

February 2009

"Leadership is an opportunity for service rather than personal gain." - Charlie Nelms, Ed.D.

KIPP:LEAD
COLLEGE PREP

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Clip your Box Tops and you'll help KLCP earn money!

Upcoming Events

ISTEP+ Testing
March 2 – 11, 2009

Saturday School
March 14 & March 21

**Business Community
Open House**
March 18, 2009
8:30 – 10 am
Ann's Poetry Café

**Friends of KLCP Board
Meeting**
March 21, 2009
9:30 – 11:30 am
Ann's Poetry Café

D e e p l y R o o t e d

KIPP LEAD College Prep (KLCP) is deeply rooted in these values: Leadership, Empathy, Achievement and Determination. We are committed to preparing our students with the character, knowledge and leadership skills necessary to graduate from college and help change the world.



Students Explore during Second Annual Career Connections Series

What do a news reporter, a lawyer, an architect, and a food microbiologist have in common? Each participated in an installment of the 2nd Annual Career Connections Series this month on February 5th, 12th or 19th. It's always an exciting opportunity for students to engage with business community members and learn more about what the world has to offer. That's the goal of the Career Connections Series (CCS): to introduce student leaders to interesting career paths by connecting them with accomplished business professionals in hopes of expanding their knowledge base of the diverse career opportunities available to them during and after college. (Story continued on p. 2.)

KLCP to Receive \$119,000 from Visclosky Earmark

Last week, Congressman Visclosky announced over \$2.8 million for education and youth programs in Northwest Indiana. Six organizations that improve the quality of life in the region were selected to receive funds: \$750,000 for Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana, \$250,000 for Valparaiso University, \$850,000 for the YWCA of Northwest Indiana, \$823,000 for Ivy Tech Community College Northwest, \$119,000 for KIPP LEAD College Prep School and \$95,000 for Crisis Center.

"A good education is the key to success," said Visclosky. "In Northwest Indiana we have tremendous educational resources that can help prepare residents for accomplished careers in the new economy. This federal assistance for programs that educate and involve people of all ages will help the current and future generations in Northwest Indiana reinvigorate our economy and make the region a powerful economic player."

The funding for KIPP LEAD College Prep School will be used for student programs, staff training, and curricula development at the Gary school. KIPP LEAD offers an innovative curriculum in which students are in class longer than in most public schools and attend school during the summer. The school fosters leadership, empathy, achievement, and determination through rigorous academic programs that are balanced with diverse extracurricular activities.

"KIPP LEAD takes an innovative approach toward learning that builds complete individuals who succeed inside and outside of the classroom," said Visclosky. "Their pioneering educational philosophy helps students overcome obstacles to lead productive lives."

"The students at KIPP LEAD are grateful for Congressman Visclosky's effort to secure needed resources during difficult financial times for our extended day program," said Founding School Leader April Goble. "These funds will support our students as they climb the mountain to college by attending school from 8am-5pm each day, which adds up to 60 percent more time in school."

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Career Connections Series (Continued)



For three consecutive Thursdays this month, over 50 volunteers (spoke with students for the afternoon about the leadership qualities necessary for success in their respective positions. After the event, Angela Releford commented that, "Students were very well-behaved and asked great questions. They have given thought to what they want for their futures."

KLCP extends heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the following individuals who gave their time, energy and expertise to participate in this year's CCS and made it an informative occasion for students:

Angela Releford and Chandra Gary (Ivy Tech Community College Northwest), Damion Smith (TradeWinds Rehabilitation Center, Inc.), Michael Bentley (Johnson Controls), Chanda Dixon (Food Bank of NWI), Mary Cossey (Level One Consulting, LLC), Kevin Dixon (Mobile Realty, LLC), Nakisha Cody and Lakisha Williams (Harris Bank), James Smith (New Covenant A/G Church), Michael Salmonowicz (Chicago Public Schools), Attorney Clorius Lay, Justin Terry (Sivic Real Estate, LLC), Boni Fine (YWCA of Gary), Robert Crookston (Microbac), Barbara Cope, Cynthia Evans (Gary Community Schools Corporation), Kisha Davis (New Tabernacle M.B. Church), James Smith (New Covenant A/G Church), Brenda Bell (Chicago Public Schools), Judge Deidre Monroe (Gary City Court), Maoris Whittaker (Whittaker & Company), Kathy Rychel (PeopleWorks, Inc.), Jeff McCall (WiseWay), Rosalyn Mitchell (Forms & Funktion, Inc.), Dick Streedain (National Louis University), Lisa D. DeNeal (The Post-Tribune), Mary Ashton (PeopleWorks, Inc.), Sara Myers (Bruner Dental Center), Detective James Bond (City of Gary Police Department), Gerald Bradshaw (Bradshaw College Consulting), Reverend Marco Burnside (187 Inc.), Ben Chereskin (Madison Dearborn Partners), Rhonda Evans (TradeWinds Rehabilitation Center, Inc.), Corporal Edward Gonzalez (City of Gary Police Department), Astin Hayes (Clear Channel Communications/WGCI-FM), Terance Hill (Work One), Isaac Kinsey (Indiana University), Jessica Mayfield (Accenture), Shakira O'Kane (City of Chicago Law Department), Desiree Simpson (St. Augustine College), Craig Stevenson (Project Osmosis Education), Darrell Harvey, Sr. (WJPN Channel 4 Gary), Keon Viverette (Foot Locker Inc.) Leimar Rosario (The Hilton Corporation), Joseph Watson (Novartis), Michael Brown (Lake County Recorder), Garrett Jackson (GIA Publications), Daris Jasper (Artistic Jeanius), Michelle Lee (Independent Consultant), Nat Soti (Zero One Projects), Dr. Jessica Clements and Brian Owens (Lake Station Pet Clinic) and Solomon Haymon (Haymon & Associates Realtors).

"I enjoyed the Career Fair because I got to meet new, interesting people," said Brian Litt, 12, (Class of 2016).



Leadership Speakers' Series Welcomes Inspiring Cast

February's installment of the Leadership Speakers' Series (LSS) was a star-studded affair with Attorney Karen Freeman-Wilson of Gary, Chidinma Asonye from Prospect Partners, LLC, in Chicago, Danyele Davis of Flowers Communications Group in Chicago and Roosevelt Haywood III of Haywood and Fleming Associates in Gary. Fifth through seventh graders had the chance to hear from guests and learn more about their work, college memories and life experiences. In a thank you letter to Ms. Freeman-Wilson, Ta'Vonya Bush, 12, (Class of 2014) writes: "You were very inspirational because when I grow up, I want to be a lawyer. Thanks for your inspirational words and presence."

The next installment of the LSS will be on Friday, March 6th and will feature Ben Clement from the Gary – East Chicago – Hammond Empowerment Zone, Danita Johnson-Hughes from Edgewater Systems, and Michael Puente from Chicago Public Radio. If you are interested in participating in an upcoming LSS on April 3rd or May 1st, please contact Makiyah Moody at mmoody@kipplead.org or 219-979-9236.

KLCP Receives Corporate Contributions from WiseWay Foods and NIPSCO

Financial support to KLCP makes it possible for students to participate in transformative, end of the year field lessons outside of the state of Indiana. The cost per student for these week-long trips is approximately \$600 which results in a funding need of about \$125,000. To date, KLCP has achieved 70% of this goal, but still has more progress to make. "The reason end of year trips are important is that they provide existential learning which cannot be provided from classroom instruction alone. These experiences hold educational value that give students real world application for their lessons and create a link between classroom success and achievement outside of their towns and neighborhoods which is rarely attained by other students in similar circumstances," shared Russell Armstrong, Business Manager at KLCP.

Last month KLCP received contributions from both WiseWay Foods and NIPSCO. Don Weiss, CEO of WiseWay/Pay Low Grocery Store Chain, visited the school in December citing the visit as "one of the most inspirational mornings" he's experienced in years. Mr. Weiss grew up in Gary, not far from KLCP's location. "I recognize that education serves an important purpose in preparing students for meaningful careers. Without knowing the fundamentals, employers are at a disadvantage to find qualified employees," said Mr. Weiss. The funds provided by WiseWay Foods will support the end of the year field lessons to Washington, DC, South Dakota and the tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

For the third consecutive year, NIPSCO has supported KLCP's end of the year field lessons through a corporate contribution. "Provision of these funds underscores NIPSCO's commitment to the communities we serve," said Michael Suggs, Manager of Public Affairs. KLCP is grateful for the outpouring of business community support to keep student leaders on the road to college. If you would like to make an online contribution to support the end of year field lessons, please go to www.kipplead.org.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Shout Out KIPP

As you may know, last month the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation published the first ever "Annual Letter" about the state of philanthropy at the Foundation. In the education section of the letter, Gates gives a shout out to KIPP, and to Jay Mathews' new book about KIPP, [Work Hard. Be Nice.](#) Below is the excerpt:

I have had a chance to spend time at a number of these schools, including High Tech High in San Diego and the Knowledge Is Power Program, or "KIPP," in Houston. There is a wonderful new book out about KIPP called Work Hard. Be Nice., by the education reporter Jay Mathews. It's an inspiring look at how KIPP has accomplished these amazing results and the barriers they faced.

To read the full letter, visit this link: <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/annual-letter/Pages/2009-bill-gates-annual-letter.aspx>.

KLCP Students Raise \$3,600 through Cookie Sales

For the first time in KLCP's history, students embarked upon a fundraising journey to help the Development Office reach its annual goal. Over the course of three weeks, students asked friends and neighbors to support their hard work by purchasing cookies. The top seller was **Ronneice Williams from Ohio State University**. She sold 54 packages totaling \$694! The second place seller was **Ajah Brown from Indiana University** who sold 51 packages totaling \$668 and the third top seller was **Robert Long from Washington University** who sold 38 packages totaling \$466. As a whole, student leaders sold \$9,216 worth of cookies. Forty percent of this amount, just over \$3,600, will be used by KLCP to fund end-of-the-year field lessons.

"I'm very proud of our students who went above and beyond with this endeavor. Because of their hard work, six more students will have the opportunity to experience a transformational end-of-the-year field lesson. Teamwork makes the dream work," said Makiyah Moody, Development Director.

DancExcel Presents "The Spirit of the Baobab Tree" and KLCP Leaders Shine

"The Spirit of the Baobab Tree" will take you back to the past on a historical journey that highlights the richness of African-American culture. Adapted from the book of the same title, DancExcel presented a rendition of the important work in honor of Black History Month.

KLCP students who earned the trip went to West Side High's Auditorium to see the performance. Three KLCP students performed in the production: Robert Long (Washington University, Class of 2016), Courtney Watson (University of Illinois, Class of 2016) and Kiara Davis (University of Kentucky, Class of 2015). Congratulations to these student leaders were bright stars in Friday's show.

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Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+)*

In Indiana, all students in grades 3 through 10 take the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+). Based on Indiana's Academic Standards, the test includes English/language arts at each grade, as well as science at grades 5 and 7.

Getting ready for ISTEP+

- Be prepared. Cramming for any test is never the best way to prepare. Keep up with your homework and ask your teachers for help when you need it.
- Review. In the weeks before your test, take it seriously when your teachers review important information.
- Get plenty of sleep. Go to bed a little earlier so you get a good night's sleep. Being well rested will give you an extra boost of energy for test day.
- Have a good breakfast. Eat protein (eggs, meat, cheese, etc.), which will help you perform better than a sugary donut. Too much food can make you feel sleepy, so don't overdo it.
- Take a break. Get some exercise during your breaks or after school to keep your energy up.
- Ask for help. If you've had trouble with ISTEP+ in the past, ask a teacher, counselor or parent about extra help now.
- Double-check your work on the test. You'll catch mistakes if you take time to proofread your answers carefully.

What can parents do to help students prepare for ISTEP+?

- Stay connected. Cramming for a test rarely results in the type of learning that will stay with your child throughout his or her life. The best preparation is to provide consistent support to your child throughout his or her education.
- Know what's expected. Read Indiana's Academic Standards so you know what your child should know and be able to do, reinforce these expectations at home, and stay connected to your child's academic performance throughout the year.
- Check grades. Your son or daughter may say things are "fine" at school but don't stop checking report cards, progress reports, or, if available, your child's online grades or class progress.
- Talk to the teacher. Teachers know how hard children are working, how well they are behaving, the quality of their homework and what areas need improvement. Collect e-mail addresses or phone numbers of all your child's teachers and check in periodically.
- Don't buckle on homework. If your child is not studying at home, ask why, and double-check with teachers. It's tough to hold the line, but making sure your child does his or her homework is important for academic success.
- Ask for help. Students who are struggling in a particular class may need extra help after school or with a tutor. Find out from your school where you can go for help and make sure your student gets the help he or she needs. Catching a problem area now can make a big difference.
- Go to parent meetings. Most schools offer parent nights or teacher/parent sessions that provide great information. Check your school's calendar at the beginning of the year and plan to attend.
- Get involved. Nothing will have a bigger impact on your student's success than your involvement in his or her education.

During testing

- Make sure your child has plenty of sleep the night before.
- Provide a nutritious breakfast.
- Encourage your child to do his or her very best, but don't place too much emphasis on the test.

*Tips taken from <http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/k12academics/Assessments/Pages/ISTEP+.aspx>

"And dropping out of high school is no longer an option. It's not just quitting on yourself, it's quitting on your country -- and this country needs and values the talents of every American. That is why we will provide the support necessary for you to complete college and meet a new goal: by 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world." -President Barack Obama, February 24, 2009.

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