

## **Urbana School District 116**

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## **News Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Urbana High School Students Raise Awareness About Earth Day and Water Issues in Africa**

On Tuesday, April 22nd, a group of concerned students from Urbana High School will address the importance and need for clean drinking water in Africa and the connections it has to Earth Day. The initiative, which is being coordinated by English teacher Michael Lehr and his sophomore World Studies English classes, will be aimed at raising awareness about the urgent need for better purification systems and improved access to water in many impoverished countries throughout the African Continent.

Mr. Lehr challenged his students to apply their research about Africa to think critically about how they could work together to make a difference. In addition to chalking the sidewalk in front of the school, students are designing shirts, making informative posters to hang up throughout the school, and constructing a blue ribbon campaign to raise awareness and collect donations. All proceeds will benefit UNICEF's Tap Project, an organization which provides clean drinking water to needy children around the world. Students chose the Tap Project because UNICEF has pledged that every dollar that is raised will provide children with 40 liters of clean water; one liter a day is the minimum amount of clean water necessary for a child's survival.

For more information or to schedule an interview about this Earth Day activity at Urbana High School, please contact UHS Principal Dr. Laura Taylor and Michael Lehr at 384-3505.

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