

# ED FUNDAMENTALS

A SPECIAL NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS  
OF THE PHILADELPHIA EDUCATION FUND

## Art Baldadian, A Champion for Philadelphia Scholars

*Did you know that the Ed Fund's Philadelphia Scholars Program is the largest non-university based scholarship program in the City?*

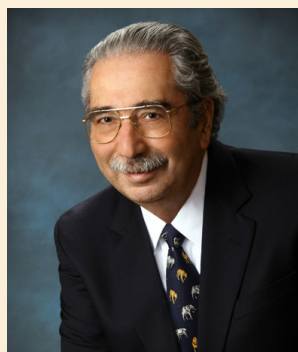
Since its inception in 1990, the program has awarded \$15,209,761 in Last Dollar Scholarships that have helped 3,418 first-generation students afford a college education. Last Dollar Scholarships bridge the gap between financial aid and the cost of college attendance and make a huge difference for students struggling to make ends meet.

This year, alone, thanks to the generosity of past and current donors, the Philadelphia Scholars

Program awarded \$500,000 in support. And, we continue to actively fundraise

in an effort to grow the endowment, as well as provide supportive Scholars programming, so that even more students achieve their dreams of college attendance and completion.

Beyond providing financial assistance, the Scholars Program offers a suite of services to help ensure students succeed when they get to college. These



Art Baldadian

students go on to obtain advanced degrees.

Much of the program's success can be attributed to the leadership and unwavering commitment of Scholars Advisory Committee (SAC) member Art Baldadian.

When Baldadian retired from Goldman Sachs in 2001, he was looking for a way to give back to the community. Inspired by his friend Morris Williams, founder of the Philadelphia Scholars Program, he decided to get involved. "What intrigued me about the Scholars Program was the way it harnesses the hard work and effort of our students

**On June 20th, support the creation of the Art Baldadian Scholarship at Educate Philly. See page 4.**

services have been invaluable in helping ensure students graduate. In fact, many

*Continued on page 2 (see Baldadian)*

## PECO & GSK Support STEM Professional Development

Thanks to generous grants from **PECO** and **GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)**, at least 90 Philadelphia educators will have the opportunity to enhance their teaching skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) through in-depth and engaging professional development programs delivered by the Ed Fund.

### **McKinney Center STEM Teaching Fellows**

This spring, ten elementary classroom teachers were selected as STEM Teaching Fellows to participate in a short-term, intensive teacher professional development program underwritten by



PECO. The Fellowship is designed to deepen STEM teaching competencies.

According to Dr. Nancy Peter, Director of the McKinney Center for STEM Education, equipping teachers with relevant and engaging content is a priority for this program. "Research shows that the most important factor in student learning is a highly effective classroom teacher, and a key element of teacher effectiveness is content area knowledge. Yet, a disproportionately high percentage of STEM teachers do not have an undergraduate major or minor in the subject they are teaching."

Educators will receive four weeks of STEM professional development training delivered in two-hour weekly sessions. Led by Dr. Peter and facilitated by experienced STEM teachers and experts, the sessions will cover topics aligned to the District's STEM Scope and Sequence, Common Core, and Next Generation Science Standards. Such topics may include "Simply Science" (a collection of low-cost STEM activities), "Teaching Stoichiometry," and "STEM Curriculum Design" as well as classroom activities such as "Meet the Mealworms" and "Polymers and Polygons".

*Continued on page 2  
(see Professional Development)*

# STEM Event Engages Students & Attracts Donor Support



More than 120 high school sophomores from the Ed Fund's College Access Program attended our STEM is Everywhere event aimed at igniting student interest in high growth STEM careers. The students were introduced to STEM professionals and exposed to interactive experiences in STEM education and career pathways. The event also celebrated the diversity in STEM industries as well as showcased to youth participants that STEM is a viable option for further exploration in college and career.

Ed Fund board member Don DiLoreto of Wells Fargo presented a check supporting the College Access Program at the event.

## Professional Development: Continued from page 1

Utilizing knowledge and skills gained throughout the program, the Fellows will complete a capstone project by designing an engaging STEM lesson plan to implement in their classroom. At a culminating event, the Fellows will share their capstone projects and their experiences with the program.

To nurture a community of practice, the Ed Fund will also host a networking event for the Fellows later in the year. There, they will have an opportunity to share how they have applied the content and skills they learned from the program in their classrooms and how their participation has impacted their students' progress and interest in STEM.

## Got STEM? Conference



In May, the Ed Fund will also host a highly interactive full day of professional development for 80 middle and high school STEM teachers, made possible by a grant from GSK.

Kicking off the event will be Pedro Rivera, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Education and Dr. William Hite, Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia and corporate leaders from GSK. Breakout sessions and presentations by STEM influencers will focus on STEM content as well as diverse, practical, and effective STEM teaching strategies. Participants will also receive a special tour of the GSK facility, continuing professional development (Act 48) credits, access to ongoing STEM teaching resources and a one-year subscription to The School Collective, the Ed Fund's online teacher network. The School Collective allows teachers to plan collaboratively, streamline lesson planning, and enhance their observations and insights.



Nancy Peter, Director of the McKinney Center for STEM Education, talking with the STEM Teaching Fellows.

According to Ed Fund President and CEO, Farah Jimenez, "Since its inception, the Ed Fund has worked with the School District of Philadelphia, as well as corporate, civic, nonprofit, and university partners to inform the continuous professional development of teachers. Given the dominance of STEM in today's workforce, over the past ten years, we are thrilled to partner with GSK, PECO and the School District on these two initiatives to strengthen the capacity of schools and teachers to improve STEM literacy and animate student interest in high-growth STEM careers."

## Baldadian: Continued from page 1

by providing the final push they need to obtain a college education and become contributing members of society," he says.

According to Farah Jimenez, President and CEO of the Philadelphia Education Fund, Baldadian who served as chair of the SAC for seven years and continues to serve as a member, has been a driving force for the program. "Art has worked tirelessly to raise dollars and increase awareness of the ways the Scholars Program benefits students," she says. "He also has a wonderful connection with the young people we serve and is always willing to speak with students to better understand their hardships, their successes and what they are proud of. The energy and consistency he brings to the Ed Fund is incomparable."

Kim Stephens, Vice President of Programs at the Ed Fund, credits Baldadian with bolstering the Scholars Program's retention services. "Art had a keen desire to ensure that our students didn't just get into college but that they succeeded in college. He was pivotal in helping to develop our student success framework that now includes campus visits, skill-building workshops, events, as well as mentoring," she says.

"The incredible potential of our Scholars is inspirational. They have gone on to become leaders in business, politics, and academia," says Baldadian, "That's why I'm passionate about encouraging others to support the program. What I want people to know is that by donating to the Scholars Program and helping students to access an education, they are not only making a meaningful difference in the lives of those students, they are making a lasting impact on their families and communities."





**FARAH JIMENEZ**

## President's Message

It's an exciting time at the Ed Fund. As you will read in these pages, this spring, we are unveiling a new website, a new office, a new strategic vision, and a new Gala luncheon. All of these enhancements are designed to further strengthen our ability to achieve our mission, which remains unchanged: driving exceptional outcomes for all students, by developing great teachers and building paths to college and career success.

For more than 32 years, our unbridled commitment to achieving that mission has made a difference in the lives of thousands of Philadelphia students. Their stories, two of which are included in this newsletter,

are what compel us to continue to seek new and innovative strategies for improving educational outcomes in Philadelphia.

These success stories are also inspiring many to join our effort to unlock the potential of even more students in very creative ways. We have been so gratified by the individuals and organizations who have reached out and offered to lend their unique talents and resources to help us move the needle on high school graduation, support the success of first-generation college goers, and deepen the work of STEM education in the region.

### *We want to give a special shout out to:*

- **The Garfield Group**, who celebrated PEF at its new office opening, designed and launched a holiday season social media campaign to raise awareness and support for our efforts and hosted a daylong event to give our College Access Program students insights and advice about careers in advertising and marketing.
- **Brand Llama**, who sponsored a contest to raise awareness of and provide financial support to educational non-profits including the Ed Fund.
- **LAME-O Records** and their bands: Slaughter Beach, Dog; Three Man Cannon; and EIGHT, who donated proceeds from a benefit concert at Boot and Saddle in South Philadelphia to support the Ed Fund.

If you're interested in building awareness of our efforts or using your talents in other ways to support our students, email me at [fjimenez@philaedfund.org](mailto:fjimenez@philaedfund.org) and let me know what you have in mind.

This year, our city came out in full force for our world champion Eagles. Let's do the same for our students who will be the champions of Philadelphia's future.

*Farah Jimenez*  
President and CEO



Students from our College Access Program gain firsthand knowledge about careers in marketing and advertising through a daylong event hosted by the Garfield Group.

## WE'VE MOVED!



### The Philadelphia Education Fund has a new home - in Old City.

Our new contemporary space in the Cast Iron Building, at 718 Arch Street, includes two co-working rooms, a large collaborative workspace, an open floor plan and several private offices. If you're looking for co-working space, come join us. For more information, contact Nikele at [njones@philaedfund.org](mailto:njones@philaedfund.org).

Our new headquarters also features a large welcoming meeting space and open kitchen perfect for hosting large gatherings like our monthly Education First Compact and Philadelphia STEM Ecosystem, as well as student-centered events for our Philadelphia Scholars and College Access Program students.

*Open House*  
Tuesday, June 5th  
6-8pm  
718 Arch Street, Suite 700N  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
rsvp: [rrucci@philaedfund.org](mailto:rrucci@philaedfund.org)

# The EDDYs is now – Educate Philly!

Ed Fund Celebrates 32nd Anniversary  
with Gala Luncheon on June 20th

Join us for



MASTER CLASS

— ★ —

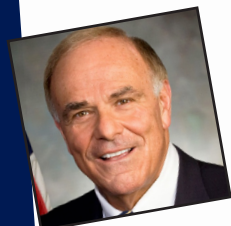
## Civics 101: A Mayor's Role in Public Education

*Featuring*

**JAMES KENNEY**  
Mayor of Philadelphia



**EDWARD RENDELL**  
Former Governor of Pennsylvania and  
Former Mayor of Philadelphia



**JOHN STREET**  
Former Mayor of Philadelphia



**MODERATED BY FARAH JIMENEZ**  
President and CEO,  
Philadelphia Education Fund

It's been the talk of the town for the past 15 years. What is the role of a mayor in public education?

This Spring, the Philadelphia Education Fund will host one sitting and two former mayors in a dialogue on this very topic as part of its 32nd Anniversary Gala Luncheon, entitled Educate Philly.

Honorary Event Co-Chairs Governor Tom Wolf, School District of Philadelphia Superintendent Dr. William Hite, and President of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, Jerry Jordan will join former Governor and Mayor Edward Rendell, former Mayor John Street, and Mayor James Kenney in a discussion moderated by Farah Jimenez, the Philadelphia Education Fund's President and CEO.

Sure to be a sell-out event, Educate Philly is scheduled for June 20, 2018 from 11:30am to 1:30pm at the Union League. Like the EDDYs, PEF's recently retired annual gala, Educate Philly aims to teach, nourish and inspire attendees. It is also an opportunity to recognize two outstanding College Access Program students with the Philadelphia Education Fund's Rising Star Award.

This coveted award is bestowed upon a student who demonstrates academic excellence, school leadership and community involvement. Students engage in a competitive application and review process led by PEF's College Access Coordinators and volunteer members of the PEF's Philadelphia Scholars Advisory Committee.

This year's honorees, Jasir Arms and Gavin Boston, represent the best of the College Access Program's best. Their accomplishments and their award, including a \$500 scholarship, will be presented at Educate Philly.

In special tribute to the long-time Chair of PEF's Philadelphia Scholars Advisory Committee, proceeds from Educate Philly will seed the formation of the Art Baldadian Philadelphia Scholars Scholarship. *(See cover story on Art)*

For more information on attending and sponsoring Educate Philly,  
visit [www.philaedfund.org/gala](http://www.philaedfund.org/gala) or  
contact Allison Kelsey at [akelsey@philaedfund.org](mailto:akelsey@philaedfund.org).

## RISING STARS

# Jasir Arms & Gavin Boston TO BE HONORED

If you were to pick just one word that embodies this year's Rising Star awardees it would be resilience. Both Jasir Arms and Gavin Boston have overcome considerable challenges and gone on to excel as students and leaders.

**Jasir Arms**, a senior at Kensington Creative and Performing Arts High School, has maintained a 3.6 Grade Point Average (GPA), is captain of his varsity football team and served as class president.



Jasir Arms

While his achievements are impressive, the road to success has been far from smooth for Jasir. In middle school, he, his single parent mother and younger brother were homeless for an extended period. Jasir vividly remembers the discomfort he felt and the stress his

mother endured during that time. But rather than succumb to his circumstances, Jasir was motivated by them to obtain the education he needs to attain financial security.

Jasir credits the Ed Fund's College Access Program (CAP) with exposing him to a variety of opportunities to advance his education, including dual enrollment, college preparation courses and college selection. Last year he was the only junior in his school that applied, was accepted, and enrolled in two classes through the dual enrollment program with the Community College of Philadelphia. He successfully completed both classes and earned college credits for each.

"I am so appreciative of CAP," he says. "I have spent so much time in my CAP Coordinator, Nisser Jimenez-Figueroa's office, filling out college applications, financial aid forms and applying for scholarships. She really kept me on top of everything I needed to do to get to the next level. I'm particularly grateful that I was able to participate in several college visits. If it wasn't for CAP, I probably wouldn't have gone on any."

This fall, Jasir, already a budding entrepreneur who designs and sells T-shirts and other clothing, plans to attend Howard University or Morehouse College where he will major in Business.

**Gavin Boston**, a senior at Roxborough High School in Northwest Philadelphia, is a standout student-athlete. An integral part of the fabric of his school, he serves as a student ambassador, representative of the Visual Arts Academy, and varsity soccer team captain. A subtle yet influential leader, Gavin is described by his teachers as dependable, resilient and confident, and admired by his coach as a hardworking, reliable young man who bears responsibility for his team.



Gavin Boston

According to his CAP Coordinator, Christina Holiday, Gavin, who grew up with a young single mother, faced many obstacles as a student. "Rather than let poverty, his father's incarceration, or his family's frequent moves deter him from achieving his goals he viewed his circumstances as the fuel that ignites his determination to succeed," she says.

As a CAP participant, Gavin engaged in one-on-one advising to identify the best college fit, participated in enhanced college visits that enabled him to envision life as a college freshman, and gained first-hand knowledge of what it takes to work at a tech start up through a career worksite visit. Gavin also credits CAP with helping him to complete the daunting tasks and deadlines associated with college entry.

"CAP has opened up so many doors for me," he says. "Not only did they help me get into college, they provided networking opportunities that will benefit my future. For example, I participated in an all day workshop with the marketing firm, Garfield Group, where I made business contacts and received an internship offer."

Determined to be the first in his family to graduate from college, Gavin will attend Penn State University in Fall 2018. There, he'll major in business/sports management and build on his lifelong passion for soccer and his drive for financial self-sufficiency.



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**The Ed Fund is moving  
the needle in education.**

***But, we want to do more.***

Your gift will help ensure that ALL students receive the resources they need to achieve college and career success.

An investment in the Philadelphia Education Fund is an investment in Philadelphia's future.