



# ED FUNDAMENTALS

## NEWS

SPRING 2008

A Newsletter from the Philadelphia Education Fund

[www.philaedfund.org](http://www.philaedfund.org)

## Ed Fund Awarded \$500,000 Toyota Grant

### Grant Supports New Urban Teacher Residency Program

The Philadelphia Education Fund recently received a three-year, \$500,000 planning grant from the Toyota USA Foundation to launch an Urban Teacher Residency Program designed to attract and prepare Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) industry professionals to teach math and science in high-need Philadelphia public schools. This innovative alternative teaching certification program grew out of the Philadelphia Math and Science Coalition that the Ed Fund convened in 2005. The Coalition of corporations, universities, organizations and the School District is working to improve math and science teaching and learning and to encourage and develop more highly qualified math and science teachers for grades 6-12 in Philadelphia's public schools.

Philadelphia is similar to other cities across the nation where weak middle grades and high school student performance on state assessment tests speaks to the need for highly qualified math and science teachers. "This grant will offer a way for STEM professionals to enter our city's public schools as teachers when the need for their expertise is especially urgent," notes Carol Fixman, Executive Director of the Ed Fund.

"The School District of Philadelphia will benefit from the residents' knowledge of these highly sought-after subjects," adds Shawn Crowder, the School District's Human Resources Senior Vice President, "while residents will benefit from the in-classroom guidance of the program's supportive mentor teachers, as well as its innovative and focused university curriculum. And ultimately, our youth will be the primary beneficiaries."

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*Teacher residencies combine masters' level content classes with on-the-job application in a co-teaching arrangement*



**Score 4 Scholarships Tournament Wins Big!** Check out the action on Page 3

The Philadelphia Education Fund has partnered with the newly-formed Graduate! Philadelphia initiative to assist Philadelphia citizens, those already holding some college credits, in achieving their dream of completing a college degree. This partnership aligns with the Ed Fund's mission while also supporting Mayor Nutter's goal of doubling the number of Philadelphians with college degrees.

The Ed Fund serves as the operating partner joining two managing partners, The Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board and the United Way of Southeastern PA. The initiative is funded by grants from the City of Philadelphia and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Nine partner colleges play an important role: Community College of Philadelphia, Chestnut Hill College, Holy Family University, Neumann College, Peirce College, Philadelphia University, Rutgers University-Camden, Thomas Edison State College and Widener University.

The Ed Fund's College Access Center at the Gallery at Market East serves as the first Graduate! Philadelphia site.



*Hadass Sheffer and Thomasennia Amos*

"We were always open to adults," says Thomasennia Amos, Director of the College Access Program. "And this initiative encourages more people to give college another try." Amos, in partnership with Hadass Sheffer, Graduate! Philadelphia's executive director, supervises Graduate! Philadelphia staff Kimberly Stephens, Director of Higher Ed Partnerships and Services, and Monique Gilchrist, Program Manager.

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Spring always brings a sense of encouragement. This is especially true in Philadelphia now. With the appointment of Arlene Ackerman to lead our schools; with the approval of Heidi Ramirez to the now fully-enrolled School Reform Commission, with a new Chief Education Officer for the City of Philadelphia, Lori Shorr, who brings her own impressive experience to the job, with a new mayor who has a clear focus on education and the need for more equitable and increased funding, and with a governor who believes in the power of good schools, the opportunities are limitless. And in the region, new, strong school superintendents have been named who will be excellent partners to Dr. Ackerman. Norristown, Lower Merion, Radnor, Lancaster and Chester Upland are fine examples.

The Ed Fund continues to work with school, city, and state leaders to improve teaching and learning in public schools, so that our students can succeed and achieve college and career success. Your role in this effort is essential. Having strong community support draws attention to the needs that remain and contributes to new solutions.

We thank you for your support of the Ed Fund and ask that you renew this support. Together we can make a difference in our children's lives. And by creating first-class schools, we can continue to create a world-class Philadelphia region.

Sincerely,



*Carol S. Fixman, Executive Director*



# Philadelphia Scholars S4S Brings Fun, Raises Funds

Governor Edward G. Rendell welcomed teams to the Philadelphia Scholars *Score 4 Scholarships* Basketball Tournament held on Saturday, April 12th. Sixteen teams competed in the University of Pennsylvania's historic Palestra to raise funds to support the Ed Fund's Last Dollar Scholarship program, the Philadelphia Scholars.

"We were excited to see the civic and business community come together to support this important cause," notes event chair and Philadelphia Scholars Advisory Committee Member, Jermaine Bromell. "The event raised \$54,000 for student scholarships. As a Philadelphia Scholars alum, I am really looking forward to this event becoming a staple in the community so other public school kids have a chance to go to college."



*S4S Tournament in Action*

The Osteria Post-Tourney Party and Awards Ceremony on Monday, April 14th was also a huge success with over fifty-five supportive family and friends gathering to celebrate with the winners and enjoy Osteria's delicious hors d'oeuvres. Special thanks to Osteria owners, Marc Vetri, Jeff Michaud, and Jeff Benjamin for the fabulous food and ambiance.

Many thanks to our energetic chair, Jermaine Bromell, our great Event Committee, and Scholars Advisory Committee Members for their work in helping us to attract team sponsors. Numerous sponsors were also critical to the event's success: Penn Athletics, Vetri Ristorante/Osteria, 76ers, Stand Tall with Sheed Foundation, Comcast, Fox Rothschild LLP, Pepper Hamilton LLP, State Farm Mutual Insurance Company, Dechert LLP, Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, PREIT/Bellevue Associates, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, VisionQuest and The Flour Pot. The



*Back row: Marc Vetri, David Brown, Develle Turner, Jermaine Bromell, Governor Edward G. Rendell, Mark Silow, Rick Smotkin  
Front row: Joseph Bonfig, Helen Cunningham, Edward Quinn, Diane Melley, Carol Fixman*

five winning teams were: Vetri Ristorante/Osteria; PREIT/Bellevue Associates; Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church; Comcast Corporation; and VisionQuest.

Since 1990, the Ed Fund's Philadelphia Scholars Program has awarded nearly \$6.1 million in Last Dollar Scholarships to more than 1,500 graduates from the Philadelphia School District. Last Dollar Scholarships bridge the gap between a student's financial aid package and the actual cost of attending college. Last year, the Scholars Program was offered an anonymous \$1 Million Challenge gift. For more information, please contact Carole Boughter at 215-665-1400 ext. 3329 or [cboughter@philaedfund.org](mailto:cboughter@philaedfund.org).



*Guests at the Post-Tourney party at Osteria enjoy the raffle prizes.*

*For more photos and event coverage of the S4S Tournament, visit [www.philaedfund.org/S4S](http://www.philaedfund.org/S4S)*

## Scholars Advisory Committee

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*Carol Fixman accepts education award from West Chester Dean Joseph Malak*

## Ed Fund Receives 3E Distinguished Educator Award

The Ed Fund received the 3E Institute of West Chester University's Distinguished Educator 500 Dean's Award at its 6th Annual 3E Leadership in Business and Education Forum on April 17th at the Union League. The award cited the Ed Fund as "one of the most distinguished leaders of Philadelphia's education reform agenda today, and especially as a major force toward improving the quality of public education for underserved youth."

Carol Fixman, the Ed Fund's Executive Director, accepted the award. She noted that the Ed Fund "will continue to be a voice for equitable educational opportunities for all our children and a source of support and action for quality teaching and schools." The 3E Institute (Institute for Education Excellence and Entrepreneurship) supports entrepreneurial educators who collaborate with colleagues, parents, business and the community. Each year, the Institute funds innovative projects submitted by teachers in the Philadelphia area as a way of encouraging creative teaching.

## Ed Fund Makes Public Education Funding a Priority

In November 2007, an independent study was released exposing the extent to which Pennsylvania schools are underfunded. Since then, the Ed Fund, through the leadership of Brian Armstead, Director of Civic Engagement, has been actively supporting the Pennsylvania School Funding Campaign.

The Ed Fund has: participated in the SE Pennsylvania grassroots planning group; visited state legislators to advocate for increased school funding; encouraged advocacy amongst education stakeholders; updated members of the Education First Compact; attended the Pennsylvania House Education Committee public hearings; created a school funding webpage; and participated on the education task force for the First Suburbs Organization.

In addition, Carol Fixman moderated a panel of experts for a discussion: *Funding Public Education* in February. The discussion was part of the White Dog Café's Table Talk series that highlights issues of importance to Philadelphians. Panelists discussed issues surrounding adequate and equitable funding including what it really costs to educate our students, what a fair funding system looks like, and

### ***Pennsylvania School Funding Campaign*** *Successful Schools...Successful Children...Successful Communities*

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***THIS SPRING, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL VOTE ON WHETHER TO ENACT A SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA THAT INCLUDES \$2.6 BILLION IN ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDS IN SIX YEARS.***

how we can make it happen. Joining Fixman were: Brian Armstead, Baruch Kintisch of the Education Law Center, Janis Risch of Good Schools Pennsylvania, Shelly Yanoff of the Public Citizens for Children and Youth, and Michael Churchill of the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia.

Visit [www.paschoolfunding.org](http://www.paschoolfunding.org) for information about the school funding campaign and to sign on as a supporter.

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# Teacher Residency Comes to Philadelphia

“Teacher Residence’ is one groundbreaking approach to moving STEM professionals through the teacher preparation pipeline,” notes Anissa Listak, Executive Director of the national Urban Teacher Residency Institute. Based on the teaching model of the medical profession, urban teacher residencies combine masters’ level content classes with immediate on-the-job application in a co-teaching arrangement. The Ed Fund program will emulate and adapt the Urban Teacher Residency Institute’s successful models in Boston, Denver, and Chicago.



A \$500,000 grant from Toyota launches the Ed Fund’s Teacher Residency Program

The urban teacher resident works along side an experienced mentor teacher for one full year, and as a result, residents later enter their own classrooms with the experience and competencies that come from intense, sustained classroom experience. In addition to the yearlong co-teaching component, urban teacher residency programs offer curricula that are geared specifically toward preparing career changers to teach successfully in urban classrooms.

A hallmark of other similar successful programs across the country is a not-for-profit organization that works flexibly and collaboratively with a partner university and a school district to create and implement this unique model. The Ed Fund will be that organization in Philadelphia. Teacher residents will be asked to commit to teach in the School District of Philadelphia for at least three years in return for this extensive and intensive training. Those completing the program will earn both a master’s degree and teacher certification.



Rasheeda Williams

## Philly Teacher Makes A Difference Meet Rasheeda Williams

The Ed Fund’s new Teacher Residency Program builds on the organization’s history of preparing teachers for successful careers in the School District of Philadelphia. Through programs such as Transition to Teaching, Transition Support Tutors, Literacy Interns, and Student Teacher Pipeline to the Future, the Ed Fund has always worked to increase the number of talented teachers in Philadelphia—teachers like Rasheeda Williams, a cooperating teacher participating in the Pipeline Initiative.

When you talk with Rasheeda, you understand quickly why she is in the right profession. “Teaching”, she says, “provides an opportunity to positively impact students’ lives.”

A veteran middle school teacher at Baldi Middle School, Rasheeda participates in the Student Teacher Pipeline Program run in a partnership of the Ed Fund and the School District of Philadelphia. Ms. Williams says that being a cooperating teacher gives her a “chance to model certain strategies...and also the chance to bounce ideas between myself and the student teacher.” She adds that she knows many teachers, like herself, who are always willing to do that “extra” bit for their students. “I do whatever I can. Whatever strategies that work to help my students. I love to teach!”

The Student Teacher Pipeline to the Future program is just one example of the ongoing work that the Ed Fund performs to support teaching and learning in Philadelphia’s schools.



# ED FUNDAMENTALS

## Mark Your Calendar

**CELEBRATION OF SCHOLARS** will be held on June 18, 2008 and will honor Philadelphia public high school students who have graduated from college with help from a Philadelphia Scholars Last Dollar Scholarship. For more information about attending the event, please contact Carole Boughter at [cboughter@philaedfund.org](mailto:cboughter@philaedfund.org) or 215-665-1400 x3329.



**THE 2008 EDDY AWARDS** will be held in November 2008. To obtain a sponsorship form or to be added to our mailing list, contact Jenifer Trachtman at [jtrachtman@philaedfund.org](mailto:jtrachtman@philaedfund.org) or 215-665-1400x3309. Visit [www.philaedfund.org/eddys](http://www.philaedfund.org/eddys)

## Support the Ed Fund

**THE PHILADELPHIA EDUCATION FUND** relies on the generous support of organizations and individuals to maintain its focus on improving the quality of public education in the Philadelphia region.

Please visit [www.philaedfund.org/donor](http://www.philaedfund.org/donor) to make a secure online gift today. For more information, please contact Jenifer Trachtman at (215) 665-1400 x3309 or [jtrachtman@philaedfund.org](mailto:jtrachtman@philaedfund.org).

All gifts made to the Ed Fund by June 30, 2008 will be acknowledged in the Honor Roll section of our fall 2008 issue of *Ed Fundamentals*. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Philadelphia Education Fund and of our region's children!

### Philadelphia Education Fund

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