

Early Warning Indicators Project

Recently, a *New York Times* article by Nicholas D. Kristof stated that, "Education reform could be the most potent antipoverty program in the country... Unless we get more students through high school and into college, no bank bailout or stimulus package will be enough to preserve America's global leadership in the long run."

The Ed Fund's Early Warning Indicators Project, now in its third year and based on research by Ed Fund Senior Research Associate Liza Herzog and Robert Balfanz of Johns Hopkins University, is helping youth to stay on track to graduation right here in Philadelphia.



A City Year volunteer (right) with school staff during a team meeting at Feltonville School for the Arts and Sciences.

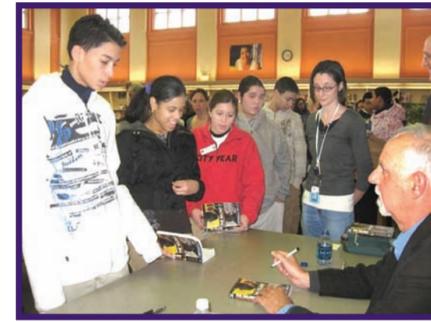
The research found that struggling middle grades students send powerful distress signals as early as 6th grade. The study isolated *Four Early Warning Indicators*: attending school less than 80% of the time; a failing grade in math; a failing grade in English; a poor behavior grade. Middle grades students who exhibit any one of the Early Warning Indicators have between 10% and 20% chance of high school graduation.

The Early Warning Indicators Project is putting this research into practice in two Philadelphia schools. The Project provides interventions for students who demonstrate Early Warning Indicators and provides site-based assistance, in collaboration with school staff and parents, to

implement the interventions. The Ed Fund is working in partnership with City Year Greater Philadelphia and Communities in Schools of Philadelphia at one of the pilot schools.

At this full model pilot, the data show that students served through the Project have higher attendance than the previous year and of the 250 students who were "off-track" to graduation, 54% have shown improvement in their original risk area and two thirds have improved English and math grades.

The partnership among the Ed Fund, Johns Hopkins, the School District of Philadelphia, City Year, and Communities in Schools hopes to expand in Philadelphia and is being replicated over the next several years in six other large urban districts nationally, with the Ed Fund providing technical assistance, through a program called Diplomas Now. For more information contact: Allie Mulvihill, 215-665-1400 x3310 or amulvihill@philaedfund.org or visit www.philaedfund.org



Author and journalist Steve Lopez (right) signs copies of his book, *the Soloist*, for students from Feltonville School for the Arts and Sciences and a City Year volunteer at a Free Library of Philadelphia event.

More New Faces at the Ed Fund

We have introduced many new staff members throughout this newsletter and are happy to announce two additional new staff who have joined our Civic Engagement team.



Linda Ralph Kern is our new Program Associate for Civic Engagement. Linda has extensive experience engaging diverse communities for system reform and a strong background in education. Linda's position is newly created to build upon the work the Ed Fund has led, in partnership with the School District of Philadelphia, to create a Blueprint for Secondary Education.



Eric Braxton joined the Ed Fund last summer as the Small Schools Project Coordinator. Eric helped found the Philadelphia Student Union and served as its director for ten years. Eric is active in several community organizations in West Philadelphia, and serves on several boards including the Funders Collaborative on Youth Organizing and Youth Empowerment Services.



ED FUNDAMENTALS

Public Education Needs Your Support- Now More than Ever!

Our nation's current financial difficulty affects every person and every organization in some way. While the Ed Fund is no different, we are fortunate to have the ongoing and strong support from many generous funders and donors. And, we are pleased to have garnered several significant and multi-year grants in 2008 that put us in a position of strength as we feel the strains of the troubled economy.

Please know that we use all gifts to support programs that help students and their families whose lives may be severely impacted by the financial crisis. We encourage you to keep public education at the top of your giving list. The Philadelphia Education Fund's mission - to improve the quality of public education for all youth - is now more important than ever. To make a contribution, please contact Jenifer Trachtman at 215-665-1400, ext. 3309 or visit www.philaedfund.org/donor to make a secure online contribution. Thank you in advance for your support.

Philadelphia Education Fund
Champions for Quality Public Education
7 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Suite 700
Philadelphia, PA 19103
T# (215) 665-1400
www.philaedfund.org

Board of Directors

Diane Melley, Chair
Fritz Bittenbender
Patricia Coulter
Helen Cunningham
Vikram Dewan
Eric Flicker
Barbara J. Gohn
Lynne Z. Gold-Bikin
Phoebe Haddon
James T. Harris
J. William Jones
Jerry Jordan
William Marrazzo
Natalye Paquin
Delbert S. Payne
Susan Rock

Carol S. Fixman, Executive Director
Jenifer Trachtman, Director of Development



2008 EDDY Award Winner Dr. Guion S. Bluford, Jr. shakes hands with students from the Bluford Elementary School.

The EDDYS

The EDDYS 2008 was a great success! Visit www.philaedfund.org/eddys to view photographs and see media coverage. And, look out for more information about our 2009 EDDYS coming soon.

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PHILADELPHIA, PA
PERMIT NO. 6776



ED FUNDAMENTALS

NEWS

SPRING 2009

A Newsletter from the Philadelphia Education Fund

www.philaedfund.org

Ed Fund, PCCY, Fleisher To Lead "Arts for Children and Youth" Initiative

"Imagine a city and region that commit to the arts as a key tool in transforming communities and keeping youth engaged and successful in and out of school...giving students the opportunity to participate in a thriving economy in which the skills of imagination and innovation are valued."



Teacher Toni O'Karma with students from George Washington Elementary School and Superintendent Arlene Ackerman at the April 7th Press Conference.

So stated the winning proposal submitted by the Philadelphia Education Fund, Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY), and the Fleisher Art Memorial to a request for proposals born out of the concern of civic leaders in Philadelphia, the funding community and the School District of Philadelphia about the lack of equity in arts programming provided to our city's youth.



Mayor Michael Nutter, Superintendent Arlene Ackerman at the April 7th Press Conference.

Thanks to funding from the William Penn Foundation, the Wallace Foundation, the Lenfest Foundation, Lincoln Financial, the Nutter Inaugural Committee, and others, the Ed Fund and its partners will ensure that the arts are integrated into the education of children across the Philadelphia Region. According to Ed Fund Executive Director Carol Fixman, "We are pleased to be partnering with PCCY and the Fleisher Art Memorial to ensure access to the arts for ALL children, both in school and out of school, and we are pleased to help shape an arts initiative that is a critical investment in our children and in our regional economy."

For over a year, committees representing arts and funding organizations in the city, and led by OMG Center for Collaborative Learning, considered ways to enhance arts learning opportunities for children. A Steering Committee commissioned a needs assessment, led the selection process for the leadership organization, and sought initial funding to support the project's implementation. A press conference announcing the Initiative was held in City Hall on April 7, 2009. It featured Mayor Michael Nutter and his Chief Education Officer Lori Shorr; City of Philadelphia Director of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy Gary Steuer; Superintendent Arlene Ackerman; the Executive Directors of the Ed Fund, PCCY, and Fleisher: Carol Fixman, Shelly Yanoff and Matthew Braun; William Penn Foundation Board Member Jo-Anna Moore; Director of Arts at the Wallace Foundation Daniel Windham; along with students and teachers.



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



PTR Director Diana Campbell (left) with PTR Recruiter Liz Palmer.



Philadelphia Teacher Residency Off and Running and Recruiting

In July 2009, the first cohort of math residents through the Philadelphia Teacher Residency (PTR) Program will begin work and study. This is earlier than expected, and all thanks to the \$500,000 three-year grant that the Ed Fund received from the Toyota Foundation last year, the steadfast work of Program Director Diana Campbell and Recruiter Liz Palmer, and our wonderful partnering organizations: the School District of Philadelphia, the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education (Penn GSE), and the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers.

Residency Program, the Academy of Urban School Leadership in Chicago, and the Boettcher Fellowship program in Denver.

Based somewhat on the medical residency model, a cohort of residents train with mentor teachers for a full school year while simultaneously pursuing teaching certification and a 13-month specially designed Master degree program at Penn GSE. In return, residents are required to commit to three years of teaching in Philadelphia high-need schools beyond the residency training year.

The School District of Philadelphia urgently needs math and science teachers and the Teacher Residency model, which has a 90-95% teacher retention rate in other urban areas, directly addresses this need.

If you or other STEM professionals are interested in transitioning into a teaching career, please contact Liz Palmer at 215-665-1400 ext 3335 or visit www.philaedfund.org/ptr.

PTR is designed to prepare Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) professionals to teach math and science in the District's middle and high schools. PTR replicates the Boston Teacher

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Wonderful things are happening at the Ed Fund. We are giving leadership to a citywide call to create more qualified math and science teachers. We are further developing our Early Warning Indicators Project in Philadelphia and across the nation, while monitoring how this work helps youth stay on track to high school graduation. And, along with partners PCCY and the Fleisher Art Memorial, we are taking the leadership of the regional Arts for Children and Youth Initiative.

All of this is happening alongside our ongoing work in civic engagement, our College Access Program and Philadelphia Scholars Program, and much more. We are grateful to you for your continued generous giving, your shoulder-to-shoulder work with us on the ground, and the encouragement you lend us every day.

We need your help as we continue. If one of the articles in this newsletter speaks especially to you and you have an interest in learning more or finding a way to help, please call or let us know by making a contribution. I am encouraged by the sense of urgency building across our city to improve our schools, by the hope this all gives to helping our students achieve their dreams, and by your continuing support of children in the Philadelphia region. Thank you for your generosity.

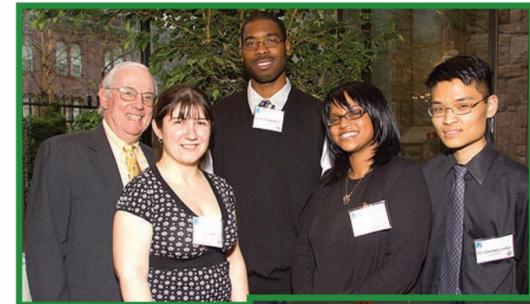
Sincerely,

Carol S. Fixman, Executive Director

Score 4 Scholarships Basketball Tournament

The Palestra was once more the sight of an exciting day of basketball on April 18th, but at this tournament the scoring was done not by our nation's top college basketball players but by the participants in the Philadelphia Education Fund's third annual Score 4 Scholarships Basketball Tournament. The tournament was established in 2007 to support the Ed Fund's Philadelphia Scholars Program.

It was a great day, filled with the usual suspense that basketball offers in a double-elimination NCAA bracket style tournament with 160 players participating on 16 teams. Tournament founder and Philadelphia Scholar Alumnus Jermaine Bromell



Top: A. Morris Williams, Jr. with Philadelphia Scholars and alumni: Elsa Gorre, Kyle Lawrence, Louise Hall and Yu-Chung Chau at Osteria.

Right: Volunteer referees with new Ed Fund staffer Karen Stokes.



noted, "the Score 4 Scholarships Tournament offers a unique opportunity for the region's business and civic communities to come together and support remarkable

Scholars Advisory Committee

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Morris Williams, Jr., Chair | Kenneth Gamble |
| Floyd W. Alston | Barbara Gohn |
| Arthur S. Baldadian | Carole Haas Gravagno |
| Suzanne Sheehan Becker | Ann Evans Guise |
| Mark S. Blaskey | Ted Kirsch |
| Jermaine Bromell | John B. Neff |
| Richard Corcoran | Delbert S. Payne |
| Helen Cunningham | David Pincus |
| Christopher DelGiorno | Pedro A. Ramos |
| Kimberly J. Evans | Evelyn & Mercer Redcross |
| Carol S. Fixman | Newbold Strong |



New Ed Fund staffer Erin James, Executive Director Carol Fixman, Scholars Advisory Committee Member Richard Corcoran, Philadelphia Scholar Darius Humphries, Score 4 Scholarships Chair Jermaine Bromell, new Ed Fund Staffer Vaneeda Days, and Event volunteer Nancy Denis.

students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college." He added, "As one of the first beneficiaries of a Last Dollar Scholarship, I know what a difference this can make in students' lives."

At the Post-Tourney Party and Awards Ceremony the following Monday, the winning teams were applauded at Osteria Restaurant, thanks to the generosity of Osteria owners and tournament participants, Marc Vetri, Jeff Michaud, and Jeff Benjamin. According to Marc Vetri, who recently established The Vetri Foundation for Children, "The next generation is the measure of our success, so what better way to insure that success than through education."

Many people worked to make the event an enormous success. Kudos go to Jermaine Bromell, the event chair, along with the event committee: John Dugan, Morgan Stanley; Kimberly J. Evans, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital; Mark Silow, Fox Rothschild LLP; Marc Vetri, Vetri Ristorante/Osteria; and Troy H. Wilson, Wilson & Wilson LLP.



The games in action.

Scholars Tournament Scores A Slam Dunk

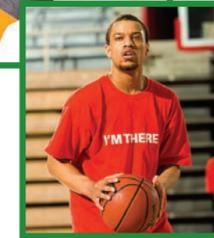
Special thanks go out to John Dugan and the tournament referees—this is the third year that John and his buddies have contributed their time and skills to ensuring that the games are "called" in a professional manner.

We also thank the Scholars Advisory Committee members who work tirelessly year-round to secure



Top: Christopher Zafiriou with Pedro Ramos, Kimberly Evans and Karen Stokes at Osteria.

Right: The Fox Rothschild vs. State Farm game.



Top: Jermaine Bromell, Marc Vetri, and Carol Fixman.

Bottom: The Scholars Team included Ed Fund staffers Jade Roane, Johann Liljengren, and Eugene Tinsley.



Numerous sponsors were also critical to the tournament's success: Penn Athletics; The Vetri Foundation for Children; Thomas Jefferson University Hospital; Comcast; Pepper Hamilton LLP; Fox Rothschild LLP; The Sporting Club at the Bellevue; State Farm Insurance Companies; The Star Group and the 76ers.

funds for Last Dollar Scholarships. A. Morris Williams, Jr., Chair of the Scholars Advisory Committee notes that, "The Basketball Tournament is one way in which the Philadelphia Scholars Program raises much needed funds that give Philadelphia kids the opportunity to earn a college degree. This is a great way to give back and we all need to give more right now."

Since 1990, the Ed Fund's Philadelphia Scholars Program has awarded over \$8 million in Last Dollar Scholarships to more than 1,600 graduates from the Philadelphia School District. For more information, please contact Karen Stokes at 215-665-1400 ext. 3329 or kstokes@philaedfund.org.

Save the Date

Philadelphia Scholars Celebration of Scholars

Wednesday June 10th
5:30 to 7:00 PM
The Comcast Center

Look for your invitation in the mail shortly.

\$1 Million Challenge Grant Met!

We are pleased to announce that the Philadelphia Education Fund has met its million dollar challenge for the Philadelphia Scholars. We have raised \$2 million from you, our loyal supporters. These dollars are being matched by \$1 million from an anonymous donor. Thank you for your continuing support which has made the completion of the campaign possible.