Chester County Futures supports over 450 middle school, high school and college students each year. It’s no wonder there’s always a lot going on with our programs. In an effort to communicate more regularly with you, our most supportive donors, we have established the Making the Grade newsletter. You will receive these updates five times throughout the school year.

We recently completed a three-year strategic plan focused primarily on deepening our connection to the communities we serve by providing a stronger continuum of services and increased community engagement. You will be reading about new partnerships and expanded programs designed to help us provide opportunities for our students that will have a lasting impact on them…and ultimately for our county. We know that over the course of their lifetime, a college graduate will earn $1,000,000 more than their peers with only a high school diploma.

In this issue you will read about the wonderful partners that engaged with us to provide extraordinary experiences for our economically disadvantaged students. Not only were they learning, but they had an awful lot of fun while doing so! Additionally, I am proud to share some important career advancements within the CCF staff. These new staff positions allow us to grow stronger as an organization and advance our strategic goals. In doing so, we know that Chester County Futures is indeed making the grade in college access programming.

I hope you enjoy these updates, and thank you for your ongoing encouragement.

Warm regards,

Maria McDonald
Executive Director

Save the Date

Save the Date
Thursday, October 8, 2015
Dr. Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D.
President, Cabrini College
Cabrini College - Mansion Dining Room
610 King of Prussia Road
Radnor, PA 19087
RSVP: Maria McDonald, mmcdonald@ccfutures.org

Graduates Update
• 49 first year college students,
• 2 full scholarship awardees at Denison University
• 1 nearly full scholarship to Cabrini College

Wine Tasting & Dinner
Hilltop House, Devon PA
Tuesday, October 20

Thank you to everyone that came out in support of the Chester County Futures 15th Annual Golf Classic on Tuesday, June 2nd at Applebrook Golf Club!
Lockheed Martin Enrichment Camp

In early August, 35 of our Futures AHEAD middle school students attended a two-day enrichment camp at the Downingtown Delaware County Community College campus. The goals of this enrichment camp were for the students to brainstorm, design, and build a functioning stomp rocket, proving Newtown’s 3rd Law of Motion.

During the camp, spearheaded by Lockheed Martin staff, the students were split into six teams to brainstorm how to build a stomp rocket. Rocket prototypes were designed and revised as necessary.

After two days of hard work, the student groups made a presentation to the Engineering Review Board (ERB). At the conclusion of the presentation, the ERB asked the student teams a series of questions, recreating a real world engineering process with the students.

Rounding out the two-day camp, our students headed outside to launch their stomp rockets. Every stomp rocket took flight!

The students were extremely proud of their creations and were both excited and grateful for the opportunity to work so closely with Lockheed Martin staff.

Thanks to Lockheed Martin for their guidance, expertise, and volunteerism.

“We are so grateful to Lockheed Martin and DCCC for helping us create this exciting learning opportunity for our middle school students. The students remained fully engaged throughout the two days, not only learning how to build a stomp rocket, but also about the many educational and career opportunities in the engineering field.”

- Marjorie Conner Dawkins
Student Programs Manager
Our Staff Updates

**WELCOME!**
Steve Brown
*Community Partnerships Manager*

In July, Steve joined CCF. He is currently revamping our Mentoring Program, as well as building new relationships with local businesses, colleges, and community members!

Steve received his Bachelor’s Degree in English from Duke University, and his MS in Reading/Writing/Literacy from the University of Pennsylvania.

Immediately after receiving his BA, Steve served with AmeriCorps as a classroom teacher in Gardena, CA and most recently as Program Director for SquashSmarts Out-of-School Time Program.

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**CONGRATS!**
Marjorie Conner Dawkins
*Student Programs Manager*

Marjorie joined CCF in 2011 as a Development Associate. While in this role Marjorie worked closely with the program department to establish new measurements for our programs and participated as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee.

In her new role, she is responsible for the ongoing development for all programs, with particular attention this year on the expansion of our Futures AHEAD program into Coatesville and Oxford.

Marjorie received her MPA in Public Administration, with a concentration in Non-Profit Management, from West Chester University in May 2015.

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**CONGRATS!**
Kim Dickinson
*Curriculum Manager*

Kim administers and oversees the implementation of Chester County Futures Passport to College curriculum.

She is excited to cultivate positive student relationships and instill the desire for academic excellence and the importance of post-secondary education/workforce readiness through the curriculum component. Kim previously worked as a Student Services Coordinator for the 12th grade classes in Oxford and Coatesville.

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**CONGRATS!**
Kate Schaffer
*Project-Based Learning Specialist*

Kate is involved with the development and implementation for all project-based learning programming.

She is excited to collaborate with the 9th and 10th grade Futures’ students in all four districts. She will also be co-coordinating the Futures AHEAD middle school quarterly camps designed within the project-based learning framework.

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Chester County Futures became an educational partner of Cabrini College in April 2015.
Annual College and Career EXPO

In early August, Chester County Futures held our Annual College and Career EXPO at Delaware County Community College. Over 250 students from Oxford area, Kennett Consolidated, Coatesville area, Phoenixville area, and West Chester area middle and high schools attended the jam-packed day focusing on grit, resilience, and perseverance. Students broke into groups to tour and meet with over 40 college representatives and nearly 20 career representatives. Among the colleges represented were: DCCC, Wilmington University, West Chester University, Cabrini College, among others. Career representatives such as Depuy Synthes, SAP, PA State Troopers, Wawa, and Fulton Bank spoke with students about their roles in their respective organizations and shared their educational history, opening students’ eyes to the possibilities ahead of them.

To wrap up the day, students listened to the compelling stories of State Trooper Minucci of Kennett Square and Nan Robb of the Hannah Leigh Robb Foundation. Trooper Minucci spoke to students about the real threat of the heroin epidemic in our area and how students can take positive steps to avoid falling down the wrong path.

Thanks to the everyone that made this event a success!

OUR MISSION

Chester County Futures provides comprehensive academic support, mentoring and scholarships for motivated economically disadvantaged youth to succeed in school, higher education and life.

OUR VISION

Every child in Chester County will be prepared for and have access to the education and supports needed to become a self-reliant, productive member of society.

For more information, visit www.ccfutures.org.