



**10 Books A Home**  
SUCCESS STARTS AT HOME

FOR RELEASE

**MEDIA ALERT:**  
**10 Books A Home Hosts *Preventing the Achievement Gap*  
with Stanford University Expert**

***E. Palo Alto Non-Profit Offers Insights into Early Childhood Education  
with Dr. Jelena Obradović***

East Palo Alto, CA - March 18, 2014 - 10 Books A Home, a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing the achievement gap in high poverty school districts by preparing children and their families for kindergarten, invites 10 Books A Home volunteers and media to attend an exclusive discussion night, *Preventing the Achievement Gap*, featuring Dr. Jelena Obradović, assistant professor at Stanford University. Dr. Obradović and 10 Books A Home CEO & Founder, Paul Thiebaut III, will discuss current research in the field of early education, including topics on healthy development, school-readiness, and academic achievement.

**Who:**

Attendees will include 10 Books A Home volunteer Role Models and invited media.

**What:**

An exclusive and free discussion night featuring Dr. Jelena Obradović and 10 Books A Home CEO and Founder, Paul Thiebaut III. Dr. Obradović and Paul will host a discussion on current research in the field of early childhood education, covering topics such as healthy development, school-readiness, and academic achievement. A Q&A session will follow their conversation.

**About Dr. Jelena Obradović, Assistant Professor at Stanford University**

Dr. Obradović is an assistant professor at Stanford University in the Developmental and Psychological Sciences program at the Stanford Graduate School of Education. Dr. Obradović's research examines how contextual risk and adversity influence children's adaptation across multiple domains of functioning over time. She is interested in identifying the biological, behavioral, and environmental processes that enable some highly disadvantaged children to demonstrate remarkable resilience, while others are at risk for maladaptive outcomes. She primarily studies how exposure to environmental risk and adversity interact with children's stress reactivity and self-regulatory abilities to influence their social, emotional, and cognitive development.

**Paul Thiebaut III, CEO & Founder of 10 Books A Home**

Paul began a slow walk toward founding 10BH when he was held back in 2nd grade due to reading delays. Predictably, he dropped out of high school. Yet in 2007, Paul began a private tutoring practice, the same year he earned his Bachelors in Economics from San Jose State University. It was during this period when the conception of an educational nonprofit, providing home tutoring to underprivileged children, began for Paul. In 2009, he left graduate school and began collecting books to donate in East

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Palo Alto. He then filed 10BH's 501(c)(3) nonprofit application and never looked back. Paul grew up near East Palo Alto and had many friends there, empathizing with their hardships firsthand. His experience with youth at the YMCA and College Track aided in his understanding of unmet community needs. In 2007, Paul moved to East Palo Alto and by 2009, his mission had solidified, to help children succeed by empowering both them and their parents. ([Watch Paul present his vision to the Women's Club of Palo Alto](#))

**When:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 6:30 PM

**Where:** CERAS Learning Hall, Stanford University

### **Why:**

Early childhood education is at the forefront of education reform today, especially in under resourced communities. Many studies have shown that, "poverty places children at risk for delays in language development, learning, school readiness, and academic achievement. Already by 3 years of age, children living in low-income households have smaller vocabularies and delayed language skills when compared to their more advantaged peers (Hart & Risley, 1995). These early differences portend disparities in children's subsequent language growth, cognitive development, school readiness, and academic achievement (Denton & West, 2002; Gershoff, 2003; Rodriguez et al., 2009; Snow, Porche, Tabors, & Harris, 2007)."<sup>1</sup>

These consequences are playing out in local communities like East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park, where nearly 80% of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students read below grade level and approximately 60% of students drop out of high school.

10 Books A Home is a local, East Palo Alto-based, non-profit organization making a difference in the community with an innovative approach to kindergarten-readiness and family engagement.

This event is an opportunity to hear about recent developments in early childhood education research and gain insight into 10 Books A Home's program by speaking with the founder and dedicated volunteer Role Models also in attendance.

<sup>1</sup> *Trajectories of the Home Learning Environment Across the First 5 Years: Associations With Children's Vocabulary and Literacy Skills at Prekindergarten.*

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### **About 10 Books A Home**

10 Books A Home (10BH) is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing the achievement gap in high poverty school districts by preparing children and their

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families for kindergarten. 10BH's unique Child-Parent Home Tutoring Program is a two year early childhood education program that combines community volunteering, parent engagement, and learning materials to teach children school-readiness skills and show parents practices that support their children's education. Since the establishment of the program in 2012, the first group of 10BH Learners to start kindergarten in the 2013-14 school year is performing at or above grade level. 10BH has received a number of grants including grants from the San Jose Mercury News Wish Book Foundation and the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund. 10BH is headquartered in East Palo Alto, CA.

For more information, visit [www.10booksahome.org](http://www.10booksahome.org). Follow 10BH on Facebook at [facebook.com/10booksahome](https://facebook.com/10booksahome) and Twitter [@10booksahome](https://twitter.com/10booksahome).

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