



Pace University hosted the harris project at its Pleasantville campus on Sunday, September 30, the first Co-Occurring Disorder (COD) Awareness Walk in the U.S. More than 350 people participated, including members of Pace's men's and women's lacrosse; women's basketball, soccer, softball and field hockey teams; as well as more than 80 student-athletes from Mercy College and volunteers from Valhalla High School. Entertainment was provided by Zeke Thomas, a survivor of sexual assault trauma and substance abuse and the son of NBA legend, philanthropist and Hall of Fame player Isiah Thomas. The landmark event was co-organized by the founder of the harris project, Stephanie Marquesano of Ardsley (third from right). She founded the harris project after her son, Harris, had co-occurring disorders--a diagnosis of one or more mental health disorders plus substance misuse--and died by accidental overdose in October 2013 when he was only 19. 'What you are seeing today is an incredible next step (to create messaging and programming that resonates with our youth) as Pace University, and its student-athletes in particular, have provided an opportunity to both raise awareness about COD, and funds to support the sustainability and growth of CODA,' Ms. Marquesano said.