



Two-Month Fundraising Research Project Summer, 2009

Project Description

City Charter High School wishes to contract with a veteran fundraiser/researcher for a two-month engagement, delivering in-depth donor research profiles on 30 individuals. The group of individuals to be profiled will be comprised of: 1) highly successful current Pittsburgh residents; 2) highly successful former Pittsburgh residents; and 3) individuals with no ties to Pittsburgh but who have demonstrated a passionate level of support for education reform and/or charter schools. The purpose of the project is to identify potential donors to support the school's mission by providing substantial contributions to the school's capital and endowment funds.

Deliverables

The selected contractor will deliver in-depth research profiles on 30 individuals. Each profile will include:

1. Overview of subject's assets/financial position;
2. In-depth report of subject's current philanthropic and social interests and history of support for such; and
3. "Map" of relationships that can bridge the subject to City High

Required Skills and Experience

- Minimum of three years of experience in documenting and summarizing descriptive, analytical and evaluative data on prospective donors, including: use of both standard and novel prospect research techniques and tools to identify new prospects including periodical and electronic screening, electronic database searches, library research; analyzing various records, journals and other sources to include personal financial information (such as stockholdings), family histories, and company records; following established procedures for analysis of financial and biographical information, online news and news archives, and more.
- Strong familiarity of the Pittsburgh donor and philanthropic community, and solid working knowledge of the Pittsburgh corporate board community.

To Apply

Please send resume and an example of your donor research work by July 1, 2009 to:

Beth Crow
Board Member, City High
P.O. Box 914
Moon Township, PA 15108

Or via email to: beth.crow@yahoo.com

Please note that interviewees will be expected to provide City High with their rate/fee information for undertaking and completing this project.

We are an equal rights and opportunity charter school.



Description of Organization and Mission:

City Charter High School (City High), located in the Clark Building in downtown Pittsburgh, is completing its seventh year of operation. The school obtained its initial five year charter in 2002 from the Pittsburgh Public Schools and was re-chartered through 2012. City Charter High School, which is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is governed by a nine member Board of Trustees. The school is free and open to the public. Funding is provided to the school from the students' school districts of residence.

The MISSION of City Charter High School, a technology infused public school, is to graduate students who are academically, technologically, personally and socially prepared to succeed in post-secondary education or training. Using a team approach, City High cultivates a safe, supportive and academically rigorous environment by recognizing and nurturing individual talents, needs and skills.

City High serves approximately 530 ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade students. 81% of the students are from the Pittsburgh School district; the rest are from 23 area school districts. The majority of the students previously attended their assigned neighborhood public schools; remaining students attended other charter schools, magnets, parochial schools, private schools or were home schooled.

What Makes City Charter High School Unique

- Teachers stay with the same 156 students for four years (looping.)
- Every student has an Academic and Career Plan that is reviewed semi-annually by faculty, parents and students.
- Career preparation includes three courses covering career exploration, resumé development, interviewing skills, job/college application simulations. Career preparation culminates in a 13-week, 130 hour internship at a company or non-profit.
- The school day, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, is divided into four blocks - three academic and one lunch/activities period.
- City High has a year round calendar with 3 trimesters and 3 one-month breaks.
- The school promotes lifelong fitness via student memberships to the Downtown YMCA.
- The academic program is built on a clustering of the PA Chapter 4 Academic Standards. This clustering allows for flexibility in scheduling and staffing as well as providing a common sense approach to interdisciplinary, project-based learning.
- City High provides a technology-infused learning environment. Students and staff member receives a laptop with wireless Internet access.
- Parents, students and staff use an online, web-based, student and content management system. Students, staff and parents have complete access to student records, grades, attendance and assignments via the Internet.
- The City High professional development strategy is predicated on the belief that the success of a school is dependent on developing and supporting an exceptional faculty. The school uses a Master, Expert, Journeyman and Apprentice teacher model that provides robust support mechanisms for faculty.

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H I G H S C H O O L A T L I F E S P E E D



City Charter High School - Are we succeeding?

City Charter High School graduated 94 students in the Class of 2008. Approximately 85% of the school's graduates attend 2 or 4 year training schools, colleges or universities. Data collected via assessments, surveys, interviews and observations indicate that City High is succeeding at its mission. Students are achieving state standards as measured by maintaining Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on multiple years' PSSA exams. The school's PSSA results are superior when compared with other Pennsylvania schools with similar demographics. Students are also improving year-to-year as measured by the EXPLORE/PLAN/ACT assessments. All graduating seniors spend over 260 hours on their graduation projects. Finally student success regarding workforce skills is apparent in multiple MOS certifications and successful 130 hour internships.

Class of 2008

- 94 Graduates
- 87 were accepted into 2 or 4 year programs, colleges or universities
 - 62 - 4 year colleges
 - 25 - 2 year colleges and tech schools
- 117 students with 417 MOS certifications

Class of 2007

- 96 Graduates, 99 in the Cohort, Graduation Rate=97%
- 86 Accepted to 2 or 4 year training programs, colleges or universities
 - 55 - 4 Year colleges
 - 31 - 2 Year colleges and tech schools
- 95 students with 196 MOS certifications

Class of 2006

- 93 Graduates, 102 in the Cohort, Graduation Rate=91%
- 80 Accepted to 2 or 4 year training programs, colleges or universities
 - 54 - 4 year colleges
 - 26 - 2 year colleges and tech schools
- 111 students with 310 MOS certifications

The school has received numerous commendations that suggest it is succeeding at its mission.

- In 2009, City High received an **Effective Practice Incentive Community (EPIC)** award from New Leaders for New Schools, recognizing it as one of the six top performing charter high schools in the country.
- City High was accredited in 2007 by the **Commission on Secondary Schools of the Middle States Association**. The school received a seven year accreditation.
- In 2007, City High was accepted into the **Schools That Can** national network of high performing urban charter and independent schools.
- In 2007, City High was granted a second five year charter by the **Pittsburgh School District**.
- In 2007 and 2008, City High received a Bronze Medal distinction from the **U.S. News and World Report** as one of the leading high schools in the country.
- City High has received two **Pennsylvania Department of Education Keystone Achievement Awards** for reaching AYP in consecutive years.