



Perspectives Charter Schools

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Contact:
Joanna Klonsky, MK Communications,
Joanna@mkcpr.com; 312.822.0505

Perspectives Charter Schools Celebrate 13 Years of Making an Impact
College For Certain initiative cause for celebration at annual benefit

CHICAGO (May 6, 2010) – Some 350 Perspectives Charter Schools supporters, including major donors, students and Chicago Public Schools board members raised more than \$320,000 Thursday evening at Chicago’s Westin River North Hotel to celebrate the charter network at its annual benefit, themed “College for Certain.” But for Perspectives, one of the original group of five schools chartered in 1997, College for Certain is more than just the theme of the event – nearly 100 percent of the seniors graduating from Perspectives three high schools, Perspectives Calumet High School, Perspectives Calumet High School of Technology, and the Rodney D. Joslin Campus, are heading to college in the fall.

Successful transition to college is the standard among Perspectives graduates, explained long-time supporter **Tony Anderson**, Vice Chair and Midwest Managing Partner of Ernst & Young LLP, who with **Tyrone C. Fahner**, Partner and Former Chairman at Mayer Brown LLP, co-chaired the benefit.

“This year marks the first graduating class at the Perspectives Calumet High School and the Calumet School of Technology,” said Anderson in remarks at the benefit. “For those graduating seniors at both schools, 94% are expected to enroll in college this year. Thanks to Perspectives ‘College for Certain’ programming, these students have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference – not only within their own families but within their communities as well.” The percentage of seniors graduating from the Calumet campus since Perspectives began managing the schools four years ago is almost the three times the rate of the former Calumet High School.

Perspectives’ new CEO, **Rhonda Hopps**, emphasized the impact the Perspectives Calumet campus has had on the Auburn Gresham community. “At Perspectives, we will not write off a generation of students. No, we’ll take them at 11, 13, or 15 years old, after many of their neighborhood schools have under-prepared them for high school. Then, we’re going to help them grow, so that they can achieve the highest level of academic and emotional success possible while they are under our watch.”

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

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Note for Editors: Photos from the Perspectives Benefit are available at the following links:

Photo: http://www.mkcpr.com/filebin/Tony_Anderson_speaking.jpg

Suggested Caption: Tony Anderson, Vice Chair and Midwest Managing Partner of Ernst & Young LLP, delivers remarks at the benefit for Perspectives Charter Schools on May 6. Ernst & Young has developed a strong partnership with the charter network.

Photo: http://www.mkcpr.com/filebin/Larry_Ashkin,_Latasha_Thomas,_Rhonda_Hopps.jpg

Suggested Caption: Perspectives Board Chair Larry Ashkin, Alderman Latasha Thomas, and Perspectives CEO Rhonda Hopps greet one another at the Perspectives benefit.

Photos are courtesy of Diane Alexander-White. High resolution versions available upon request.