New STEM Education Center to Honor Don McKinney

As many Ed Fund supporters well know, Donald McKinney, a beloved chemistry teacher who launched and administered the Ed Fund's Philadelphia Math and Science Coalition from 2009 to 2016, passed away in January of 2016. Don left behind a legacy of quality science education and hundreds of devoted students and colleagues. In recognition of his commitment to and passion for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, the Philadelphia Education Fund has established the Donald McKinney Center for

"Don was passionate about STEM and about teaching," said his widow Emma McKinney. "I know that he would be honored by this dedication, but what would matter most to him would be reaching more students and helping more teachers understand the importance of teaching science."

STEM Education.

Led by Nancy Peter, Ed.D., the new center builds on the Ed Fund's histo-

ry of providing innovative and effective STEM

programming for teachers and students. "The demand for STEM curriculum and instruction, as well as STEM-centric students and STEM-skilled professionals has increased exponentially over

the last two decades," said Peter.
"The McKinney Center will create opportunities to ensure all Philadelphia students graduate from high school with a strong STEM knowledge and skill set, enabling them to be successful contributors in 21st century society."

A key component of the Center will be the establishment of two McKinney Research Fellowships. The first will evaluate and shape the Ed Fund's professional development offerings for teachers. The second will help develop training to enable

scientists to be engaging classroom presenters and ignite STEM curiosity and career aspirations among students.

The McKinney Center also offers:

- STEM Teacher Forums and Networking Meetings to provide professional development opportunities to both formal and informal STEM educators.
- Explore STEM Philly, which aims to inspire students to pursue STEM-related education and careers. The program provides students opportunities to learn about career pathways through classroom visits by STEM professionals and to experience STEM-based work in action through field trips to STEM-related businesses.
- The STEM Ecosystem, which brings together a robust cross section of STEM stakeholders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges in STEM education and work together to design solutions.

To support the McKinney Center, call Steven Molberger at 215-665-1400, ext. 3353



Events Ignite Passion for STEM

Employment opportunities in fields related to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are increasing at twice the rate of other professions and tend to be significantly higher paying. Yet a recent report by Georgetown University's Center for Education and the Workforce found that African-American students are significantly underrepresented in STEM-related majors. With that in mind, the Philadelphia Education Fund recently hosted two exciting events aimed at igniting student interest in the limitless possibilities of STEM careers.

Thanks to the generosity of IBM and the Philadelphia Film Society, 150 freshmen from the Ed Fund's College Access Program (CAP) were treated to a screening of the Oscar-nominated film Hidden Figures, the inspiring story of women of color breaking barriers in STEM. The screening was followed by a panel

(Continued on back panel; see Events)

EDDY Awards Honor Stars in Public Education



Rising Stars Jailene Rodriguez and Saviona Goode talk with moderator Chris Satullo

The city's education stars were honored at the Philadelphia Education Fund's 12th annual EDDY Awards. The event, held at the Down Town Club, raised more than \$120,000 to improve public education and build paths to college and career success for Philadelphia's young people.

Guests socialized and networked over cocktails and dinner while bidding on an array of enticing auction items including vacation packages, meals at top restaurants, tickets to sporting and cultural events, jewelry and more. The highlight was an animated discussion with the evening's honorees, moderated by news and civic engagement veteran Chris Satullo.

"The EDDY Awards recognize established and emerging leaders in education, from corporations actively supporting STEM education to Philadelphia students who have excelled in their studies," said Ed Fund President and CEO Farah Jimenez. "These recipients exemplified the power and potential of Philadelphia public education."

THE 2016 HONOREES INCLUDED:

- Star STEM Education Innovator EDDY: **GSK Science in the Summer**TM program
- Star Alumnus: Donald Haskin
- Star Business Executive Commitment to Education: Marcos R. Lopez, Founder and CEO of Exude, Inc.
- Star Commitment to Education: Jason Carrion, Principal, Cayuga Elementary School
- Rising Star: Jailene Rodriguez, Senior, Olney Charter High School and Saviona Goode, Senior, John Bartram High School

Special thanks to all who attended and to our generous event sponsors:



EDDY honorees with Ed Fund President Farah Jimenez and Board Chair David Baker: from left: Jason Carrion, Farah Jimenez, Marti Skold-Jordan, Saviona Goode, Jailene Rodriguez, Marcos R. Lopez and David Baker. Honoree Don Haskin was in absentia and represented by family.



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President's Message



As President and CEO of the Philadelphia Education Fund, I am asked all the time: Is it really possible to improve education, to turn around a school, and make it better for all students?

My answer is an unequivocal YES.

Every day, the Philadelphia Education Fund does exactly that – improve education. Our talented staff work

with schools, principals and teachers to foster cultural transformation within. Rather than focus on a single issue, we offer a suite of integrated and research-based programs that enable schools to create rich learning environments that serve students holistically. Through these programs, the Ed Fund team is helping schools move the needle on a myriad of challenging issues including STEM integration, teacher retention, high school completion, college attendance and postsecondary persistence.

As evidence that the Ed Fund's work is making a difference, one need look no further than Paul Robeson High School for Human Services, one of our long-time partner schools. In part because of the Ed Fund's work putting systems in place, developing relationships with the principal, teachers and grade group leaders, and working alongside them to drive change at this West Philadelphia public school, Robeson was recently named one of the most improved high schools in the city.

At the Philadelphia Education Fund, we celebrate a 30-year history of designing and implementing evidence-based programs that produce measurable outcomes. We know that we have the experience and expertise to affect positive systemic change at many more schools like Robeson. But to do it, we need your support.

If you believe that every child holds the right to a quality education, invest in the Ed Fund.

If you want to see our city's schools turn the corner and provide exceptional learning environments that offer pathways for college and career success for all students, invest in the Ed Fund.

I am confident that your investment will yield demonstrable results for our city's children, teachers and schools.

Farah Jimenez

Scholarship Preserves Brothers' Memory While **Promoting Community Involvement**

Four public high school seniors will receive Nathaniel M. Kirkland scholarships, thanks to a new partnership between the Philadelphia Education Fund and the Terrell L. Bruce Memorial Fund. The Memorial Fund, established by lawyer Brandon S. Bruce, honors the memory of his brothers Nathaniel (Nate) Kirkland and Terrell Bruce and their commitment to community service.

"Nate and Terrell were very similar in the Delores Andriaanse, Ed Fund Division Manager and Brandon Bruce, way they gave to the world," and Nate,

who drowned during a college service mission in Guatemala in 2008, "was as an inspiration to all. He was unselfish, caring, and passionate," according to Bruce.

When Nate died, Terrell continued his legacy of giving back by creating the Nathaniel M. Kirkland Scholarship. A realtor, Terrell also provided credit counseling and education around home ownership to help members of his community become more self-sufficient. "Terrell didn't have a lot of opportunities. He was self made and he encouraged others to push beyond their own internal limits and reach their potential," said Bruce. Sadly, Terrell lost his life as a victim of gun violence in late 2015.

Bruce established the Terrell L. Bruce Memorial Fund to promote the community involvement both brothers were



founder of the Terrell L. Bruce Memorial Fund.

devoted to. "My goal was to create a scholarship for like-minded individuals who personify Terrell and Nate's motto of becoming the change you want in the world," he said.

"The decision to partner with the Ed Fund was easy," said Bruce. "I wanted to ensure that the fund's resources benefitted kids like my brothers - public school students who are both driven to make their way in the world while giving back to the community. Because of its years of

experience working with this population of students through the College Access Program, I felt confident that the Ed Fund could help me select qualified applicants that met my criteria."

"At the Ed Fund, we have more than 25 years experience of assisting donors who are interested in helping students achieve their academic potential," said Ed Fund President and CEO Farah Jimenez. "We are excited about this new partnership that will allow us to help even more students achieve their dream of attending college."

Interested in establishing a scholarship fund? Need help finding qualified students for your established scholarship program? The Ed Fund can help. Contact Steven Molberger at 215-665-1400 ext. 3353 or smolberger@philaedfund.org.



Scholar Cesar Cortorreal is Ready to Break Barriers

Grit, courage and the ability to step out of his comfort zone are some of the traits that are helping Philadelphia Scholar Cesar Cortorreal forge a path toward college and career success. As a first-generation college student, Cesar established high standards for himself and was resolved to set his life on a new trajectory.

Cesar grew up in North Philadelphia to immigrant parents and attended high school in the Olney area. Despite feeling somewhat

unprepared for the rigors of college, he was determined to advocate for himself in order to be successful. He was also fortunate to know adults from his high school that connected him to resources and continuously instilled the belief that he could persevere in college by staying connected to his network and seeking help when needed. A mentor from a high school program also helped him stay grounded and optimistic about

his future. But it was his membership in the Ed Fund's College Access Program that really convinced Cesar that college was not beyond his reach.

With assistance from College Access Coordinator Madeline Birkner, Cesar was accepted at the prestigious Franklin & Marshall College, and received a healthy scholarship. Yet even with this support, he still faced a financial gap that he

was uncertain how to fill. That is when Birkner again stepped in and helped him apply to the Ed Fund's Philadelphia Scholars Program (PSP). As a recipient of PSP's Last Dollar Scholarship, Cesar can focus on his studies, and not have to worry about his mother being burdened by loans to pay for his education.

Today, Cesar is thriving at college. He is involved in numerous extracurricular activities and is on target to earn a 3.6 GPA. He also volunteers with two organizations that help high-achieving, low-

income high school students make the leap to high-caliber colleges and universities. "My goal in life is to give back to anyone who has invested their time into getting me where I am today. As a man of Latino descent, I am excited to break barriers and can't wait to see where my college journey takes me," he said.



Cesar Cortorreal

Scholars Pay It Forward



The Ed Fund's Philadelphia Scholars are exceptional not only for their hard work and academic achievement but also for their commitment to community. This year, the Ed Fund's 111 Scholars who are college sophomores, juniors and seniors, volunteered a total of 1,494 hours at 64 different sites.

These dedicated young people lent their time, talent and energy to schools, food pantries, churches, libraries, emergency relief programs and a host of other social service organizations. As Philadelphia Scholars Program Manager Malikah Cliett notes, "For our Scholars, paying it forward is a way to acknowledge and thank the many donors who helped make their dreams a reality."

Scholar Karina Melendez, a senior at Chestnut Hill College, says she sees giving back as her purpose. "I grew up in the

inner city and benefited from so many people who helped me along the way, that I want to do the same for others," she said.

Melendez, who is particularly grateful for the assistance she received from the Ed Fund, is an enthusiastic participant in the organization's annual day of service called Scholars Give Back. She is also an orientation leader at Chestnut Hill College, volunteers with a local food organization, serves as a tutor, and has participated in student panels informing high school students about what she did to get to college and how she has navigated her journey through college. "Through the Philadelphia Scholars Program community service initiative, I've made lasting connections with high school students who still look to me for advice," she said. "It makes me feel happy and proud to see that my help has meant something to them."

Mentors Help Scholars Navigate the College Journey

Dreams of attending college have become a reality for more than 3,200 students thanks to assistance from the Philadelphia Education Fund's Philadelphia Scholars Program (PSP). Since its inception, PSP has provided more than \$14 million in scholarships to Philadelphia high school graduates attending universities throughout the United States.



David Baker

But while the greatest barrier to college access may be monetary, it is the challenges faced while at college that can pose the greatest obstacles to graduation and career success. The Ed Fund's Scholars Mentoring Program aims to help our Scholars overcome those challenges by pairing students with an adult professional who can offer guidance as they navigate their college journey.

From encouraging Scholars to tap into academic support services and other programs that will enrich their college experience, responding to emails

about the best way to secure an internship, or meeting face to face to discuss appropriate interview attire, Scholars Mentors help pave the path to success for our students.

Ed Fund Board Chair David Baker was instrumental in developing the mentoring program. "I was fortunate to have had parents who went to college and were able to offer support and advice during my college years.



Shane Mills

Being a mentor to a student who has worked really hard to get into college but may not have those kinds of personal resources is an extremely gratifying way of giving back," he said.

Baker, who currently mentors Albion College sophomore Shane Mills, emphasized that while mentoring can make a tremendous impact on a student's life, it isn't very time consuming and doesn't require any special expertise. "Shane is doing all the heavy lifting. I'm just offering some guidance that may help him think about pathways for achieving his goals and suggesting resources he

can tap into," he said. "Because he goes to school in Michigan, most of our communication is by text, but we'll get together at least once or twice when he comes home for winter and summer break."

"Having David in my life has made a huge difference," said Mills. "It's great to have someone outside of my family that I can turn to if I have a problem or a question. He's helped me think through what I want to do after I graduate and has offered many suggestions to help me get there."

To register for a mentor information session, call Malikah Cliett at 215-665-1400, ext. 3333 or email mcliett@philaedfund.org.

The Ed Fund Welcomes Steven Molberger

In January, the Philadelphia Education Fund welcomed Steven Molberger as Vice President of Resource Development. In this role, Steven leads the Ed Fund staff, board, and Scholars Advisory Committee in efforts to resource the Ed



Steven Molberger

Fund's diverse portfolio of programmatic, research, student and community education initiatives.

Molberger brings to the

Ed Fund experience leading annual giving and major gifts at national nonprofits and within university settings. His past experience raising scholarship funds for underserved populations will help the Ed Fund's efforts to increase annual giving in order to provide the \$700,000 per year in Philadelphia Scholars Last Dollar Scholarship awards.

Molberger enjoys some deep roots in education. He began his career as a language arts and social studies teacher and later was a director for BBYO, a nonprofit that provides leadership development and experiential learning for high school students.

"As a former educator, I understand the importance of quality learning environments," he said. "I am excited to build on the Ed Fund's 30-year history of helping ensure that all students are exposed to rich learning experiences, that teachers are supported and that schools have the tools to provide a culture of college and career success. I also look forward to creating entry points to participation for others who are passionate about education and want to improve outcomes for Philadelphia students."

Molberger earned a master's degree in higher education leadership and policy from Hofstra University and lives in Philadelphia with his wife and daughter. 1709 Benjamin Franklin Parkway Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-665-1400 www.philaedfund.org

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discussion featuring a diverse group of local female STEM professionals who shared their experiences of studying and working in STEM-related careers and encouraged the students to pursue their passion and dreams.



impression on many of the students. For Trinity Moore, a freshman at Bartram High School, the film offered a glimpse of what is attainable. "I'm a woman of color who wants to be a doctor and break glass ceilings, so it's like seeing a future me on the screen and in person," she said.

Helping students visualize how to turn that dream into a reality was the focus of STEM is Everywhere, a daylong event designed to provide students with a firsthand look at a wide array STEM-related career pathways. At this event, 100 tenth graders from CAP interacted with a diverse group of professionals representing a variety of STEM employers in the Philadelphia area. They also participated in hands-on learning experiences and took part in a career expo.

This event, which celebrated diversity in STEM, featured a keynote address from Marilou Watson, a partner at Fox

Rothschild specializing in intellectual property law, who is also a certified pharmacist. Watson, who grew up in West Philadelphia, engaged students with an inspirational story about her own professional journey and encouraged them to "be bold and ask for help" along the way.

Other presenters included representatives from GlaxoSmith-Kline, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Drexel School of Public Health, Building Conservation Associates, the USDA Forest Service, and Temple University as well as individuals involved in Investigative Safety & Drug Disposition (ISDD), Mechanistic Safety & Disposition (MSD), In Vitro/In Vivo Translation (IVIVT), RD Platform Technology & Science, and music production.



Panelists at the hidden figures event from left: Diane Melley, Senior Vice President of Global Citizenship Initiatives, IBM; Beverly Goldston retired mathematician; Nancy Peter, Director of the Ed Fund's Donald McKinney Center for STEM Education; Nefertiti Stanford, engineer, IBM Security; Jessica Falcon, Ph.D. candidate, bioengineering, Temple University; and Madineh Sarvestani researcher, University of Pennsylvania.