Professor Mercedes Diaz, who Rider communications need to begin to think about their money to make decisions to vote. They had a 97 percent from prison after 27 years of Nelson Mandela was released out to the polls, and that's a percent of the registered public get anywhere from 30 to 45 in most states, we may registered to go out to the polls,” said Brostoski. “With the war, we need to make sure that we have the right person in office that won't jump the gun, somebody that's going to take their time and do the right thing. Voting has always been important, but now even more than before because there's a lot of scary stuff going on. We've got ter- rorists, so we've got to vote and make a difference.” Simmons told the audience, including over 800,000 viewers watching via Live Internet feed, that it is in style to participate in politics. “It's in style to take advan- tage of what's in front of you and the opportunity afforded you,” said Simmons. “The hip-hop community is making vot- ing cool by being at the rallies. I don’t see any other political movement in this country that nearly the kind of impact that hip-hop is having on the minds of young people. The old people have already messed things up. The young people have come to clean up their mess.” Jersey City rapper Joe Buddens said that he was never concerned about voting until after the last presidential election. “I didn’t vote in the last election,” said Buddens. “I felt as though my one vote isn't going to change anything, then I watched the 'Big Florida Debate' on CNN and saw how less than 1,000 votes changed the whole election. Then I watched America have the worst four years that I've ever seen. I thought this time it was really important for me to come out and talk to the youth.” MTV2 VJ Amanda Diva, who is from Florida, performed a poem about her “love-hate” relationship with America. She said that even though her absence ballot may not have been counted in the last presidential election, it is not deterring her from voting in the upcoming one and encouraging others to do the same. "A lot of people questioned why I should vote again,” said Diva. “Change takes time and we can’t just give up at the first chance.” Harvey, whose message was "Be Powerful, Be Heard,” believes that most politicians have overlooked the importance of younger voters. "I don’t think those of us who are in government and in communities have articulated a message to young people that demonstrated the importance of their voting,” said Harvey. "That’s what we're trying to do with the Hip-Hop Summit, and it's important that they experi- ence an event like the Hip-Hop Summit.” "I think hip-hop is a way to get young people to vote,” said Diaz. “There are other ways. Hip-hop doesn't work for everyone. It's important that everybody's voice be heard. I think this event was really important because it actually shows, I think, another face of hip-hop. Hip-hop is associated with crime and gangs and violence and it's actually very good for hip-hoppers and people who are aficionados of that kind of music and that kind of belief system to know that it's not just about mon- ey and drugs and bling-bling. There is a political element.” Senior Amy Danese described the event as a good learning experience, even though the kids may have been influenced by the opinions of the celebrities and musicians. “I've never been to some- thing like that before,” said Danese. “I think I learned a lot. It was a lot different from what I expected, but it was a good learning experience. [The atmos- phere] was different too. I'm kind of used to a smaller, qui- eter community. Considering that they [high school students] have never voted before and everything, I think this was a good learning experience for them.”

Rider communications professor Mercedes Diaz, who brought members of her classes with her to the Summit, wanted her students to understand the importance of voting. “My father came from a country where he couldn't vote,” said Diaz. "He is devoted to voting. He will go in rain, sleet, and snow because he knows that in his country he couldn't vote. So he really respects that. And I think our youth need to remember that voting really is a privilege that many people don't have.” Roc-a-Fella recording artist Freeway said that a lot of young look at rappers as role models and that he wants to make sure they realize that the hip-hop community makes a difference. “If we don't say anything, nothing is going to change," said Freeway. "With the war, we need to make sure that we have the right person in office that won't jump the gun, somebody that's going to take their time and do the right thing. Voting has always been important, but right now more than before because there's a lot of scary stuff going on. We've got ter- rorists, so we've got to vote and make a difference.” Simmons told the audience, including over 800,000 viewers watching via Live Internet feed, that it is in style to participate in politics. “It's in style to take advan- tage of what's in front of you and the opportunity afforded you,” said Simmons. “The hip-hop community is making vot- ing cool by being at the rallies. I don't see any other political movement in this country that nearly the kind of impact that hip-hop is having on the minds of young people. The old people have already messed things up. The young people have come to clean up their mess.” Jersey City rapper Joe Buddens said that he was never concerned about voting until after the last presidential election. “I didn’t vote in the last election,” said Buddens. “I felt as though my one vote isn't going to change anything, then I watched the 'Big Florida Debate' on CNN and saw how less than 1,000 votes changed the whole election. Then I watched America have the worst four years that I've ever seen. I thought this time it was really important for me to come out and talk to the youth.” MTV2 VJ Amanda Diva, who is from Florida, performed a poem about her “love-hate” relationship with America. She said that even though her absence ballot may not have been counted in the last presidential election, it is not deterring her from voting in the upcoming one and encouraging others to do the same. "A lot of people questioned why I should vote again,” said Diva. “Change takes time and we can’t just give up at the first chance.” Harvey, whose message was "Be Powerful, Be Heard,” believes that most politicians have overlooked the importance of younger voters. "I don’t think those of us who are in government and in communities have articulated a message to young people that demonstrated the importance of their voting,” said Harvey. "That’s what we're trying to do with the Hip-Hop Summit, and it's important that they experi- ence an event like the Hip-Hop Summit.” "I think hip-hop is a way to get young people to vote,” said Diaz. “There are other ways. Hip-hop doesn't work for everyone. It's important that everybody's voice be heard. I think this event was really important because it actually shows, I think, another face of hip-hop. Hip-hop is associated with crime and gangs and violence and it's actually very good for hip-hoppers and people who are aficionados of that kind of music and that kind of belief system to know that it's not just about mon- ey and drugs and bling-bling. There is a political element.” Senior Amy Danese described the event as a good learning experience, even though the kids may have been influenced by the opinions of the celebrities and musicians. “I've never been to some- thing like that before,” said Danese. “I think I learned a lot. It was a lot different from what I expected, but it was a good learning experience. [The atmos- phere] was different too. I'm kind of used to a smaller, qui- eter community. Considering that they [high school students] have never voted before and everything, I think this was a good learning experience for them.”

‘SUMMIT’
Continued from page 1

recognizes hip-hop as a very effective vehicle to increase voter registration and the importance of reaching out to that segment of society.

“Young people listen to hip- hop music and they respect a lot of the words of the poets who are participating in hip-hop,” said Harvey. “Today we wanted to bring these poets here to talk about why it's important to be a registered voter and to actually go out and vote. "There's always a struggle to get people who are registered to go out to the polls,” said Harvey. “In a normal elec- tion in my states, we may get anywhere from 30 to 45 percent of the registered public out to the polls, and that's a shame,” he said. “When South Africa had its first election after Nelson Mandela was released from prison after 27 years of incarceration, there were people who snood in line for days to vote. They had a 97 percent turnout because people craved the opportunity to select the people who were going to spend their money to make decisions about their states. That's how we need to begin to think about voting.”

‘Blood’ Continued from page 1

“Hopefully, we can increase the amount of blood we receive in December, when blood is going to be in need.”

Junior Amy Brostoski, the president and founder of the Student Blood Council, said that the next drive will be held on December 7 and 8 from 1 to 7 p.m. in the Cavalla Room.

A person interested in mak- ing a donation must be seven- teen years of age and weigh at least 110 pounds.

The Student Blood Council is trying to add to the blood drives by such things as a battle of the buildings contest, having a movie or pasta dinner during the blood drive, or designing T-shirts. “We're also trying to get the community outside of Rider to start coming to our blood drives,” said Brostoski.

Jansen Pharmaceuticals creates the posters and gives the Student Blood Council free give-aways, and Dr. Edward Todd Weber of the biology department is the advisor to the organization.

It was founded by Brostoski when she decided to initiate the group after donating blood for the first time. When she got to Rider and saw that they held blood drives, she said she became interested in making other people aware.

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