

FUNDAMENTALS

ATTEND EDUCATE PHILLY AND HELP US RAISE \$170,000 BEFORE JUNE 30!

This year's Master Class is Psych 101: Student Mental Health and COVID

EDUCATE PHILLY, our annual luncheon fundraiser, is back and in-person! The event benefits the critical college access, STEM, and scholarship programs you can read about in the pages of this newsletter. Please join us to meet outstanding students, learn from our panel, celebrate our Philadelphia Scholars champion, and network – all supporting the most experienced college access program in Philadelphia and the only one with its own scholarship.

Psych 101: Student Mental Health and COVID Panel

COVID is now a fact of life, and we're beginning to appreciate its effect on students of all ages. We'll hear from Richard Gordon, Principal of Paul Robeson High School and 2020-21 National Association of Secondary School Principals' National Principal of the Year; Katherine Dahlsgaard, Founder of the Anxiety Behaviors Clinic at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; and current college students about COVID's effect on student mental health.



Student Awards

We will recognize students of achievement: Rising Stars Aslyn Anaya Planas of Olney Charter High School and Rayane Hamadouche of Horace Furness High School, and Shining Star Lana Resuello of Gwynedd Mercy University.



Celebration of Art Baldadian

And, we will honor Art Baldadian, the driving force of the Philadelphia Scholars program and Last Dollar Scholarship.



Thank You to Our Early Sponsors

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**THURSDAY,
JUNE 16, 2022**
11:30 – Noon Networking
Noon – 2:00 Luncheon and Program

THE UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA

Tickets and Information:
philaedfund.org/EducatePhilly
* Remote option also available

President and CEO Message



Dear Friends of PEF,

It was two years ago when the world shut down and, with it, our schools. At the same time that we worried about our students' futures, we were concerned with our own. As an entity dependent on the generosity of others, could we adapt to a new world of virtual fundraisers and programming and remote work?

While the road was challenging, it was also one paved with unprecedented opportunities for reflection. Our team took the time to revisit our offerings and renew our unwavering commitment to college and postsecondary education as a pathway out of poverty for Philadelphia public school students.

That focus and commitment has enabled PEF to realize some long-standing "stretch" goals that I'm excited for you to learn about. One highlight has been the expansion of PEF's College Access Program to a SIXTH school, Frankford High School. Also this year, we've grown our capacity to drive impact with the hiring of a Managing Coordinator and an experienced Data and Evaluations Manager. When it comes to sending students to college, we've increased the Philadelphia Scholars scholarship outlay by 20%. And, our STEM career offerings continue to attract corporate partnerships.

In March 2020, the skies were gray and the atmosphere unsettled. Today, we're serving more students and serving them better thanks to the support and generosity of people like you and individuals like Art Baldadian, former Philadelphia Scholars Advisory Committee chair, whom we will honor at PEF's Benefit Luncheon, Educate Philly.

Read on to learn more on how your dollars are benefitting Philadelphia's public school students. **Join us on June 16th, as we celebrate Art, the achievements of our students, and all of you who are invested in transforming lives through education.**

Farah Jimenez

LAST DOLLAR SCHOLARSHIP INCREASES TO \$600K

Scholars Graduates Spotlight

Leverages Nearly \$300K Additional Grants to Students

Thanks to donations to the Scholars Program from readers like you and skillful endowment management by volunteers like Art Baldadian (see Gala article, p. 1), PEF will award \$600,000 in college scholarships this academic year, up \$50,000 from 2022.

The Last Dollar Scholarship is available to students who participated in our College Access Program who have financial need above the aid their college or university provides. Bridging that gap between total cost and financial aid makes college possible for 110-150 students, known as Philadelphia Scholars, each year.

Additionally, Scholars are eligible for four private scholarships and, if they attend school in Pennsylvania and receive state grants, up to \$3,500 from PHEAA's PATH program. All told, PEF's college students will receive nearly \$900,000 in grants this 2022-23 academic year.



Wenting Dong, Temple Class of '22

Wenting Dong, Temple Class of '22

Wenting's natural sweetness and upbeat attitude belies the many challenges she faced while in college, including food and housing insecurity and unsupportive family relationships. Nevertheless, she graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering in the top of her class. The day after graduation, Wenting moved out west to work for Micron, a semiconductor company in Idaho. She'll be back at Temple in the fall to start her master's degree.

It was hard-going for his parents raising three sons in a refugee camp, and Cedrick credits their courage and hard work for making him the person he is today. He arrived in the US as a teen and worked with his PEF CAP advisors to catch up and get into college. He excelled academically and became President of Millersville's NAACP chapter. Recognizing his talents, Chubb has hired Cedrick to work in its cybersecurity division.



Wenting Dong with her former CAP Coordinator Madeline Birkner

PEF'S LATINA COUNSELORS COMBAT STUDENTS' IMPOSTER SYNDROME

"This college is wrong for me."

"I don't belong."

"I'm not as smart or talented as everyone else here."

Imposter syndrome, or perceived fraudulence, involves persistent feelings of self-doubt and personal incompetence despite an individual's accomplishments. Women and people of color can struggle with these feelings

in attending predominantly colleges or through making post-secondary plans.

In February, PEF's College Access Counselors Adriana Ongay, Christina Holiday, and Natalie Almiron presented strategies they recommend

to their Latina students for overcoming imposter syndrome to the US Hispanic Leadership Institute. Among their recommendations are:

- Cultivate a core support group to remind you "You earned this. You got here on your own merit. You've been working hard."
- Follow positive members of the Latinx community on social media to see that you're not alone and learn how others surmount self-doubt.
- Stop comparing yourself to others. Why do you think you're so behind or not capable? Seek help with anxiety and prioritize mental wellness.

Adriana, Christina, and Natalie have much more to share on this topic on our blog philaedfund.org/news.



J&J STUDENT MENTORSHIP YEAR CONCLUDES WITH INNOVATION LAB VISITS

October 2021 marked the start of a new STEM collaboration with Johnson & Johnson (J&J) called Bridge to Employment (BTE). Since then, BTE has broadened the 10th grade students' knowledge of health care career paths through workshops, panels, and site visits while providing mentoring groups. For the last activity this year, the mentoring groups (two J&J employees and five to seven students) visited JLABS at the Pennovation Center in Philadelphia.

After a welcome from Mike Reilly, Vice President, Global Head of Supply Chain Delivery Technology Products, students toured JLAB and other tech and health care tenants. The day concluded with an ice cream social where they networked with J&J professionals and Pennovation Center entrepreneurs and see one of Ghost Robotics' autonomous 4-leg robots in action.

Besides exposing them to science careers, BTE is a time-tested program that improves students' time management, study, teamwork, and communication skills and increases participation in STEM extracurriculars and challenging coursework.



NEWS BRIEFS

Businesses – Earn Tax Credits by Giving to PEF

PEF is an approved Educational Improvement Organization (EIO) for 2022 under Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program. Qualified businesses can earn tax credits equal to 75%-90% of their contributions to approved EIOs. If you would like to donate to PEF through your business's Educational Improvement Tax Credit, please contact Alison Foster at afoster@philaedfund.org. It's a win-win for your business and for Philadelphia's low-income high school students.

Spark Philadelphia Update

It's hard to believe that Spark is coming to a close at the end of May! Spark Mentorships are ongoing at Lea Community School, Boys Latin Charter School, and Middle Years Alternative School. Overall, we have 64 mentors and 55 mentees participating in the program this spring. Our groups spent time getting to know each other and working on social emotional learning skills like relationship skills and responsible decision making. They are now engaged in creating their projects, which they will present to the entire group during the last week of Spark. Some of our topics this year include pitching a brand new NFL team and researching how plants affect mood. We're excited to see the final product of everyone's hard work!



Spark students of Middle Years Alternative School.

Two Teaching Fellows Programs Offered by McKinney Center for STEM Education

This spring, PEF's McKinney Center has two professional development series for teachers and informal educators. PECO STEM Teaching Fellows are K-8 public and charter school teachers of all content areas, and the new Johnson Matthey STEM Teaching Fellows are out-of-school time and informal educators of 6th-12th grade students. Both groups complete a capstone project, an engaging STEM lesson plan to implement with their learners. Participants receive Act 48 credits, a \$300 stipend, resource materials, and guidance from STEM professionals.

1,200 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM \$60K GSK STEM EQUITY GRANT

Our long partnership with GSK continues through 2022 with a \$60,000 STEM Equity grant. The funds will support Explore STEM Philly classroom presentations at PEF's six College Access Program (CAP) high schools. In addition, PEF will host a one-day "STEM is Everywhere" conference for 150 students and STEM professionals.

Explore STEM Philly brings STEM professionals into classrooms to introduce students to STEM-related careers. Students learn about the paths they followed and what courses are important to take in high school and in college. This year's Explore STEM Philly program is expected to impact 1,200 students from neighborhoods across the city.

Studies show that career interventions for Black and Latinx youth in high school increase STEM interest in college. About 80% of students participating in the College Access Program identify as Black and/or Latinx, and 58% identify as female. Students have the support of the CAP Coordinators to help define their interests and support their college and career plans after graduating high school.

Villanova Engineering Recognizes STEM Manager Britney Davis

STEM Workforce Development Manager Britney Davis was recognized with the Gary A. Gabriele Memorial Award from Villanova's College of Engineering. Britney graduated in 2015 with a degree in Chemical Engineering and worked in the aerospace



industry for several years before turning toward STEM education, first as STEAM Director for Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada. She credits the Girl Scouts with developing her interest in engineering.

The Gabriele Award recognizes an alumnus who has promoted equity in the field, and Britney reflects that, as a Black woman engineer, she was one of a few non-white

men in her earlier workplaces. Working to introduce students like she was to science careers is just one of her projects at PEF (see p. 3 "J&J Mentors"), and she's an active volunteer advisor to recent Villanova Engineering alumni.

\$5 MILLION GRANT MAKING COLLEGE DREAMS A REALITY AT FRANKFORD HIGH

PEF Adds 6th High School to College Access Program



Beginning with this 2022-23 academic year, another 500 Philadelphia high school students will have the opportunity to participate in our College Access Program (CAP), thanks to the award of a \$5 million TRIO Talent Search grant from the US Department of Education. This grant renews our CAP funding at five Philadelphia high schools and enables us to add a sixth — Frankford High School.

Through CAP, students are supported with one-on-one advising, college readiness workshops, recruiter sessions, college visits and signature events throughout their high school years. After graduation, CAP students

are eligible to apply for the Philadelphia Scholars Last Dollar Scholarship that closes the gap between financial aid and the actual cost of college attendance.

At an announcement on December 1, 2021 in the 107 year-old school's auditorium, 10th and 11th graders learned about the college counseling available this fall and were encouraged by the graduation stories of Frankford alums PA Representative Jason Dawkins and Tia Watson, Regional Director of the Office of US Senator Bob Casey. Also speaking were PA State Senator Christine Tartaglione; Dr. William Hite, Philadelphia School District Superintendent; Dr. Michael Calderone, Frankford High School Principal; and PEF President and CEO, Farah Jimenez.



L-R: Farah Jimenez, Principal Michael Calderone, Frankford students, PEF College Access Program Director Brian DeFoney.

COLLEGE ACCESS TEAM EXPANDS

Adding another school meant more than hiring new counselors. We're focused on supporting our team with senior leaders and on using data better to improve program delivery.



Ahmad Williams



Liza Rangel

Frankford High School's new College Access Program (CAP) staff are Ahmad Williams, CAP Coordinator, and Liza Rangel, Lead CAP Coordinator.

Christina Holiday was promoted to Managing Coordinator and will guide all eight coordinators with her experience at KCAPA, Olney, and Roxborough High Schools.

Mike Noel joined PEF in the new position of Data and Evaluations Manager.



Mike Noel

Starting later this summer, Catherine Lucey-Warner is a PHENND AmeriCorps Persistence Fellow who will conduct research into why students don't complete high school and college so we can better support them.

For information and tickets, visit: philaedfund.org/EducatePhilly

Don't miss out on this exciting in-person event with networking, student awards, and a timely discussion on COVID and student mental health.

THE UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA

Noon – 2:00 Luncheon and Program

11:30 – Noon Networking

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022

EDUCATE PHILLY

Join us for Lunch!



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