



ED FUNDAMENTALS

NEWS

FALL 2008

A Newsletter from the Philadelphia Education Fund

www.philaedfund.org

Secondary Education Blueprint Moves Into Next Phase

For nearly two years, the Philadelphia Education Fund and the School District of Philadelphia have been co-convening a planning process to develop a five-year Blueprint that will help guide the District's secondary reform for grades 6 through 12. After extensive feedback from School District stakeholders and external advisors, the Blueprint is now being reviewed by newly appointed School District Superintendent Dr. Arlene Ackerman and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Maria Pitre.

Over the last two years, through funding from the William Penn Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation, and the Claneil Foundation, the Ed Fund and the School District engaged a diverse group of partners in developing the Blueprint. Since the fall of 2006, 54 of 62 city high schools (87%) have participated. Paul Adorno, Director of Secondary Education at the Ed Fund, notes that, "over 800 individuals, 500 school-based staff and 150 students have directly contributed to the Blueprint through active participation at meetings and focus groups, completion of surveys, and/or membership on committees. In addition, over 60 external organizations have been involved."

National experts who study secondary school reform note the importance of having key measurable targets to help school districts as they develop, implement and monitor a reform plan's effectiveness. Philadelphia's Blueprint reflects this advice and has identified seven measurable targets (*see sidebar*).

THE SECONDARY EDUCATION BLUEPRINT HIGHLIGHTS 7 MEASURABLE TARGETS:

- On-time promotion from grades 6 through 12
- On-time 9th grade promotion
- PSSA achievement at the proficient and advanced levels
- Improved High School graduation rates
- Re-engagement of out-of-school youth
- Matriculation and success in post-secondary education and career pathways
- Improvement of school climate indicators

The Ed Fund's research by Senior Research Associate Liza Herzog and Johns Hopkins University Senior Research Scientist Robert Balfanz identified four early warning indicators predictive of high school dropouts. This research has contributed significantly to the Blueprint's work. The research shows that effective efforts to keep students on track to graduation must begin as early as grade six. The Blueprint, therefore, emphasizes the importance of the middle grades years for high school success and beyond.

Brian Armstead, Director of Civic Engagement at the Ed Fund, adds, "We're looking forward to the important next phase of this work, which will finalize and publicize the Blueprint, and create community awareness of the report's findings and recommen-

Story continued on Page 2

Thank you to our many generous donors! Find a complete list of Ed Fund donors on Page 3

Blueprint To Aid Community

Continued from cover page

dations. We want the public to see the Blueprint as an advocacy tool and to provide valuable feedback to the District and the Ed Fund on the implementation of the plan."

The Blueprint project was born from the Ed Fund's long history as a thought partner to the School District as we improve our city's secondary schools and offer our youth a brighter future. For more information about the Blueprint, please contact Paul Adorno at padorno@philaedfund.org or by phone at 215-665- 1400 ext 3302. Or, visit www.philaedfund.org.

College Access Students Win Gates Scholarship



College Access students learn about the Gates Scholarship

Four students who participated in the Ed Fund's College Access Program have been awarded Gates Millennium Scholarships, four of only six in Philadelphia and of 19 in the state. The very selective Gates Scholarships provide support to outstanding minority students facing significant financial need, cover all unmet need, and can be renewed pending satisfactory academic records.

Vianca Sanchez, a graduate of Kensington High School, is attending Mansfield University. Andrea McCord, from William Penn High School, is attending Temple University. Amir Potts, a graduate of University City High School, is attending Drexel University, and Shucreah Victor, from West Philadelphia High School, is attending Rosemont College. All four students were assisted during high school and through the arduous Gates application process by Ed Fund College Access Coordinators.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It has been an exceptional year for public education and for the Philadelphia Education Fund. This issue of Ed Fundamentals includes an article about the planning process that we co-convened with the School District of Philadelphia to develop a Secondary Education Blueprint, a reflection of the Ed Fund's deep belief in the future of our city's secondary schools. We also include a list of our generous donors through the end of our fiscal year, June 30, 2008. I thank each and every one of you since, without you, we could not conduct our important work.

I want to recognize one additional donor, the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, which this summer announced its three-year pledge to the Ed Fund so that we can continue to build public support for school success. For many years, the Ed Fund has provided direct services to teachers and students, while working behind the scenes to impact policy and practice on an institutional level. This support recognizes both areas of our work, and we are grateful to be a partner with the United Way in impacting the

quality of classroom instruction and students' access to post-secondary success.

Once again, we will celebrate the individuals and organizations that exemplify the successes of public education at our annual Eddy awards. Please join us on November 13th at Moore College of Art and Design as we recognize Guy Bluford, Connie Clayton, Songhai Press, Philadelphia Youth Network, and you, our wonderful friends and partners.

Sincerely,

Carol S. Fixman, Executive Director



Our Generous Donors

(January 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008)

The Ed Fund thanks the many individuals, businesses, foundations and government agencies that support our work and programs. Your generosity has allowed us to continue our work unabated, and to forge ahead into new initiatives that help to fulfill our mission of improving public education in the Philadelphia region. We know that there are many fine causes seeking the support of generous individuals and organizations, and all of us send our thanks that you chose to support public education and the Philadelphia Education Fund.

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Governor Edward G. Rendell with volunteer officials at the 2008 Score 4 Scholarships Tournament

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Dr. Guion S. Bluford, Jr.

Eddys 2008 Preview

STAR ALUMNUS EDDY, DR. GUION S. BLUFORD JR.

Philadelphia native and Overbrook High School graduate, Dr. Guion S. Bluford, Jr., will be awarded the 2008 Star Alumnus Eddy Award. "The Ed Fund is thrilled to honor Dr. Bluford, a distinguished scientist who sets a stellar example for our city's youth," notes Carol S. Fixman, executive director of the Ed Fund. Dr. Bluford became a NASA astronaut in 1979, is a veteran of four space flights and has logged over 688 hours in space. He was the first African American astronaut to fly in space. He graduated from the Pennsylvania State University in 1964 with a degree in aerospace engineering. He received his master of science and Ph.D. in aerospace engineering with a minor in laser physics from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

STAR COMMITMENT EDDY, DR. CONSTANCE CLAYTON

Dr. Constance Clayton will receive the Star Commitment to Education Eddy. Dr. Clayton was Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia from 1982 until her retirement in 1993. She was the first woman and the first African American in that position. She began her affiliation with the District as a teacher in 1955. During her tenure as Superintendent, she was elected as the President of The Council of Great Cities Schools and made several presentations before Congress. Dr. Clayton holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania. She has been awarded 16 honorary degrees and currently serves as a trustee of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Director of the Fox Roach Foundation, Director of the Delta Sigma Theta Research Foundation, and Board Chair of the Philadelphia Clef Club of Jazz and Performing Arts.

STAR BUSINESS EDDY, SONGHAI PRESS

The Star Business Award Winner is Songhai Press. "If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant a tree; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people." This ancient Chinese proverb expresses the mission of Songhai Press, which is committed to the development, production and marketing of culturally relevant and authentic educational materials, programs and services. Founder of Songhai Press Derrick Gantt will accept the award.

STAR COMMUNITY EDDY, THE PHILADELPHIA YOUTH NETWORK (PYN)

The Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN), which works with Philadelphia young people to help them become full and contributing members of the region's workforce, will receive the Star Community Commitment to Education Eddy. As a catalyst for collective action, PYN makes connections among individuals, organizations and systems, and helps our city's youth be better prepared to thrive in our regional and global economy. Co-President and CEO Laura Shubilla and Co-President and COO Stacy Holland will accept the award on behalf of PYN.

RIISING STAR EDDY will be given to three sisters, all students in the College Access/Philadelphia Scholars Program. They are Tracey A. Whitfield, a 2005 graduate of Bartram High School and Penn State University student;

Joanne A. Butler, a 2007 graduate of Germantown High School and Community College of Philadelphia student; and Bessie T. Butler, 2008 a Germantown High School graduate and Community College of Philadelphia student.

The stories of our Eddy Awardees show why the Ed Fund must continue its important work. **It's not too late to get tickets!**

**2008 Eddy Awards
November 13, 2008
Moore College of Art**

This exciting evening gives us the chance to honor those who share the Ed Fund's important mission. For details and ticket information contact Jenifer Trachtman at 215-665-1400, ext. 3309 or jtrachtman@philaedfund.org. Or visit www.philaedfund.org/eddis.

Ed Fund Board Elects New Officers, Expands



Diane Melley and Helen Cunningham

At its June 2008 meeting, the Ed Fund Board of Directors elected Diane Melley, Director of IBM Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs, as its new chair. A board member since 2001, Ms. Melley follows Helen Cunningham, who served as Board chair for many years and who will continue as a member of the Board. In addition, the Board elected Phoebe Haddon, Esq., Professor of Law and Government at Temple University as vice-chair and

Vikram Dewan, President and CEO of the Zoological Society of Philadelphia as treasurer. Both Ms. Haddon and Mr. Dewan joined the Ed Fund board in 2005.

As a long-time board member, Diane Melley has seen the Ed Fund grow significantly and has helped with many decisions along the way. "I have enjoyed my service on the Ed Fund board enormously over the years and look forward to working with other dedicated board members and staff to meet the challenges of the coming years," says Ms. Melley. Cunningham adds, "Under Diane's leadership, the Ed Fund is well-positioned to continue to fulfill its mission to improve the quality of public education for underserved youth in the region."

In October 2008, the Ed Fund Board welcomed new Board member Eric Flicker. Flicker brings a wealth of experience to the Ed Fund Board as Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Pennoni Associates, Inc.

PHILADELPHIA SCHOLARS CLOSES IN ON \$2 MILLION CHALLENGE GOAL

Dedicated friends and supporters have contributed nearly \$2 million to match a \$1 million challenge gift from an anonymous donor, for the Philadelphia Scholars Program. The Scholars Program annually awards Last Dollar Scholarships to hundreds of Philadelphia high school graduates to attend college.

The Philadelphia Scholars Advisory Committee members and many other volunteers have played a pivotal role in raising the matching dollars. To date, the Challenge has received more than 520 gifts including a very generous bequest of \$300,000 from long-time supporter John "Jay" Sherrerd.

Gifts have come from many venues including individuals, foundations, and corporations and through the following workplace/combined campaigns:

- Bryn Mawr College Combined Campaign
- City of Philadelphia Employees' Combined Campaign
- Combined Federal Campaign
- School District Combined Campaign
- State Employees' Combined Appeal

- University of Pennsylvania Penn's Way Campaign
- United Parcel Services
- United Way of SE PA Donor Choice Campaign
- Wellington Management, Inc.

The Philadelphia Scholars Program is designed to fill the gap between a student's financial aid package and the actual cost of attending college (including tuition, fees, books and transportation). Since its founding in 1990, Philadelphia Scholars has awarded more than \$7 million in Last Dollar Scholarships to over 1,500 college students. Awards are made to Philadelphia high school students who are participants in the Ed Fund's College Access Program and are renewable for up to six years to students in good standing at colleges and universities across the country. Scholarships range from \$200 to \$5,000 annually.

We need your help to complete the campaign. As we approach the end of the year, please give generously. To make a contribution, please visit www.philaedfund.org/donor.



ED FUNDAMENTALS

Support the Ed Fund!

Our nation's current financial difficulty will most likely affect every person and every organization in some way. While the Ed Fund is no different, we are fortunate to have strong support from many generous funders and donors as seen in the extensive list of people recognized in this issue. Please know that the Ed Fund uses all gifts prudently to support programs that help students and their families whose lives may be severely impacted by the financial crisis. They need us now more than ever!

We hope that the Philadelphia Education Fund will remain at the top of your giving list. Our mission is more important than ever as we seek to improve the quality of public education for all youth.

To make a contribution, please contact Jenifer Trachtman at 215-665-1400, ext. 3309 or visit www.philaedfund.org/donor. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Don't Miss these Upcoming Events

THE 2008 EDDYS

November 13, 2008

Moore College of
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For information:

215-665-1400 ext 3307

SCORE 4 SCHOLARSHIPS TOURNAMENT

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