



Daniel K. Fitzpatrick and Pamela A. Crawley from Citizens Bank (left) with Lisa J. Nutter and Joseph A. Frick from Independence Blue Cross (right) at the Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies Designation Event.

Academies Receives Ford Designation and Names CEO Ambassadors

April 21st was an historic day for Philadelphia Academies, Inc. The organization received a significant designation from Ford Motor Company and also launched an exciting new partnership program for community leaders. Both were honored with an event at the Pyramid Club in Center City.

Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services designated the Academies as a Ford PAS Next Generation Learning Community at the Leadership Level. We were chosen to provide guidance and leadership and to support other districts around the country.



The day also marked the launch of the CEO Ambassadors for 21st Century Skills, a program of ad-hoc executive-level partners to advocate the Academy programs and provide support around curriculum, policy, and investment. CEO Daniel K. Fitzpatrick of Citizens Bank said that he and his ten fellow Ambassadors are “committed to building a pipeline of home-grown talent.”

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is often my privilege to speak at our students' graduation ceremonies. It's an honor and a responsibility that I don't take lightly and I admit that at first, I struggle to say something profound. I struggle to find just the right words – words that the graduates can draw on later when they are looking for inspiration. It's an awesome responsibility. As a result, I often work and rework my remarks worrying about every word and concerned that what I'm saying is not enough. What do you say when you are pushing a young person out into an uncertain adult world? Then, I take comfort in the question that our founders used to guide every decision and interaction with our first class of students. They simply asked, "What would we say or do if these were our kids?" Suddenly, the words flow effortlessly from my pen and off my lips.

First, I tell them to take root and strength in their own **power** – the power to shape and define their futures, the power to make good choices, the power to be active agents in their own lives. Second, I tell them that they have to be-

lieve that they can overcome any challenge and that is what will help them **persist** – get up and do it again even after being knocked down. Third, I say that **patience** is a form of visioning – that if you can understand in a time of *instant everything* that time and energy invested now will pay off in the future, then you can imagine yourself in the future. Fourth, I tell them to find a path and make choices that they are at **peace** with – tap into your passion and let that be your guide.



Power. Persistence.
Patience. Peace.

These characteristics are at the core of their resilience and these are the same messages that we deliver to our students every day throughout their high school experience. Did they

hear what we were saying, did they get the message? As extra assurance, I'm ever so grateful when they have invited me to speak so that I can say the words one last time before they leave us. Why do I feel this way? Because they *are* our kids.

Lisa J. Nutter, *President*

A Visit from a True “Top Chef”



French chef Matthieu Durand (far right) demonstrates cooking techniques to students at Swenson's Hotel, Restaurant, Travel and Tourism Academy.

On May 7, 2008, Chef Matthieu Durand, from Aix-en-Provence, France, visited Swenson Arts and Technology High School, offering the students a truly international experience. Fifty students in the Hotel, Restaurant, Travel, and Tourism Academy were excited to take part in a morning-long master cooking class. Together they prepared sea bass, which one of the students deboned. Mr. Durand was visiting Philadelphia as part of a delegation from Philadelphia's sister city of Aix-en-Provence, hosted by the International Visitors Council of Philadelphia. **PA**

A PHILANTHROPIC SPRING BREAK

This year's annual Spring Break fundraising event was held Saturday, April 26, at the Hilton Philadelphia on City Line Avenue. The live auction and elegant dinner drew partners, friends, and supporters to celebrate the Academies and the students whose bright futures they inspired.

Tom Woodward, President, Bank of America Pennsylvania, was presented with the Stand and Deliver Award. A corporate partner since 2004, Bank of America significantly increased its support of the Academies in 2007.

Accepting the Pay It Forward scholarship award was Darius Humphries, a graduate of the Business Academy at Strawberry Mansion High School. Ann Cohen received the Academy Award, for best performance by a Board Member. She has served on the Automotive Academy Board for 10 years. **PA**



Lisa J. Nutter (left) and Thomas C. Woodward (right), President of Bank of America Pennsylvania, presents the "Pay It Forward" Award to Darius Humphries (center).



Friends and supporters came together for a night of lively dinner and dancing as well as the exciting auction, which raised some \$200K for the Academies.

Nicole Miller Makes Prom Dreams Come True

Eleven girls from Samuel Fels High School in Northeast Philadelphia got the red carpet treatment from Nicole Miller at the Bellevue in Center City on April 30. The girls were dressed from head to toe in preparation for their prom on May 22. In addition

to dresses from Nicole Miller, their styling included hair and makeup from students at Empire Beauty School in Center City, jewelry from Petra by Renie, and alterations by fashion design majors from Drexel University. **PA**

DESIGN DIRECTOR: Michael Nix
WRITING: Alison Rooney Communications

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Brian M. Sierra
PHOTOS: Dwight Carter (pg. 2) and Daniel Burke (pgs. 1, 2, and 3)

230 SOUTH BROAD STREET SUITE 1300 / PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

Philadelphia
ACADEMIES INC.

EXPERIENCE IN THE EXTREME: EIE

Over three days in mid-April, 380 juniors from 26 Academies received some very valuable practice: interviewing with real business professionals at the Extreme Interview Expo (EIE). But they didn't do it cold; this event, held for the third year at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, was the culmination of a series of winter workshops in which students polished their interview skills.

Some 140 business "interviewers" from across the region gave generously of their time to do practice interviews with students. Every student received a written evaluation to review in a post-interview session with

our staff. Students also had a chance to meet with representatives from 15 Pennsylvania colleges, the Philadelphia Youth Network, and AmeriCorps. A scavenger hunt and a drawing rounded out each day, with the lucky winner taking home an iPod Shuffle.

On one day of the Expo, boys met with representatives from Boyd's of Philadelphia on "dressing for success" on a budget and received vouchers for Boyd's shirts and ties. Meanwhile the girls met with a team of fashion consultants from Nicole Miller. The two girls who served as models were lucky enough to keep the outfits they wore. PA