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Grammy-nominated artiste Najee for Flow's 'Jazz up' School Tour

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MONTEGO BAY, St James

OVER 1,400 students and teachers at Herbert Morrison Technical High School in Montego Bay will enjoy the experience of a lifetime when two-time Grammy nominated artiste Najee pays them a visit today, as part of the Flow "Jazz up your School" Tour.

The initiative, spearheaded by major Jamaica Jazz & Blues sponsor, Columbus Communications Jamaica Limited, operators of Flow and Columbus Business Solutions, is apart of the company's flagship programme, Building Leaders Through Technology. The programme enables public primary and secondary schools to receive free commercial grade Internet and digital cable to enhance their teaching and learning environments.

Najee, whose iconic career began playing clarinet, saxophone and flute, will spend time in an interactive session with students. He will share his musical journey and will play a few songs with the school's award-winning band. The artiste, who is scheduled to perform tomorrow night at the Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival at the Trelawny Multi-purpose Stadium, will also sign autographs for students and teachers to help make the experience a memorable one.

Nicole Campbell, corporate social responsibility specialist for Columbus is excited about the activity.

"It is truly a special moment when corporate companies can be a part of such a rich cultural experience for students," she said. "There are a lot of negative things happening in our schools today and so we are happy that through this partnership, we could bring some positivity to one of our schools in the Building Leaders Programme."

Flow has been a sponsor of the Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival for the past four years. The partnership falls under one of the company's four corporate social responsibility pillars, "Protecting our Identity through Arts & Culture," said Campbell.

Last year, Flow hosted the Herbert Morrison Technical School Band for a Meet & Greet at the Trelawny Multi-purpose Stadium with the legendary Third World Band.

Since the inception of the company, schools in the programme have been benefiting from donations of computers, educational hardware and software, mentoring and specific skills building activities. To date, more than 120,000 students and over 4,500 teachers benefit from Columbus' technology and educational initiatives in schools.