

# Mentoring *Matters*

An e-newsletter for the mentors of Chester County Futures, Inc.

April 2007

Welcome to the seventh edition of Chester County Futures' monthly electronic mentor newsletter- Mentoring Matters. The purpose of this monthly newsletter is to provide a forum for communication and information.

## ***Chester County Futures Congratulates Graduates***

In June 2007, Chester County Futures will proudly watch as 19 of our students from the Coatesville Area and Kennett Consolidated School Districts graduate from high school. These 19 students will join 32 of their fellow Chester County Futures students in post-secondary education throughout the country. Chester County Futures will celebrate the achievement of these and all of our students at the May 16th banquet. Chester County Futures has served over 200 students from high school and 13 post-secondary education graduates over the last 11 years.

### **Coatesville Area School District**

Simone Boyd Undecided	Vanessa Smith Undecided
Arrielle Cropper Undecided	James Stevens Slippery Rock University
Precious Manneh Temple University	Brandyn Taylor Morgan State University
Karelis Martinez Neumann College	Tiara Turner Immaculata University or Lincoln University
Wilfredo Martinez LaSalle University or Temple University	

### **Kennett Consolidated School District**

Veronica Silvia Tlasesca Indiana University of PA	Rosa Nely Zavala Penn State, University Park
Cristina Castillo Millersville University	David Avalos Undecided
Allie Ramirez Millersville University	Tracy Nino Harcum College
Omar Zavala Lopez Temple University	Diana Zavala Undecided
Adan Ortiz Cordova Penn State, University Park	Ariana Reynaga Delaware County Community College

## **SAVE THIS DATE!!!**

We are excited to announce Chester County Futures' 2007 **Passport to College EXPO**, a high energy, informative and fun event to kick off the 2007-2008 school year. The August 17<sup>th</sup> event takes place at the Inn at Chester Springs in Exton and will run from 9:00AM -3:00PM. Your student will spend the day exploring a variety of college and career options as well as participate in breakout sessions on important topics pertinent to your student's academic and social success. One of this year's highlights will be a keynote luncheon speaker, nationally syndicated cartoonist Robb Armstrong, creator of Jump Start. Mr. Armstrong grew up in West Philadelphia in a single parent family with five children. Money was scarce and the neighborhood rough but Robb managed to persevere, graduate from high school and college and establish a career as a successful cartoonist and motivational speaker. All mentors are invited to attend all or a portion of this exciting day. Aside from spending quality time with your individual mentee, volunteers are needed as chaperones and to help provide transportation for our Phoenixville and Oxford students. (Buses will be provided for Coatesville and Kennett). The EXPO is a free event for mentors and students.

**Chester County Futures'**  
**"Passport to College" Expo**  
**August 17, 2007**  
**9 am - 3 pm**  
**Inn at Chester Springs, Exton**

## Contact Information

**We want to hear from you!! Your feedback is crucial to the success of the Chester County Futures program.**

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## Program

## News You Can Use

**Chester County Futures'  
YEAR END CELEBRATION BANQUET  
May 16, 2007  
6:30 pm  
Coatesville Intermediate High School**

### HAVE QUESTIONS??

We would like to feature your mentoring related questions in our monthly newsletter. It is important that we address your concerns. Please submit your questions to Holly Parker at [mentoroffice@ccfutures.org](mailto:mentoroffice@ccfutures.org)

## Futures Students Participate in College Visits

On March 30th, twenty-nine Chester County Futures students from Coatesville and Kennett High Schools attended an open house event at Lincoln University. Students were greeted with music from a live band, as well as cheerleaders and Lincoln University dignitaries. Various members of the University staff spoke about the importance of education and highlighted some of the influential alumni from Lincoln, including Langston Hughes and Thurgood Marshall. After the session, students were divided into two groups for campus tours. Chester County Futures' students enjoyed seeing college life first hand and were treated to an impromptu "step show."

Chester County Futures' students attend two or more college visits per year. The students also visited Harcum College, as well as Neumann College, where students were impressed with the level of diversity and support provided on campus. Chester County Futures' students from Kennett and Oxford were greeted with encouraging words by acting President, Dr. Edward A'lessio, when they visited the campus on April 5<sup>th</sup>. The visit to Harcum College also proved to be worthwhile for the students. Most interesting were the school's emphasis on hands-on programs and the brand-new dentistry facility, as well as seeing all the live animals in the Vet Tech building.



Chester County Futures students visit Harcum College.



Chester County Futures students visit Lincoln University.



## Student Perspectives

**Q:** How has (or will) Chester County Futures made a difference in your life?

**A:** “It will help me with college opportunities and scholarships.”  
“I’ve made better grades thanks to the program incentives.”  
“It has made me more aware of my grades.”  
“I know that I will get support to help me get to college.”  
“I’ve become more responsible.”  
“I’ve experienced a lot through my relationship with my mentor.”  
“It has give me a reason to try harder.”  
“I’m more focused on my school work.”  
“College is now a possibility for me.”  
“The college tours have made me think about where I want to go to school.”  
“I’ve learned study skills.”  
“It helped me with the PSAT’s.”  
“CCF has been a great opportunity to meet new people and new friends.”  
“CCF has helped me focus on a larger goal.”  
“I put more effort into things now.”  
“I now have someone to turn to for help.”  
“Having a mentor has been a great help to me.”  
“I know that college is something I can achieve.”  
“I feel more confident.”  
“This has been an experience of a lifetime and I encourage others to join Futures.”  
“I’ve learned many lessons.”  
“It has given me a reason to excel in school.”  
“I’ve had a lot of new experiences I wouldn’t have normally had.”

Chester County Futures’ students were recently surveyed about topics ranging from their relationship with their mentor to the best and hardest things about high school. Below are some of the most frequently mentioned answers. Each issue of Mentoring Matters will feature a different question/answer set.

## Community Service Opportunity

*My name is Todd Harrison and I am a mentor with Chester County Futures. I am trying to gauge interest in mentors/mentees in joining a Chester County Futures “Team” to support the Walk for Hope in Philadelphia on Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup> 2007, in support of Breast Cancer Research. See the following URL for general information:*

*<http://www.cityofhope.org/WalkforHope/philadelphia/>.*

*Each person that commits to being a team member will be required to donate \$25 towards a registration fee – in which each team member will receive a shirt and medal on the day of the walk. As our mentees join this team, it is my hope that the students can help organize and participate in strategies for raising money for the registration fee as well as any additional money to donate to the cause (Initial ideas are car washes/bake sales/gathering donations/etc.) This effort provides an opportunity to engage in activities with your mentee (i.e the walk or the fundraising events that lead up to the walk), as well as providing leadership/organizational opportunities for your mentee that can be promoted on a college entrance application. If you are interested or have any questions, please email me at [tharrison@seic.com](mailto:tharrison@seic.com). I will be gauging interest over the next month, and from there I will organize a kickoff meeting. Thank you for your interest!*



Chester County Futures’ students take a break from their after-school meetings.

