



# ED FUNDAMENTALS

## NEWS

WINTER 2007

A Newsletter from the Philadelphia Education Fund

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

## 2007 EDDY AWARDS

### The Stars of Public Education Shine

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, hundreds of education advocates gathered at the Philadelphia Education Fund's Eddy Awards to celebrate the 2007 Stars of Public Education. Guests mixed and mingled with each other and with award winners, sharing with delight in the evening's focus on public education.

Governor Edward G. Rendell kicked off the event as the recipient of the Star Leadership for Public Education Eddy, presented by Ed Fund Board Chair Helen Cunningham. Governor Rendell, who has increased public education funding by \$1.8 billion since 2003, spoke about how education fuels our state's economy. "People say there is no silver bullet for poverty and violence, but education is the antidote," he said.



*Top: Governor Edward G. Rendell and Helen Cunningham  
Bottom: Dawn Staley, Bill Jones and Azsherae Gary*

Ed Fund Board Member Bill Jones, dressed in red, pulled out his Temple cap to present the Star Alumna Eddy Award to Dawn Staley. The Temple Women's Basketball Head Coach noted that she was "a product and a strong advocate of public school education." A graduate of Dobbins Tech High School, Staley has captured Olympic Gold and All-Star WNBA titles along with starting the Dawn Staley Foundation.

The crowd was sparked by remarks from Helen Gym, an organizer for Parents United for Public Education/Asian Americans United, who was presented the Star Commitment to Education Eddy by School Reform Commissioner Sandra Dungee Glenn. Gym stressed that "we will pay for our investment or lack of investment in our children." IBM was presented with the Star Business Commitment to Education Eddy by Ed Fund Board Member Fritz Bittenbender. Edward Quinn, VP of IBM Global Business Services, accepted the award.

The Star Community Commitment to Education Eddy was awarded to Congreso de Latinos Unidos, by Ed Fund Board Member Vik Dewan. Nicholas Torres, Executive Director of Congreso, accepted the award on behalf of the youth who have achieved success through their programs. Finally, Azsherae Gary, a participant in the Ed Fund's College Access and Philadelphia Scholars programs, received the Rising Star Eddy from Philadelphia Scholars Advisory Committee Chair A. Morris Williams, Jr. Guests also enjoyed the music of Ramona Hunter, Kenny Pitt and Zahmu Sankofa of THREE, all alumni of the Philadelphia public schools.

*Annual Giving Information Enclosed!*



# 2007 EDDY AWARDS

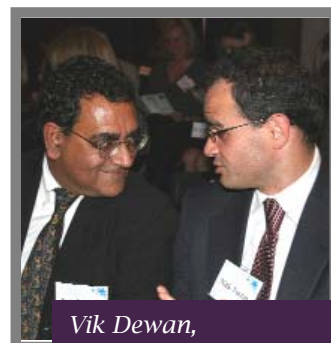
## Event Draws Impressive Crowd



Happy Fernandez, Carol S. Fixman, Tom Brady



Fritz Bittenbender, Edward Quinn



Vik Dewan, Nicholas Torres



Helen Gym, Sandra Dungee Glenn



A. Morris Williams, Jr., Melissa Grimm



Dan Castro, Heidi Ramirez, Kevin Dow



Sarah Martinez-Helfman, Natalye Paquin



Ramona Hunter, Kenny Pitt, Zahmu Sankofa of THREE

### Sounds of the Eddys 2007

“We have to fight for all children as if they were our own, as if tomorrow were yesterday, and with the understanding that doing so isn’t glamorous and won’t always garner headlines, but it is where the revolution begins.” -*Helen Gym*

“The Philadelphia public school system nurtured me, shaped and molded my young mind, and... propelled me into a world I never dreamed of experiencing.” -*Dawn Staley*

“By focusing on programs to ensure youth receive a quality education, Congress is striving to break the cycle of poverty present in our communities, beginning with our youth.” -*Nicholas Torres*

“Because of hardships that my family has endured, I am able to appreciate the significance of struggles and value a good education... the College Access Program influenced my desire to excel and to push myself beyond my own expectations.” -*Azsherae Gary*

The 2007 Eddys were sponsored by:



COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM - PHILADELPHIA SCHOLARS - EDUCATION FIRST COMPACT - REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

## Scholars Update

Philadelphia Scholars recently added three members to its Advisory Committee: **Mark S. Blaskey**, Partner, Pepper Hamilton LLP and Chair, Trusts and Estates Practice Group & Family Planning Group; **Kimberly J. Evans**, VP, Clinical & Support Services, Thomas Jefferson Hospital; and **Barbara Gohn**, retired Senior VP, Private Bank at Bank of America.

New members said they joined the committee out of a commitment to public education. They support Chair A. Morris Williams, Jr.'s pledge "to ensure that economics do not preclude qualified students from achieving their academic goals." The Scholars Program has raised nearly \$2 million towards its \$3 Million Challenge. Upcoming fundraisers include the April 12, 2008 Score 4 Scholars Basketball Tournament at The Palestra and on April 14<sup>th</sup> a silent auction and party at Marc Vetri's Osteria.

Philadelphia Scholars provides Last Dollar Scholarships to graduates of 22 neighborhood public high schools in conjunction with the Ed Fund's College Access Program. To donate to the Scholars Challenge or to register a team in the Score 4 Scholarships Tournament, contact Carole Boughter, Director, at 215-665-1400 x3329 or [cboughter@philaedfund.org](mailto:cboughter@philaedfund.org).

### Scholars Advisory Committee

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

## Celebration of Scholars Unites Community



*A. Morris Williams, Jr. and  
Shanee Garner*

In June, the Philadelphia Education Fund hosted its annual Celebration of Scholars event. More than 100 students and donors gathered to mark the landmark challenge to raise \$3 million for the Philadelphia Scholars Program by the end of 2008. The celebration was held at The Residences at Two Liberty Place.

Shanee M. Garner, a Philadelphia Scholar who graduated in May from Chestnut Hill College, was the keynote speaker. Garner credited the Philadelphia Scholars program with helping her achieve her dreams. "My many achievements in the last four years, give me both great pride and ambition for what is to follow," said Garner.

Shanee is a 2003 graduate of West Philadelphia High School, served by the West Philadelphia College Access Center. Other speakers included Ed Fund Chair Helen Cunningham, Philadelphia Scholars Advisory Committee Chair A. Morris Williams, Jr., and former College Access Managing Coordinator Lai-Har Cheung.



*Scholars Summer Workshop*

Scholarships, students received program updates, undergraduate resources, and networking opportunities. The event included our first focus group, during which students were interviewed on their usage of online social networks. This information will be used to develop an online community of current and former Scholars.

Many thanks to Jermaine Bromell and to the National Sales Network for arranging ten volunteers to attend the event to share their college experiences and strategies for professional success with the student Scholars.

## Summer Workshop: On Track and Online

Seventy current Philadelphia Scholars, along with volunteer "mentors," participated in the Returning Student Workshop last summer. At this annual event for college upperclassmen receiving Last Dollar





# ED FUNDAMENTALS

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Thank you to everyone who supported the Philadelphia Education Fund during the 2007 Eddys. The stories of our award winners truly inspire us to continue our important work to improve the quality of public education for all Philadelphia students.

The Ed Fund is engaged in many initiatives that are transforming public education, including keeping children on track to graduation through targeted middle grades interventions; helping to improve math and science achievement through the Math & Science Coalition of businesses, universities, schools and organizations; engaging the community in the creation of small high schools; providing college-going assistance; and conducting research that fuels all of our work.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Philadelphia Education Fund. And, thank you for considering an end of year contribution. With your financial support, we will continue to connect partners and pilot new ideas that create opportunities for children.

Sincerely,

*Carol S. Fixman, Executive Director*

---

### Philadelphia Education Fund

*Champions for Quality Public Education*  
7 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Suite 700  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
T# (215) 665-1400  
[www.philaedfund.org](http://www.philaedfund.org)

### Board of Directors

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

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

*Annual Giving Information Enclosed!*