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DESTINY USA ENDS TWO WEEK CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY WITH A PRESENTATION OF “BACK TO OZ NATION:”

A Modern Adaptation of “The Wizard of Oz” That Addresses the Environmental Challenges of Today, Performed by The Media Unit

Syracuse, New York – Destiny USA officials announced today that on Saturday, May 3rd at 4 pm in the Carousel Center Commons, that Central New York’s national award winning teen performance and production troupe, The Media Unit, will perform “Back to Oz Nation” as the final event of a two week celebration of Earth Day; which included a local coloring contest for children ages 2 through 9, and a collaborative Hiawatha Boulevard/Park Street neighborhood clean-up initiative with The Syracuse Chiefs, The Regional Market, The Carousel Center, and Clear Channel Radio.

“Back to Oz Nation”, is a modern adaptation of the classic, “The Wizard of Oz”, a production that addresses the environmental challenges of today. It is proof that learning can really be fun. The environmental educational element so impressed the organizers of the annual Oztravaganza in Chittenango that they invited the Media Unit to perform at their 30th anniversary festival at the end of May,” said Walt Shepperd, The Media Unit’s Director.

“Destiny USA is proud to be a continuing supporter of The Media Unit and its outstanding efforts to work with the young people of our community, especially as it relates to the promotion of environmental awareness. This year’s Earth Day events have been a tremendous success and we look forward to presenting “Back to Oz Nation” and its environmental message as the finale of what has been a fun and rewarding couple of weeks”, said Destiny USA Innovator and Earth Day Events Organizer, Mark Haywood.

The Media Unit, a Syracuse youth organization dedicated to the education and empowerment of local young people through performing arts, will also hold a vintage book-sale fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday prior to and during the performance.

On February 27, 2007, Destiny USA closed on \$540 million in financing, secured through municipal underwriters Lehman Brothers and Citigroup with the sale of \$345 million in municipal bonds, along with a construction loan from Citigroup, to advance the first phase of the project, including the first ever issued, "Green Bonds." On the same day, Destiny USA delivered \$65.4 million to the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County to advance other economic development initiatives in the region.

Under direction from Destiny USA, Cianbro Corporation, the projects' construction manager, is interweaving technology while driving innovation, to construct the "greenest destination" in the USA. The 1.3 million square foot First Phase has a 10 acre footprint.

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