



TRADING SPACES ACAD's on the move to IDEA Public Charter School.

A GOOD 'IDEA': ACADEMY OF CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN FINDS NEW HOME

After almost a decade at the newly christened Francis L. Cardozo Education Campus, the Academy of Construction & Design is moving to its new home at IDEA Public Charter School in Northeast, Washington, D.C.

By **Arnesa A. Howell**

Continued on page 2

MAKING STRIDES: JOBS COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS



While raising awareness of workforce challenges and potential barriers to employment, the JOBS Coalition and its members have combined their resources and industry expertise to achieve the following results:

- Built the Bellevue Resource Center, a program facility serving the hard-to-reach, hard-to-employ, and returning ex-offender populations. The Center was completed on September 30, 2003.
- Guided the creation of the Construction & Design Academy at Cardozo, providing District students access, training, and preparation for careers in the construction industry and trades after graduation. The Academy officially opened in September 2005. □



A CLASS-Y AFFAIR The Academy of Construction & Design Class of 2015 with program supporters.

MEET THE FUTURE 2015 Awards Luncheon Honors Outstanding Academy Students, McMahon

Fighting to reach academic success amid family struggles. Aiming to transform lifelong dreams into realities. Searching for jobs in construction or money for college in hopes of building brighter futures after high school. These are the behind-the-scenes stories of the Academy of Construction & Design's latest graduates, who marked new beginnings at the 2015 Annual Meet the Future Luncheon.

By **Arnesa A. Howell**

“The Academy has mentally prepared me for the world ahead,” said graduate Taylor Herndon, who plans to attend community college before transferring to a four-year university to study media and communications. Herndon, the recipient of the Isiah Willis Humanitarian Award, praised the program for giving hope to those who choose an alternative to pursuing a college degree.

“Even though college is good, you don’t need college to be successful. You can always go into the construction business and be successful. It gives people a sense of hope,” she said.

On May 15, during its 9th annual luncheon, the D.C. Students Construction Trades Foundation lauded Herndon and her 14 classmates for their commitment to learning the skilled trades before moving forward to the next step in their lives: going off to college or joining the workforce.

“We recognize and celebrate what you’ve accomplished and recognize that this is a great personal commitment,” said Jim Davis, president and CEO of Davis Construction, and the chair of this year’s event. Standing before the Class of 2015 – the last to graduate from the Cardozo Education Campus – Davis acknowledged that the students are the driving force behind the program, which started in 2005 to reinvigorate vocational education in D.C. Public Schools. The Academy is relocating to IDEA Public Charter School in the fall.

“Graduation from this Academy is hard work,” said Davis, noting that leadership within the D.C. Students Construction Trades Foundation “corralled” the city’s political leaders, District school officials and construction industry leaders together for a common cause: promoting the importance of education in construction and design to enhance young people’s lives.

Continued on page 2

IDEA Move *Continued from page 1*

The Academy – which blends academics with career and technical education training in electricity, carpentry and other skilled trades – will start its 2015-2016 academic school year at IDEA in the fall. The partnership between IDEA and the D.C. Students Construction Trades Foundation – which launched the Academy at Cardozo in 2005 – is a step forward in rounding out IDEA’s CTE course offerings. The public charter school already has classes in architecture and computer-aided design.

While offering strong college and military career prep programs including Junior ROTC, IDEA is looking to bolster its curriculum in the area of career preparation. “Career preparation is really something that has fallen off,” said Justin Rydstrom, head of school at IDEA. He is hopeful the Academy will have continued success and expansion at IDEA, which is currently renovating space for Academy classrooms and training labs.

“It’ll be just a perfect marriage and really fill out the current architecture program where we have design but we’ll now have the build as well,” explained Rydstrom.

The move to IDEA comes after officials with D.C. Public Schools and the principal of Cardozo in April 2014 informed leadership within the D.C. Students Construction Trades Foundation of a demographic shift in the neighborhoods surrounding Cardozo, according to Carol Randolph, chief operations officer for the D.C. Students Construction Trades Foundation, and co-founder of the Academy of Construction & Design.

“They believed that these parents would not be interested in sending their children to a construction academy,” Randolph told *JOBS Coalition Pathways*. They suggested the program move to Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School, added Randolph, but that proposal didn’t gain traction.

JOBS Coalition Pathways contacted DCPS for comment, but they did not respond by press time.

Needing a home for the Academy, the Foundation set out to relocate its CTE program. An “ideal” fit was found at IDEA, where Randolph said the leadership was “enthusiastic about our program and the many other benefits we would be bringing to [the] school.”

Recognizing that college may not be for everyone right out of high school, the Academy will offer additional pathways for student success. Said Rydstrom: “It may even be to a student’s advantage to enter the workforce for three or four years, then decide to go to business school and open [his or her] own business as an electrician or plumber. And they may actually come out far ahead and with less debt than a college graduate of the same age.”

Continued on page 4



HEAD OF THE CLASS Grad Angely Garay (center) takes top honors for the Dreyfuss scholarship, presented by Miller & Long’s John McMahon (left) and IDI Group’s Norman Dreyfuss.



EYES ON THE PRIZE Deavin Judd (center) snaps up the first place Sigal Award, presented by GCS Inc.’s Michael Sigal (left) and Sigal’s Gerry Sigal.



ALL SMILES A beaming Mauri Williams (center) accepts the Janifer Outstanding Senior Award from DeBorja Janifer (far right) and ACAD Director Shelly Karriem.

MTF 2015 *Continued from page 1* Looking Back, Moving Forward

This year’s award ceremony honored the past, present and future of the Academy of Construction & Design. Two students brought home Norman Dreyfuss Scholarships, competitive awards given to promising graduates to help them realize their personal or professional aspirations after high school. The scholarships are named after Norman Dreyfuss, executive vice president and chief operating officer of IDI Group, and a D.C. Students Construction Trades Foundation Executive Council member. Since 2009, 16 Academy graduates have been awarded more than \$40,000 from the Dreyfuss Scholarship Fund.

This year’s top honor and a \$4,000 scholarship went to Angely Garay, who achieved a 3.4 GPA and ranked in the top 1 percent of her senior class. She has been accepted into Bennett College in North Carolina. “This means maybe it is possible to go off and start something new that I’m afraid of, but still I’m really excited,” said Garay, who hopes to study education and become an elementary school teacher. She also received a laptop as winner of the ACAD Alumni Scholars Award, presented to a student who has completed at least two years of the Academy pathway and is in good academic standing.

Meanwhile, second place Dreyfuss scholarship winner Damian Humphries received a \$3,000 award to help him pursue his college dream: attending the University of the District of Columbia



PREP SCHOOL (From left) Career Fluency Bootcamp Co-chair Emille Robinson gives kudos to Bright Futures Bootcamp winners Muhtari Juma and Damian Humphries.

in the fall. There, he’ll be studying plumbing and electrical engineering. “It’s a real honor,” he said shortly after accepting the scholarship.

A Legacy Continues

In memory of former carpentry instructor Marshall Janifer, who passed away in January 2014, one student received the inaugural Janifer Outstanding Senior Award. Winner Mauri Williams, who received a \$1,000 monetary award, plans to pursue a career with Miller & Long Concrete Construction. He was recognized for maintaining

Continued on page 4



REAL TALK NBC4 news anchor Jim Vance tells grads to do their best because 'good enough is not good enough.'

'DON'T PARK A LEXUS IN FRONT OF AN APARTMENT YOU RENT' AND OTHER LIFE LESSONS FROM JIM VANCE

By Arnesa A. Howell

Listen to acclaimed NBC4 news anchor Jim Vance for a few minutes, and you'll quickly discover the unexpected. He didn't initially want to go to college. He was raised in a family of plumbers. And to this day, he loves the smell of a construction site.

Ultimately, Vance did go to college, attending Cheyney University in Pennsylvania before becoming a teacher, and later, a journalist. But he never forgot his family roots, entrenched in plumbing and the construction trades.

"I love it in part because of how much pride my grandfather and uncles took in their work," said Vance. "From the time I can remember, most of what I knew had to do with copper fittings and terra cotta pipe."

Speaking at the 9th Annual Meet the Future Luncheon, Vance reflected on his past while sharing valuable lessons with the Academy of Construction & Design's Class of 2015. He urged young people to expect good things for themselves, to let their imaginations soar and to be smart: "Don't park a Lexus in front of an apartment you rent. Drive your Lexus there and park it in front while you go in and collect the rent from the property you own." Here, more golden advice he offered graduates and alumni for success in life after high school:

Get Over It. Vance credits this helpful nugget to his grandfather, who at 87 years old and 5 feet 6 inches tall once strapped a bathtub to his body and carried it upstairs. So when interns at the

television station where he works complain about their tasks, he remembers – and tells – this story. The lesson: Don't gripe and complain about the workload, just do it.

Good Enough Isn't Good Enough. In life, you will be measured by the quality of your work, so do good work. Don't get angry when others demand better of you. Instead, work to impress. "Honor yourself by the work that you do," said Vance.

R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Respect your women and men because they are probably your best allies – and always respect your elders. "When we are asking more of you, all we're trying to do is make you better. All we're trying to do is show you how much we love you," he said.

Put Your Child First. Vance urged young men and women to "take care of your children" because they didn't ask to be here and "your children are a gift."

Be Careful of the Friends You Keep. "Everybody that calls you brother is not your friend," stressed Vance. You are a reflection of the company you keep, he continued, so choose people in your life who are uplifting and joyful of your accomplishments.

Be Engaged In This World. While working to put food on the table is important, so is expanding the scope of your consciousness to include interests such as politics. "If you're not engaged, you have no right to complain," he said.

Read, Young People. Vance urged the grads to read and know their history so others can't limit their vision of what is true.

Be a Savvy Saver. Get in the habit of saving for the future. So if you have a dollar in your pocket, said Vance, put a dime aside.

Don't Play the Blame Game. Take responsibility for what's wrong in your life and take steps to fix it. "It ain't the man's problem that you're not on the top of the world right now," he said.

Cop to Your Mistakes. "Don't be afraid to make a mistake," he told the crowd, "but don't make the same one twice."

Man Up! Vance urged young people to take responsibility for themselves as they move forward in life.

Prioritize, Prioritize. Live within your means instead of striving to be what someone else is because you're impressed by that person's show. Vance emphasized this point by telling the story of "Sweet Thang," an around-the-way hustler who drove a 1956 Ford Crown Victoria with white interior and a pair of hanging dice. "He was bad," Vance recalled, "and I wanted to be just like Sweet Thang." That was 1957. The next year, he was dead. The lesson here: "Don't let your insides be impressed by somebody else's outsides."

Don't Follow the Crowd. Always trust and believe in yourself, Vance said. To walk alone is to carve a path to where no one else has been, and to do what works for you. In a nod to TV and radio host Donnie Simpson's signature sign-off, Vance closed with: "Shoot for the moon, because even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." □

JOBS Coalition Pathways

Managing Editor: Arnesa A. Howell

Executive Editor: Carol Randolph

Copy Editor: Pam Ellison

Contributors: Arnesa A. Howell

Graphic Design: Jenn French Designs, LLC

Photographer: Imagine Photography

Board of Directors: Robert Braunohler, Bill Dean, Balchander Jayaraman, Eric Jones, John McMahon, Rev. Stephen E. Tucker, I. Margaret White

JOBS Coalition Legal Adviser: Roderic Woodson

The *JOBS Coalition Pathways* is the exclusive property of the JOBS Coalition, 702 Otis Place, NW, Washington, D.C. 20010; 301-262-0560. *JOBS Coalition Pathways* is dedicated to disseminating information that will help strengthen the city's apprenticeship training and job placement programs, broadening the scope to reach the young, the underserved, the unemployed and the returning ex-offender. *JOBS Coalition Pathways* is published by the JOBS Coalition.

MTF 2015 *Continued from page 2*

the highest GPA, lowest absences, and highest participation in the program. According to Academy Director Shelly Karriem, Williams embodied the traits that were distinctly Janifer: humble, helpful and happy.

“He has his smile and his attitude – that’s my husband,” said DeBoria Janifer, wife of Marshall Janifer, of the award’s recipient.

She added that her husband Marshall would have been proud to see his students moving forward with their lives in a positive way. “His heart and soul was in that school and in his students, in the Academy,” DeBoria Janifer continued. “[He] loved those students like they were his own kids.” Naming an award after him, she said, was a way for the family to continue his legacy and to continue to help the kids who were his “No. 1” priority.

Workforce Ready

Regardless of the types of opportunities awaiting students after high school, it’s important for these young people to be job-ready. For many ACAD students, that meant participation in the Bright Futures Bootcamp, a partnership between the Foundation and New York-based nonprofit The Opportunity Network, which focuses in part on preparing students for college and workplace success.

While all bootcampers learned valuable interviewing, networking and other job readiness skills, two students – Muhtari Juma and Damian

Humphries – stood out for their commitment as participants in the series of professional development classes. Emille Robinson, co-chair of the Career Fluency Bootcamp program, recognized their good work with Bright Futures Bootcamp Incentive Awards, which came with tablets.

Finally, the Sigal Awards honored Academy students who exhibited “character, quiet competence, good citizenship, competitive spirit and the drive to meet every challenge,” said Beth Moore, program director for the D.C. Students Construction Trades Foundation. Deavin Judd took home the top Sigal Award, bestowed with \$3,000. In announcing Judd as a recipient, Moore said the third-year ACAD student has actively participated in building the Academy’s micro-house project and is “determined to start a business in the future.” He plans to attend Delaware State in the fall.

Judd’s classmate, Jamal Fripp, joined him onstage, where he accepted a \$2,000 Sigal Award. Moore acknowledged the graduate for racking up more than 360 hours of community service. He, too, will be attending Delaware State and will be studying political science.

“It can help me buy books [for school]. This means a lot to me,” said Fripp, whose long-term goal is to become a businessman.

Brightening the Pathway

As a “thank you” for opening doors and new chapters in students’ lives, Academy alumna

Ingrid Lopez presented John McMahon with a commemorative stole “as a reminder of the futures you’ve helped to build for each of us and for those to come.” McMahon, chairman of Miller & Long and president of the D.C. Students Construction Trades Foundation, was key in the creation of the Academy.

“Thank you, Mr. McMahon, for holding true to the ACAD model of building bright futures,” continued Lopez. McMahon paused briefly before accepting the memento, seemingly surprised by the recognition, like many of the students honored.

As the ceremony ended, students reflected on how their pathways have been brightened through the Academy and by family, friends and others who’ve supported them through life’s challenges, and cheered for their successes. In a video montage, the graduates wore big smiles and expressed gratitude one-by-one. Newly-minted graduate Herndon may have expressed it best: “Thank you for believing in me when I didn’t believe in myself.” □

IDEA Move *Continued from page 2*

Meanwhile, John McMahon, president of the D.C. Students Construction Trades Foundation, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, saying the missions “line up.” In a joint press release, he noted that the Academy will remain committed to providing students with hands-on learning opportunities, only this time it will be in the Deanwood neighborhood that IDEA calls home. □



JOBS COALITION
702 Otis Place, NW
Washington, D.C. 20010