



Perspectives Charter Schools

MEDIA ADVISORY

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College for Certain: Perspectives Calumet Campus Sending Nearly 100% of First Graduating Class to College

Graduation rate has more than doubled in four years since charter took over Calumet

WHAT: Perspectives Calumet High School and High School of Technology graduate first senior classes, of which nearly all students are bound for college

WHEN: Thursday, May 27, 2010, 12:00pm

WHERE: Perspectives Calumet Campus, 8131 S. May St., Chicago

WHO: 110 graduating seniors; guest speakers Pastor Michael Pflieger of Saint Sabina Church; Tony Anderson, Vice Chair and Midwest Managing Partner of Ernst & Young LLP

CHICAGO—(May 27, 2010) – Before Perspectives Charter Schools opened their three schools in the former Calumet High School in 2006, graduation rates averaged 35 percent for the prior four years. This Thursday, almost 95 percent of their first senior classes are graduating, with 96 percent enrolled in college next fall, most in 4-year colleges and universities.

“With approval from now U.S. Secretary of State Arne Duncan, Perspectives agreed four years ago to operate 3 schools on the Calumet campus. We knew we had our work cut out for us, but we believed in the children, the community and the success of our model in changing the future of young lives through quality education.” says Perspectives co-founder **Diana Shulla-Cose**. “Today, with almost 95 percent of seniors graduating and nearly all going to a four-year college, with scholarships secured, we have exceeded even our own expectations. Nearly 90 percent of our college bound students will be the first in their families to attend college.”

Perspectives Charter Schools, one of the city’s original charter operators, opened Perspectives Calumet Middle School and High School in the former Calumet High School facility in 2006. Then, in 2007, Perspectives opened a third school in the building—the Perspectives Calumet High School of Technology

All three of the schools were modeled after the original Perspectives Charter School at Archer and State – the Rodney D. Joslin campus, which for the past ten years has shown demonstrated success in academic achievement and graduation rates, with more than 90 percent of its graduates enrolling in college, and a 76 percent college retention rate after three years of tracking.

Graduates from the two Perspectives Calumet high schools are headed to colleges near and far, including Marquette University in Milwaukee, Tuskegee University in Decatur, Georgia, and the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, among a great many others. Students have received over \$1.5 million in scholarship offers.

“Perspectives Calumet Campus has become an anchor point for Auburn Gresham, acting as an asset that attracts people to and strengthens our community,” says **Carlos Nelson**, Executive Director of the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation, which, with Access Community Health, operates a health clinic and adult financial and community services center on the site.

Reflecting the importance of the school to the community, and to the city, Pastor **Michael Pflieger** of Saint Sabina Church will deliver the invocation at the ceremony, and **Tony Anderson**, Vice Chair and Midwest Managing Partner of Ernst & Young, will give remarks to the graduates, their families and community members.

For information on Perspectives Charter Schools go to www.perspectivescs.org or call 312-604-2200.

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Note for Editors: A full list of colleges receiving Perspectives Calumet graduates in the fall, as well as a full list of scholarship providers, is available upon request.