



MAKING THE GRADE

IT'S ALL ABOUT OUR STUDENTS!

HIGHLIGHTS & UPCOMING EVENTS



Dear Friends,

Now embarking on our 21st year of excellence in college access programming for low income youth, Chester County Futures is uniquely positioned in the region as the only after-school program offering a full continuum of supports spanning middle school through college. Your support has made the difference in our ability to emerge as a leader in academic enrichment, experiential learning and community engagement.

For the second year in a row, Chester County Futures was chosen by SAP America and Pyxera Global to participate in the SAP Social Sabbatical. Three consultants spent six weeks working closely with the Chester County Futures Program Department, led by Student Programs Manager, Marjorie Dawkins.

The chosen project focused on updating the 12th grade curriculum. The SAP Social Sabbatical team of consultants and staff members worked collaboratively to build new lesson plans designed to fully develop the skills students need to succeed as they transition on campus, while prepping them to be active participants in the

Steps 4 Success college bridge program. Our ultimate goal is to increase the four-year college graduation rate for our students from 45% to 65% in four years.

That's not the only excitement at Chester County Futures. As you will read throughout our newsletter, Coatesville students attended a site visit at Wawa in March. Students learned how industrial engineering, food science, and diversity and inclusion work together to build a local powerhouse.

Middle school students designed and built their own "City of the Future" at our latest Academic Enrichment Camp. With help from the Demutis Group and Mayor Speck, both of Phoenixville, 7th and 8th grade students preserved green space and made their "cities" environmentally sustainable.

Additionally, I was proud to represent Chester County Futures at The Global Engagement Forum hosted by Pyxera Global in Washington D.C. Non-profit organizations, Fortune 500 Executive leaders and renowned collegiate experts from around the world were invited to address three of the United Nations' Solvable Problems: Treatable Diseases, Post-Harvest Loss and Youth Skills Gaps. You will be pleased to know that Chester County Futures was the only domestic non-profit organization invited to present our approach to our work in the Youth Skills Gap Track of the forum.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Maria McDonald, Executive Director
mmcdonald@ccfutures.org

PHILADELPHIA BUSINESS JOURNAL

Chester County Futures was featured in the Philadelphia Business Journal on Friday, April 7, 2017!

<http://bit.ly/2nQcuev>

Save the Date

Salon Series with Political and Community Strategist, Alan Novak

Thursday April 27, 2017
The Desmond

Salon Series with Dr. Ria Hawkins, Pioneer of Mindful Leadership Training and Consulting - A Women's Wine Tasting

Wednesday, May 10, 2017
Galer's Estate Vineyard and Winery

17th Annual Golf Classic

Tuesday, June 6, 2017
Applebrook Golf Club

Wawa Site Visit

Thank you to Wawa Diversity and Inclusion Manager and Chester County Futures mentor Ronda Cavanagh for hosting a site visit for Coatesville 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students at Wawa in Media, PA.

Thirty-seven students arrived early in the morning at Wawa University for breakfast and an introduction to Wawa's corporate operations. Students then toured the Innovation and Design Center, which is now located in the former Franklin Mint Building. The industrial engineering department at Wawa showed students how much thought and time goes into designing a store, optimizing the customer experience, and optimizing the employees time in each store.

The highlight was a visit to the Test Kitchen. Students had the opportunity to sample three food items that are not yet

available in stores. New coffee, new hoagies, and new desserts kept students engaged and excited! Students asked great questions of the staff members in the Test Kitchen and staff members shared their professional and educational experiences with our students.

Students then met with the Manager of Store Design where they compared the functionality and design of the Wawa store in Coatesville compared to the newest store in Miami, FL.

This site visit gave our students great insight into how a corporate business operates daily. When students visit their local Wawa stores in their communities, they now understand how much work and planning goes into designing a store so that it is most convenient for the customer and the staff members.



Strikes for Futures Success

On Sunday, March 5, over 200 friends of Chester County Futures came out for a family-friendly afternoon of bowling and prizes.

Despite a quick power outage at the Downingtown Bowling Palace, friends had a chance to catch up, enjoy tons of bowling and food, and win raffle baskets and auction items! Some lucky winners took home prizes such as two VIP tickets to the Late Show with Seth Meyers, a weekend stay at a lovely Pocono house, and over 20 raffle baskets!

Bowlers also took home the coveted Bowling Pin Awards famously decorated by Chester County Futures students! Most Team Spirit went to Meridian Bank and Highest Team Score went to Cerner. "All's Spare in Love and War" won the best team name (Jim and Barbara Sterchele).

Thank you to our sponsors: Internet Essentials from Comcast (Title Sponsor), PJ Whelihan's, Wegmans, Benchmark Federal Credit Union, Magic Memories, US Army Recruiting, Fulton Bank, Ameriprise Financial, M&A Catalyst, and Frank and Cindy Cirone.

Because of the tremendous support for this event, you helped Chester County Futures raise over \$8,000. This will allow us to continue to provide essential programming to low-income, motivated students in our community!



College Acceptances

Chester County Futures seniors are receiving their college acceptance letters at record rates!

Here is where you can find Futures students next year:

Albright College
 Alvernia University
 Bloomsburg University
 Cabrini University
 California University of PA
 Delaware County Community College
 East Stroudsburg University
 Edinboro University
 Franklin & Marshall College
 Gannon University
 Gordon College
 Kutztown University
 Lehigh Carbon Community College
 Lincoln University
 Mansfield University
 Millersville University
 Penn State University
 St. Francis University
 Susquehanna University
 Temple University
 Thaddeus Steven College of Technology
 University of Delaware
 University of Pittsburgh
 Washington and Jefferson College
 West Chester University
 Widener University

Zyonna, a senior at Coatesville High School, has been a committed Futures student. She has placed her education and involvement



with Chester County Futures at the top of her list of priorities.

Please join us in congratulating Zyonna – **she will be attending Franklin & Marshall College in the fall under a full academic scholarship!**

Middle School Enrichment Camp - Designing a City of the Future



Phoenixville and Coatesville students joined forces in February 2017 in Phoenixville to construct their own "City of the Future." The camp topic was civil engineering and city planning with the goal of learning the steps to the engineering process.

Each student group designed and built two buildings from recycled materials. Each building incorporated at least one 'green' concept and had to serve a specific purpose in the community. Students were expected to collaborate with each other and communicate with professionals as they tackled their assignment. A highlight of the camp was a special visit from the Mayor of Phoenixville who assessed the students' city and provided feedback on all the buildings.

A special thanks to Manny Demutis of the Demutis Group, Mayor Speck of Phoenixville, Thecla Bene of WSFS Bank, Jeff Amerine of CZop/Specter, Inc., Vic Barr of VLBJR Architects, Inc., and Chester County Futures mentor Marisol Perez for sharing their time and expertise with our students.

Chester County's Children Inc. was also on-hand to present an award of \$2,000 to the students. The funds received from Chester County's Children allowed Chester County Futures to purchase the supplies and materials necessary to make this camp a success!

EITC UPDATE

Chester County Futures was honored to receive close to \$80,000 in EITC Funds from corporations in our area. These gifts will directly support student engagement in STEM-related activities throughout the school year. Futures receives significant financial support through EITC funding on an annual basis from local and regional corporate partners. The Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program provides tax credits to eligible businesses contributing to Educational Improvement Organizations such as Chester County Futures. Thank you to our EITC Contributors!

The upcoming EITC deadlines have been announced!
Returning Applicants deadline to apply is May 15; Initial Applicants July 3.



First Priority Bank

Fulton Bank



Chester County Futures Executive Director, Maria McDonald, was invited to attend the **Global Engagement Forum** hosted by Pyxera Global on April 4-6, 2017 in Washington, D.C. The goal was to "Solve the Solvable" – problems related to Global Health, Agriculture, and Economic Opportunity.

Maria served both as a presenter and a panelist on the topic of experiential learning and Youth Skills Gaps. Ms. McDonald addressed the life skills and resources that Chester County Futures provides to low-income students and how they are better prepared for professional success.

Being the only U.S.-based non-profit invited to represent the Youth Skills Gap Track, Chester County Futures was honored to be recognized for the lasting impact provided to our community.

Following the forum, Chester County Futures received the Faces of Philanthropy Award presented by the Philadelphia Business Journal in a ceremony on April 6, 2017. This award is a reflection of the deep and meaningful work Chester County Futures, SAP America, and Pyxera Global are accomplishing together.

New Board Member

Pam Koch



Pam Koch is a recently retired VP of Human Resources. She worked for the global insurance company XL Catlin for 30 years. As a strategic HR Business Partner supporting Global Insurance Operations, she enabled effective business strategy execution and risk management, advising on all aspects of HR - employee relations, performance management, succession planning, compensation, staffing plans, recruitment, and talent management. She's thrilled to join the CCF team and looks forward to using her years of experience to support the Board and CCF goals.

ABOUT US



Chester County Futures works with economically at-risk youth to give them the academic and life skills needed to succeed in school and in life. We support our students with academic enrichment, adult mentoring and scholarship support. We serve students in Coatesville Area, Kennett Consolidated, Oxford Area, and Phoenixville Area.