Dear Friends,

On behalf of Chester County Futures Board of Directors, thank you. Your support has enabled us to provide another year of academic support and educational opportunities to our students. Our Class of 2018 will head to their post-secondary schools with laptops because of your kindness. You have allowed our middle school students to meet with professional homebuilders to study design, using influences from nature, and present their projects with pride. Our high school students had the unique experience of “performing surgery” in a Sawbones Lab because of your generosity. CCF Alumni recognize the opportunities afforded them through the program and have formed an Alumni Association with the intention of networking, supporting each as they move toward their educational goals. Your actions have inspired them.

We thank you for your support and encouragement.

Sincerely,

Maria McDonald
Executive Director
mmcdonald@ccfutures.org

Alumni Stay Involved

Chester County Futures’ Alumni Association held its first meeting in July with the goal of bringing alumni together and getting them engaged. They will talk to students, participate in fundraising events, and intervene with at-risk students on campuses. They are looking forward to supporting each other while also giving back to the program.

About 50 alumni have expressed interest in the association. Currently the association is focusing on engagement through Steps 4 Success in order to have more support for our alumni currently in college, however, all alumni are welcome. Officers are Sara Boykin (President), Alex Chavez (Vice President), and Alyssa Reyes (Secretary).

The association seeks ambassadors to act as point of contact on campuses this upcoming school year. Members are also looking for community service projects in our districts for Passport to College groups, putting together an alumni panel to visit the districts, and finding volunteers to help with the Fall Scramble and Harvest Dinner & Wine Tasting. We are excited for the future of the association.
Celebrating the Class of 2018

The Class of 2018 came together, with proud parents and mentors, to celebrate their accomplishments over dinner at Downingtown Country Club.

Sponsors and donors generously supported this well-deserved evening. The students spent the past four years attending weekly after school meetings. They applied to and considered the best ways to manage the cost of higher education. Over 90% of our graduating class will be first-generation post-secondary students.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Pedro A. Rivera addressed the students. He is a first generation college graduate. He shared his journey through school, his experiences in post-secondary education, and stressed the importance of following your beliefs.

The celebration was sponsored by WSFS. “We are grateful to WSFS for supporting this year’s Graduation Celebration. This is a very important milestone for our graduates and their families and we are thankful for the opportunity to recognize their achievements in this way. These students are a shining example of just how far determination, planning and commitment can take you.” explained Maria McDonald.

Congratulations Class of 2018! We cannot wait to see what you do next!

An Interesting Way to Support CCF

Are you aware that many companies in Pennsylvania can direct their PA state tax dollars to Chester County Futures instead of to the Commonwealth of PA? While it requires very little effort, it can make a tremendous impact: providing academic enrichment for students participating in Chester County Futures.

Pennsylvania’s Department of Community and Economic Development has once again approved CCF as an Educational Improvement Organization, making us eligible to receive EITC contributions.

This program is extremely popular and a limited number of organizations can participate. For more details visit www.newpa.com/eitc or contact Cara Schmidt at cschmidt@ccfutures.org or 610.608.0628.

This is a chance to make a significant gift to Chester County Futures at little to no cost to you. By taking advantage of this incredible opportunity to support our students, you’ll inspire others and join the list of generous and respected participating organizations in our community.
Middle School Enrichment Camp

By Joseph Daye, Program Associate

On April 4th our Futures AHEAD Enrichment Camp was held at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square. Through partnerships with Longwood Gardens and the Rockwell Development Group, students throughout four school districts grouped together and spent a full day at the gardens to explore and conceptualize concepts of bio-mimicry through unique, hands-on learning activities. This day included our 88 seventh and eighth grade students, who teamed up in groups with a professional educator from Longwood to discuss how nature helps us with our everyday living. At the previous Enrichment Camp, students experienced what goes into building a home. Taking those blueprints, students applied the idea of bio-mimicry to solve problems within their designs.

Students met in Longwood’s ballroom. Each table had a few plants that had some likeness to interior and exterior home designs. The key challenges that were presented for the day was water, energy, and security. Students went on a tour through the conservatory as they learned about water plants, energy plants, and security plants. A dozen groups were separated into groups of four for the three topics as they tried to convey the best solutions to the challenges of their home design. Students brainstormed solutions based on plants that they have seen on the tour and created a prototype before lunch.

After lunch, students watched virtual tour that discussed professional gardening (Horticulture) and interning opportunities. The day also included a discussion with some students who are taking part in the internship; they shared the benefits of working in this field. After the virtual field trip, students finalized their ideas and constructed a presentation. Guests, educators from Longwood Gardens, and volunteers toured student presentations and had the opportunity to ask questions. Students showed off their new knowledge when describing the reasons behind plant-based materials in their homes. The day was filled with creative onsets, challenging as well as engaging the minds of our middle school students.
Volunteer Celia Lang Opened Doors for Our Students

Chester County Futures was proud to honor long time volunteer and dedicated friend Celia Lang at a networking event held in the spring. Celia was also presented with a citation, in recognition for her service, from Senator Dinniman’s office.

Celia has provided and conducted Strong Interest Inventory Tests for our students. After tests are scored, Celia returns to go over the results with them. This is a wonderful gift because the assessment helps students match their interests with potential educational and career areas. Her commitment to our students is so appreciated. The time she takes to meet with them, one-on-one, to share, interpret, and discuss results is remarkable. We are grateful for her exemplary service.

Corporate Interiors and Steelcase partnered with us to host the fun event in their incredible showroom and office space in Wayne.

Corporate Site Visit: Synthes

Synthes, known for a comprehensive portfolio of orthopedic and neuro products, welcomed our Passport to College program in May.

Students were given an introduction and history of the company by the Synthes executives, including one who also shared his journey through college as a first generation student. Students toured the manufacturing plant and learned about the quality and attention to detail needed to design and create specific products for patients.

Students participated in a Lego activity with employees. They then did a mock surgeon design for a prosthesis, with help from Synthes’ engineering department. The highlight of the day was a visit to the Sawbones Lab where students drilled through a replica of a leg bone and added pins as if repairing a patient’s injury.