Ed Fund Celebrates 20 Years of Helping Children Excel

The Philadelphia Education Fund marked a milestone anniversary this fall, ringing in two decades of accomplishments as the major advocate for quality public education in the Philadelphia area. On November 2, 2005, the Ed Fund hosted hundreds of guests at the 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Inaugural "Eddy" Awards at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

"The Ed Fund has much to celebrate this year. We have helped thousands of college graduates become highly qualified teachers in the District; we have convened businesses, community groups, universities and schools to improve education; we have awarded millions in 'last dollar' scholarships; and we have provided college advising to countless Philadelphia students," said Helen Cunningham, Chair of the Philadelphia Education Fund’s Board of Directors.

The first-ever "Eddy" Awards for excellence in education were bestowed in four categories. The Star Alumnus Eddy Award, reserved for a successful alumnus/a of the Philadelphia public schools, was awarded to Stanley C. Tuttleman, a graduate of Overbrook High School. Mr. Tuttleman is the former chairman of the board of Mast Industries and a noted philanthropist.

The Star Commitment to Education Eddy Award, which was presented by GlaxoSmithKline, honored Natalie S. Allen. Ms. Allen led the Philadelphia Academies, Inc. and the Private Industry Council. The Community for Camden City, NJ Public Schools received the Star Community Commitment to Education Eddy Award for its work in creating a small, high performing high school in Camden. The Ed Fund presented the Rising Star Eddy Award to Stephen Burton, a recent graduate of West Philadelphia High School. A freshman at Millersville University, Stephen is a participant in the College Access and Philadelphia Scholars programs.

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

STUDENT TEACHER PIPELINE - REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS - MIDDLE GRADES MATTER - RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
Anniversary Celebration Draws Prestigious Crowd

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In November, the Philadelphia Education Fund celebrated 20 years as champions of quality public school education. It has taken many dedicated individuals working together over the years to generate the success of our organization.

Why is the Ed Fund so important? We represent an informed voice lending guidance and perspective to schools, so that they will be successful. We provide continuity and a stabilizing force amidst a sea of change in school personnel and policies. We are an independent, expert resource to which the community turns for information and perspective in educational issues. As advocates for quality public education, we affect educational policy and practice. And we recognize the importance of addressing educational issues on a regional level.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Ed Fundamentals, our new organizational newsletter through which we will bring you the stories of how we work to improve public education for all children in the Philadelphia region regardless of their economic background. Please also look for our new Community Learning Briefs, which are a part of our continued commitment to creating well-informed educational advocates in our community.

Thank you for believing in Philadelphia's children, and thank you for supporting the Philadelphia Education Fund. Here’s to the next 20 years of success!

Carol S. Fixman, Executive Director

COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM - PHILADELPHIA SCHOLARS PROGRAM - EDUCATION FIRST COMPACT - GEAR UP
The Ed Fund is grateful to all of the individuals, businesses, foundations and government agencies who supported its programs in 2005. The Ed Fund also recognizes the following organizations with whom we contracted to carry forth our mission to champion public education: CORE Philly, the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition, IBM, Johns Hopkins University, Lancaster School District, the National Writing Project, Philadelphia Youth Network, the School District of Philadelphia and the Southeast Delco School District.

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Student Teacher Celebration Sings

The Ed Fund hosted hundreds of Philadelphia’s newly appointed student teachers at a welcome celebration on February 9, 2006. The event included a performance by the Girard Academic Music School Choir. The Student Teacher Pipeline Project is a partnership between the Ed Fund and the School District of Philadelphia designed to increase the number of pre-service teachers who serve in the District and to provide them with such positive experiences that they choose to apply to teach as fully certified teachers.

Small Schools Civic Engagement Project Moves Forward

Hundreds of students, parents, teachers, business owners and residents have been attending a series of community meetings in Kensington and West Philadelphia this year to discuss the design and planning of new small high schools. The meetings were part of the Ed Fund’s Small Schools Community Engagement Project, conducted in partnership with Concordia, LLC. The project aims at creating innovative small high schools and developing local community leadership to collaborate with the School District of Philadelphia throughout school design and construction.
Scholars Alumnus Earns Doctorate

CONGRATULATIONS IRVIN T. CLARK, III, a Philadelphia Scholars’ alumnus, who received his Doctor of Education with a concentration in Community College Leadership from Morgan State University. As a student attending Germantown High School in the early 1990s, Irvin remembers how the idea of going to college didn't even cross his mind until he became part of the Ed Fund’s College Access Program in his junior year. He went on to receive his B.A. in Social Relations in 1998 and his M.S. in Adult and Continuing Education in 2001 from Cheyney University.

"The financial and personal support from the Philadelphia Scholars program throughout my college years was critical to my success both as a student and as an individual," says Irvin. He is now the Assistant Dean of Students at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem, PA, and is giving back by helping other students achieve their educational goals.

Calling All Philadelphia Scholars Alumni!
If you are a Scholars alum, or know someone who is, we want to hear from you. We are updating our database. Let us know your address, phone and email. Tell us when you graduated college, your profession and any important achievements. Contact Jeanette Aaron at jaaron@philaedfund.org or 215-665-1400 ext. 3327.

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Upcoming Events

THE ANNUAL MIDDLE GRADES MATTER CONFERENCE will be held on May 25 and 26, 2006 at the Hilton City Avenue. The theme is, “Promising Practices: Keeping 6th Grade Students on Track for Graduation,” and will focus on strategies to reduce the effects of the "Big Four" factors that can lead to high school failure. K-8 conversion schools that took part in mini-grants designed to target one of the factors--poor attendance, poor behavior, or failure in math or literacy--will be presenting their findings. Scheduled speakers are: Alfred Tatum, Bill McBride and Sheryl Feinstein. Event is by invitation only. For more information contact Paul Adorno, padorno@philaedfund.org.

THE CELEBRATION OF SCHOLARS will be held this June 2006. The event will honor Philadelphia public high school students who have graduated from college with help from a Last Dollar Scholarship. For more information, contact Jeanette Aaron, jaaron@philaedfund.org.

THE 2006 EDDY AWARDS will be presented in November 2006. Building on the success of the 2005 Eddy Awards, the Ed Fund this year is seeking nominations from throughout the education and business community. To obtain a nomination form, please e-mail Jenifer Trachtman, jtrachtman@philaedfund.org.

Ed Fund Updates

Sign up to receive email updates from the Ed Fund, including Community Learning Briefs, at: www.philaedfund.org.

Do you know of others who might like to receive Ed Fundamentals? Contact edfundamentals@philaedfund.org to be added to our mail list.