

# Mentoring *Matters*

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

June 2007

Welcome to the tenth 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.

## Exciting Program Changes Broaden Students' Horizons

The Passport to College Portfolio Project will expose Futures' 180-185 students to dozens of opportunities to earn the kinds of academic and extra-curricular credentials they must have to compete for scholarships and gain admission to top colleges.

### Here's How It Works

Each month will feature 10 or more credential-building opportunities. Students must complete a diverse group of projects each month. Choices must include at least 2 after-school sessions led by staff or Talent Bank volunteers.

Each credential-building experience yields a certificate of accomplishment, merit award, letter of commendation, service award, certificate of participation or other tangible record of the achievement to safely store away.

### Sample List of Monthly Credential-Building Opportunities for Students to Choose

- ? Classroom-based workshops: staff taught curriculum, guest presenters, community experts, discussion panels
- ? Student-led presentations, self-directed research reports, and much more
- ? Student-hosted receptions for educators and community leaders
- ? Variety of community, church, school volunteer projects
- ? College tours, cultural excursions and other field trips
- ? Mentor-student projects and learning activities
- ? Technology training
- ? Job shadowing & career panels
- ? Tutoring sessions
- ? Web-based tutorials

### How This Translates Into Credentials

As students build their credentials they accumulate concrete evidence of their achievements.  
( merit awards, certificates, letters, etc.)

At the Expo, they'll receive **portfolio briefcases** similar to this one to organize and store credential documents. Portfolio credentials will be tallied monthly and will be the basis for bank credits to be paid off at high school graduation. By their senior year, students will have met and networked with hundreds of people; honed their social and presentation skills gained valuable career insights; and built up a wealth of credentials to boost their eligibility for scholarships and for entry into the college of their dreams.



# 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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## 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)

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

## Welcome New Mentors!

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. The EXPO is a free event for mentors and students.

Chester County Futures would like to welcome the following new mentors:

Tony Buck

Lauren Spokas

Stephanie Perea

Marti Turocy

Tracy Thatcher

Melanie Henricks

## Cidor Scholarship Presentation

On June 13th, Chester County Futures awarded the annual Cidor Scholarship to Kennett Consolidated School District graduate, Cristina Castillo.

Cristina will attend Millersville University in the fall. She is the first in her family to attend college. Cristina is currently undecided as to what her major will be, but she is considering both Education and Business.

Her effort in meeting the requirements of Chester County Futures has been consistent over her four years and the steady improvement in her overall academic performance allowed her to remain on honor roll the entire school year were just two of the many reasons why Cristina is a worthy recipient.

Cristina was generally first among her fellow students to sign up for community service projects and lent her talents to projects we did at the Kennett Senior Center, at La Comunidad Hispana, and in conjunction with Community Gardens of Chester County.

Cristina's mentor, Ellen Zadoff, has mentored her for her entire four years of high school. Kudos, Ellen!

The Cidor Scholarship is named after a horse named Cidor. Cidor is an award winning Grand Prix dressage horse owned by Chester County Futures' Board Member, Susan Springsteen of the Springsteen Hotaling Group at Morgan Stanley. Two years ago, at the age of 22, Cidor retired from competition. His younger sibling, Fanale, has taken up the challenge as the new "spokes horse" for the Cidor Scholarship Fund and Chester County Futures. Fanale has recently moved up to the advanced levels of dressage competition and hopes to follow in Cidor's footsteps.



Cidor Scholarship winner Cristina Castillo (right) poses with her mentor Ellen Zadoff (left) and Susan Springsteen (center)



Cristina Castillo provides carrots to thank Cidor for his scholarship



Pictured left to right: Futures mentor Carole Koroluck, Cidor Scholarship winner Cristina Castillo and her mentor Ellen Zadoff.

## We Need Your Input!!

We are upgrading the mentor section of our website and need your help! Please visit [www.ccfutures.org](http://www.ccfutures.org) and let us know what you think of our current mentor pages. We would like to know how to upgrade those pages to provide you with the maximum information and benefits. Are there features you would like to see? Is there information that would be helpful for you? Are there things we could do to make you want to visit the mentor pages more frequently?

Please forward your comments and information to Holly Parker at 610-247-4961 or via email at [mentoroffice@ccfutures.org](mailto:mentoroffice@ccfutures.org).