the event was to provide a platform to plant the seed of civic engagement and to again engage the community utilizing the extraordinary voice, art, and pride of the Hip Hop genre," said Dr. Westenberg.