

ED FUNDAMENTALS

Preparing Students for Careers in the Growing Energy Tech Industry

Each year, the number of STEM industry jobs that go unfilled count in the millions. And, the pace at which these jobs continue to grow portend an even greater gap between STEM job opportunities and the talent to fill them.

In Philadelphia, these job growth trends are reflected in the energy tech industry. In fact, according to a report by Philadelphia Works, in recent years, the number of jobs in the energy tech industry alone increased by 53%.

The Philadelphia Education Fund believes there is a key role that teachers can play in both preparing and exposing students – from elementary to high school – to these career opportunities. And, this summer, with key funding support from the PA Department of Labor Industry, we responded to this challenge with Teacher in the Workplace.

Teacher in the Workplace is an innovative collaboration, between the Philadelphia Education Fund, Johnson Controls, Inc. and Philadelphia Works, providing 25 dedicated educators with first-hand knowledge about career opportunities their students can pursue in the energy technology field and the

skills they will need to succeed.

Johnson Controls, Inc. (JCI) is a global leader in energy technology serving private and public sector clients, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Philadelphia Housing Authority to name a few. As part of the unique professional development opportunity offered through the Teacher in the Workplace initiative, educators interacted with JCI staff across diverse job roles and work sites to understand the career skillsets, responsibilities and qualifications their students might need to enter this growing field.

According to Nick Sracic, Public Sector Energy Executive at JCI, “Johnson Controls is dedicated to making the communities where we live and work a better place. We welcomed this initiative because it perfectly aligned with our ongoing commitment to the City’s Energy Campaign and the School District of Philadelphia. Our experience working with the Philadelphia Education Fund was phenomenal. The organization has an inspiring team of leaders who excelled throughout the process and made our job as corporate partner seamless.”

Program participants obtained hands-on professional development training to help them apply what they learned

*Continued on page 2
(see Teacher in the Workplace)*



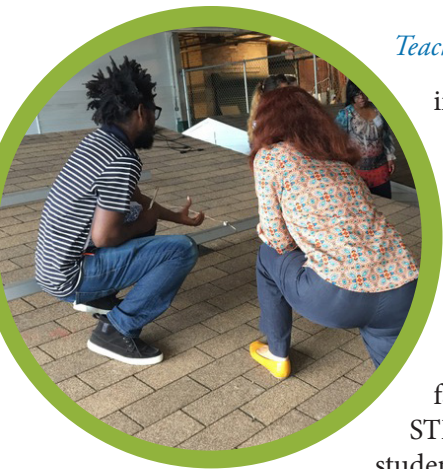
Taking the Lead in Helping 6,000 Students GEAR UP for College

For more than 30 years, the Philadelphia Education Fund has been a leader in helping Philadelphia students build pathways to college and career success through initiatives such as the College Access Program, Philadelphia Postsecondary Success Program and Philly Goes2College. This year, we are thrilled to expand our portfolio of college readiness programs to include GEAR UP.



Through a three-year GEAR UP contract, awarded by the School District of Philadelphia, the Ed Fund will deliver comprehensive college readiness programming to 6,000 students at 12 Philadelphia public schools. According to JeNell C. LaRue, Acting Director of GEAR UP Philadelphia, the School District chose to partner with the Ed Fund because of its proven track record supporting students in postsecondary success. **“We particularly value the Ed Fund’s spirit,” she said. “There is a joy that accompanies the organization’s work, a**

*Continued on page 2
(see GEAR UP)*



Teacher in the Workplace: Continued from page 1

into dynamic lesson plans. In addition, participants who completed the program received continuing education credits and a \$300 gift card to purchase curriculum materials.

Dr. Nancy Peter, Director of the Ed Fund's McKinney Center for STEM Education, contends that Philadelphia is experiencing a significant STEM skills gap evidenced by the fact that while Philadelphia is the eighth largest STEM employment hub in the nation, our local students fall significantly behind their state-wide peers in STEM literacy. Scores on 2017 state Keystone exams

reflect these gaps. Only 34% of Philadelphia public school students achieved proficient or advanced levels on the Keystone grade 11 Algebra exam, versus 65% of students state-wide; and only 32% achieved proficient or advanced levels on the Keystone grade 11 Biology exam, versus 63% state-wide.

"The Ed Fund's partnership with Johnson Controls and Philadelphia Works is helping to address that gap by offering educators hands-on opportunities to enhance their skills so they can better prepare students for real-world employment opportunities," shared Peter. "We know that when educators infuse their curriculum with practical applications, students are more engaged and successful."

Program participant Mike Pflueger, a math teacher at the U School, agrees. "My students need motivation rooted in real life applications of STEM. The more we can learn about attainable career opportunities the more students can see value in their learning," he said.

*Thank you to
our partners:*

PHILADELPHIA
WORKS

Johnson
Controls

GEAR UP: Continued from page 1

real interest in genuinely moving the needle for students and families, as well as effecting change in school communities. That, more than anything, speaks volumes to the type of organization the Ed Fund is and we look forward to our work together."

GEAR UP, which stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is a federally-funded initiative that brings college preparation and awareness to students in low-income communities - helping them to bridge the economic gap between themselves and their more financially advantaged peers by getting a college education. The program begins working with students in middle school and continues with the same cohort of students through high school graduation - providing comprehensive academic, mentoring and college guidance services.

As part of GEAR UP, during the school year, the Ed Fund will deliver a host of college readiness services including college awareness workshops, career speakers, academic skill building activities, SAT/ACT prep, transcript review, and assistance completing college applications and financial aid forms. To help ensure students succeed at their chosen colleges, staff will also work with students on determining the best college fit by

helping them better understand the academic, social and financial profiles of the schools they are considering.

In addition to school-year programming, the Ed Fund will offer a six-week GEAR UP summer program, through which students will gain work experience at organizations and companies throughout the city and participate in a variety of leadership, academic and career skill development activities.

According to Kimberly Stephens, the Ed Fund's Vice President of Programming, it is expected that over the next three years, approximately 6,000 of eligible GEAR UP participants will engage in college readiness activities to support their ability to apply, enter and succeed in college. Additionally, 300 students will gain employment experience and develop leadership skills through the summer work program.

The Ed Fund has a track record of success providing GEAR UP services having managed the Philadelphia GEAR UP Network from 1999-2005 and serving 17,000 Philadelphia public school students. "GEAR UP aligns with the Ed Fund's mission of driving exceptional outcomes for all students," says Stephens. "We are excited to bring our expertise back to GEAR UP as it is a perfect complement to our other college readiness initiatives."

If your organization is interested in hosting a student as part of our summer work program, contact Kimberly Stephens at kstephens@philaedfund.org or 215-665-1400 X3316



FARAH JIMENEZ

President's Message

As President and CEO of the Philadelphia Education Fund, one of the things I am most proud of is the number of students we have helped achieve their dream of a college education. Since 1990, our College Access Program (CAP) has helped more than 100,000 young people apply, secure financial aid, and enter college at rates 20-30% higher than their peers. Last year alone 87% of CAP seniors completed the FAFSA; 95% applied to college; and 92% were accepted, receiving \$4.5 million in scholarships.

For the last five years, the Ed Fund has delivered CAP at five high schools, but it is our goal to ensure that every student attending a low graduation-rate high school is supported with robust college access programming. That's why we are thrilled to announce that we were selected by the School District of Philadelphia to administer GEAR UP, an initiative that will expand our work to 12 more schools (see full story on page 1).

We are also reaching more students of all ages by expanding our PhillyGoes2College programming. We've added additional pop-up experiences such as FAFSA completion events and college advising sessions at a variety of schools and community centers throughout the city.

Now we are in the final push to offer intensive college access programming in the remaining five Philadelphia high schools with graduation rates lower than 75% and you can help make it happen. We are actively seeking support from individual donors or investors who can help underwrite our programming in a low-performing school. If you are interested in helping the next generation of leaders reach their full potential, contact me at fjimenez@philaedfund.org.

Our record of success is clear. We have the expertise and experience to substantially increase graduation and college-going rates for all students. With your help, we can make sure it happens.

Ed Fund Offers Partnership Opportunities To Create More Scholarships For Philadelphia Students

For far too many young people, the biggest obstacle to college completion is cost. To help lighten the financial burden for Philadelphia students, the Ed Fund is actively developing partnerships with individuals and organizations that may be interested in establishing scholarships but don't have the time or expertise to administer them.

In an example of one such collaboration, the Ed Fund's Philadelphia Scholars program teamed up with the Philadelphia Foundation's Robert C. Digges Scholarship Fund to award \$12,000 in scholarship funds to 12 exceptional college students. The scholarship recipients, all graduates of Philadelphia high schools, were selected by a committee of Ed Fund alumni, supporters and donors for their academic excellence, community service and extracurricular activities at their respective colleges.

The Philadelphia Scholars Program is the city's largest non-university based scholarship program and has provided more than \$15.4 million in scholarships to 3,548 first-generation students since its founding. This year, it expects to award a little more than \$500,000 in scholarships to more than 130 students.

The Robert C. Digges Scholarship Fund, named for the late Philadelphia native who was a commercial artist and World War II veteran, was established to help deserving



Philadelphia students complete college. To ensure that all deserving applicants received awards, members of the Ed Fund selection committee personally donated an additional \$2,000 to the \$10,000 provided by the Digges fund.

According to Farah Jimenez, Ed Fund President and CEO, millions of dollars

Scholarships Continued on page 4

Three Private Sector Leaders Join Ed Fund Board

The Ed Fund is pleased to welcome three private sector leaders to its Board of Directors – **Markus Weidner of Pennoni, Kenneth Seiler of PJM Interconnection and Tom Morrison of Deloitte Consulting LLP.**

“The three new members bring a wealth of experience and qualifications to the Board,” says David Baker, Chair of PEF’s Board of Directors.

“As leaders in STEM-based companies, Markus and Kenneth are well positioned to help advance our efforts to forge a stronger link between STEM education, STEM literacy and STEM career exposure. And, as we build out our education and scholarship consulting practice we are fortunate to have Tom’s experience and expertise as a principal at a leading consulting firm to guide us.”

For **Markus Weidner**, joining the Ed Fund Board was a natural fit. “Education is the most important driver of the economy in our region,” he says. “As a city resident with a child in the public school system, I care



deeply about the quality of education that all students receive.” In his role as Chief Innovation Officer for Pennoni, a national Engineering, Design and Consulting firm, Markus Weidner guides the company’s exploration of innovations both incremental and disruptive.

Weidner applies his creative expertise to many roles, including managing corporate technology, real estate, capital equipment, and design technology platforms.



IN MEMORIAM – LYNNE GOLD-BIKIN, ESQ.

This October, with the passing of Lynne Gold-Bikin at the age of 80, the Philadelphia Education Fund lost a dear friend and long-time board member. A remarkable woman and a respected and accomplished lawyer, Ms. Gold-Bikin chaired the family law practice at Weber Gallagher Simpson Stapleton Fires & Newby. The consummate storyteller, Ms. Gold-Bikin displayed that talent in the courtroom and in the board room. It was always such an honor to be in the presence of Lynne’s intellect, warmth, sharp wit, generosity, and unwavering commitment to education as a vehicle for opening doors and blazing trails for successor generations.

Scholarships Continued from page 3

in scholarships go unclaimed each year. The partnership between the Ed Fund and the Philadelphia Foundation works to ensure that students who are poised to succeed in college have access to those resources that help bridge the gap between financial aid and the actual cost of attending college.

“Because of our extensive work providing college preparation services to Philadelphia high school students, Ed Fund is uniquely qualified to identify and reach high achieving students who can most benefit from scholarship support,” she says.

Kenneth Seiler was motivated to join the Ed Fund Board by a desire to give back to the community. “My wife and I have been fortunate to have had the support of many people who helped us along the way, and it is my hope that I can pay that forward and help others by sharing my skills and experience,” he says. Currently serving as Executive Director of System Planning at PJM Interconnection, Kenneth Seiler ensures the reliability of the high-voltage electric power system serving 65 million people across 13 states and the District of Columbia.



For **Tom Morrison**, joining the Board of the Ed Fund is an extension of the values with which he was raised. “My parents taught me that



education prepares you for success, and my wife and I raised our kids in the same way. I firmly believe that every child deserves a quality education,” he says. As a Principal at Deloitte Consulting LLP, Tom Morrison specializes in mergers and acquisitions and helping his clients navigate the changing world of organizational performance, talent, and leadership.

“This is a period of exciting growth for PEF. This coming year, we will more than double the number of students we serve through our college advising and STEM programming and grow the number of clients in our education consulting practice. Markus, Kenneth and Tom are well positioned to help us meet these goals to the benefit of Philadelphia’s public school students,” says Farah Jimenez, President and CEO of the Philadelphia Education Fund. “We are delighted to have them on board.”

If you are interested in establishing a scholarship fund or need assistance administering an existing fund, the Ed Fund can help. **Contact Kimberly Stephens at kstephens@philaedfund.org or 215-665-1400 X3316.**

Educate Philly Gala Luncheon Raises \$185,000

A sell-out crowd of more than 200 attendees gathered this summer at the Union League of Philadelphia for the Ed Fund's inaugural Educate Philly Gala Luncheon. The event, which featured a live auction, raised \$185,000 for the Philadelphia Education Fund with \$55,000 secured to endow the Art Baldadian Philadelphia Scholars Scholarship.

With this endowed scholarship, **Art Baldadian**, a long-time donor and volunteer with the Ed Fund's Philadelphia Scholars Advisory Committee, adds his name to the roster of long-standing donors - among them **Morris Williams**, **John Neff**, **Helen Cunningham**, **Carole Haas Gravagno** - who seeded and continue to generously support the Philadelphia Scholars endowment.

Attendees were treated to a heartfelt program, featuring remarks from **Jasir Arms** and **Gavin Boston**, College Access Program participants and recipients of this year's Rising Star Awards. These young men exuded confidence as they shared their journey, successes, and dreams for the future.

Also honored was Art Baldadian, former chair of the Philadelphia Scholars Advisory Committee (SAC), who was joined by his wife KC and three generations of SAC leadership, including former chair Morris Williams and current chair **Rich Corcoran**.

A highlight of the event was a conversation on the Mayor's Role in Education, moderated by Ed Fund President and CEO **Farah Jimenez**. **City Councilwoman Maria Quinones Sanchez**, a former College Access student, and **State Representative Jordan Harris**, a former College Access student and Philadelphia Scholar, introduced **Governor Ed Rendell** and **Mayor John Street**.

After a few warm-up questions, the two seemed to relax with Governor Rendell and Mayor Street sharing "inside stories," taking light-hearted jabs at one another, and reflecting on their own relationship with Philadelphia schools, the Ed Fund, and each other. At the conclusion of the event, Ms. Jimenez invited them both to join the Ed Fund at Educate Philly in June 2019 when two students will be recognized with awards in their honor.



Pictured here, at PEF's Educate Philly event: Jasir Arms, David Baker, Art Baldadian, Gavin Boston, Rich Corcoran, Frank Goodman, Joan Goodman, Bill Hite, Lynn Hitschler, Farah Jimenez, Maria Quinones Sanchez, Ed Rendell, Kathy Schilling, Kim Stephens, John Street, and Morris Williams.

Board of Directors
David Baker, Chair
Deborah O'Brien, Vice Chair
Mark Silow, Treasurer
Joann Mitchell, Secretary
Richard Corcoran
Donald J. DiLoreto
Judith Gay
John G. Ginelli
La-Toya Hackney
Donald Haskin
Farah Jimenez, Ex Officio
Sophia Lee
Tom Morrison
Siobhan Reardon
Kenneth Seiler
Nancy Butler Songer
Lesley Tewnton
Markus Weidner

XXX-CARRIER ROUTE XXXXXX

SAMPLE A. SAMPLE

TITLE

ORGANIZATION

123 ANY STREET

SUITE 1-A

ANYTOWN, US 12345-6789

BARCODE

IN MEMORIAM Lynne Z. Gold-Bikin, Esq.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

Education First Compact Monthly Speaker Series

Each year, from September to June, PEF convenes the Education First Compact - a monthly speaker series highlighting pressing issues confronting K-12 education in Philadelphia and the region. A packed room of those interested in education matters gather each month, with more than 900 individuals attending the series last year.

Registration is FREE and made possible through the generous support of Ed Compact subscribers and donors.

To host, donate, or subscribe to the Education First Compact series, contact Peg McCool, pmccool@philaedfund.org or 215-665-1400 ext. 3322.

UPCOMING EDUCATION FIRST COMPACT SESSIONS:

- **DECEMBER 13, 2018:** TBD
- **JANUARY 10, 2019:** Developing School-Based Talent: From Real-Time Coaching to Residency Programs
- **FEBRUARY 7, 2019:** Making the Case for Making a Case... in Writing!
- **MARCH 7, 2019:** Reporting on Student Level Data in the Era of FERPA
- **APRIL 4, 2019:** The College Completion Challenge: It Starts in High School!
- **MAY 2, 2019:** Counting the Money: A Budget Update
- **JUNE 6, 2019:** TBD

Unless otherwise noted, Education First Compact meetings take place:

*7:45-10:00am at Ed Fund offices,
718 Arch Street, Suite 700N
Philadelphia, PA.*