

Middle School Speech Competition Finale to Feature Young Orators

Philadelphia, PA— May 8, 2024 — Philadelphia Academies, Inc. (PAI) is pleased to announce the final round of its annual Middle School Speech Competition will take place on May 14th at the Bossone Atrium on the campus of Drexel University from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The competition, which began with class and school-level rounds, has seen 10 students emerge as finalists across 3 participating schools. Students will speak on the prompt, “As the Principal of your school, what would you change and why?” in front of an audience of their peers, special guests, and a panel of judges.

“Our speech competition participants have shown exceptional dedication to reach this year’s final round. We commend their progress as speakers and eagerly anticipate the inspiring speeches they will deliver” said Prosper Delle, Middle School Career Connected Learning Coordinator at Philadelphia Academies, Inc.

The panel of judges will evaluate each student’s remarks based on criteria including content, delivery, and overall impact. This year’s judges include F. Christopher Goins, President and CEO of PAI, Ian Sladen, Vice President, Cooperative Education and Career Development at Drexel and PAI’s Board chairperson, and Lynne Galloway, Instructor at PA Career Link.

Following the event, winners will be announced with Apple and Google tablets awarded to the top 3 finishers. All finalists will receive certificates of recognition and Amazon gift cards for reaching the final round.

For media inquiries or further information, contact Kevin Brandon, Communications and Marketing Coordinator at Philadelphia Academies, Inc. at kbrandon@academiesinc.org.

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Philadelphia Academies, Inc. (PAI) was established in 1969 to address the dropout crisis plaguing Philadelphia schools. PAI continues to find innovative ways to support student success and career/postsecondary readiness. Their work includes career initiatives for middle school students, workforce development for high school students, capacity building for teachers and school leaders, and industry organizing with the goal of improving outcomes for Philadelphia’s young people.