

TELEVISION/RADIO INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY
September 30, 2018 – 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. PT

**STUDENTS RUN LA KICKS OFF ITS 30TH SEASON AT THE
2018 BIOFREEZE LOS ANGELES DODGERS FOUNDATION 5K,
10K AND KIDS FUN RUN PRESENTED BY LADWP**

3,000 at-risk middle and high school students to participate

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

CO-FOUNDER & BOARD MEMBER ERIC SPEARS
CO-FOUNDER & PROGRAM DIRECTOR PAUL TRAPANI
SRLA Student Runners

BACKGROUND:

For 29 years, Students Run LA (SRLA), a local nonprofit, has provided a free youth mentoring, marathon-training program throughout Greater Los Angeles. Each year, SRLA creates a safe, supportive community at 185+ public schools, welcoming more than 3,250 students of all backgrounds and abilities to train alongside their volunteer teachers to complete the Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon. Through this life-changing experience, students discover their best selves and learn how to make plans for the future.

For the six months leading up to the Marathon, SRLA students participate in community races of progressively longer distances. The 2018 Biofreeze Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation 5K, 10K and Kids Fun Run presented by LADWP is the first time that all SRLA students will run together. Relying on the generous support of the community to fund its seven-month program, SRLA is a proud grantee of the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation and is excited to partner with the Foundation on this event. It is very special to start the season at Dodger Stadium where students will return in six months to lace up for the full 26.2-mile marathon.

Annually, more than 95% of SRLA students who attempt the Marathon complete the 26.2 mile course; and more than 95% of the seniors in SRLA graduate from high school with plans to attend college the following fall, 75% of whom are the first in their families to go to college. More than 66,000 students have participated in SRLA since 1989.

For more information on SRLA, please visit <http://www.srla.org/> and connect with SRLA on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Why are students training for a marathon?
- Who are the students who participate in SRLA?
- Who are the teachers who participate in SRLA?
- What is the greatest lesson that students learn by participating in SRLA?
- What do you want people to know about SRLA?

MORE ABOUT ERIC SPEARS

Eric is a founder and Senior Coordinator of Students Run LA. Eric has recently retired from the Los Angeles Unified School District where he served as the principal of the Elementary and Secondary Community Day Schools educating highly at-risk students. He was an educator for more than 31 years, as the English teacher for a continuation high school, an advisor for the Educational Options program, a continuation high school principal, and lastly as the CDS principal. He has been honored as a Continuation Education Teacher of the Year, the Citizen of the Year from the City of Los Angeles Marathon, the Options Administrator of the Year for Los Angeles from the Association of California School Administrators, and honored as "Father of the Year" by the Wealth of Nations Foundation. As a runner, Eric has completed 38 marathons including the last 29 Los Angeles Marathons. At each of SRLA's races, Eric wears a distinctive flag and runs sweep to encourage students in the "back of the pack" to maintain a minimum pace of 16-minute miles.

MORE ABOUT PAUL TRAPANI

Paul Trapani is a founder of Students Run LA and is very proud of being part of the extended SRLA family for the past 29 years! After teaching World History, U.S. History, Government, Economics, Leadership, and coaching basketball to “at risk” secondary students at John R. Wooden High School (formerly Aliso High School) in the Los Angeles Unified School District for 30 years, Paul recently joined the office of SRLA as its full-time Program Director. His primary responsibilities are program planning and management, including coordinating with the community runs, organizing the recruitment of volunteers, and managing the transportation staff and the medical support team.

MORE ABOUT LOS ANGELES DODGERS FOUNDATION

LADF is the official team charity of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Its primary focus is to support cornerstone programs in Sports + Recreation, Education + Literacy and Health + Wellness benefitting children and families in need throughout the greater Los Angeles region. By leveraging strategic partnerships, the mission is to harness the power of the Dodger brand and the passion our fans have for Los Angeles into a vehicle for positive change in under-served communities. Visit the Dodgers Foundation online at www.dodgers.com/ladf, follow them on Twitter @DodgersFdn, Instagram @dodgersfoundation and like them on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/LosAngelesDodgersFoundation>

TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW, PLEASE CONTACT NAOMI RICH – 909.354.9387