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PHILADELPHIA ACADEMIES, INC. RECEIVES NEARLY \$400,000 FROM THE SHAPIRO ADMINISTRATION TO EXPAND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

October 3, 2024 - Philadelphia, PA: Governor Josh Shapiro has announced a significant investment in career development for Pennsylvania's high school students, awarding Philadelphia Academies, Inc. (PAI) \$399,132 to enhance its Early Childhood Education Pre-Apprenticeship Program at Parkway West High School.

"Pre-apprenticeship programs like this one are a vital bridge between education and the workforce, offering students hands-on training that directly aligns with industry needs," said Nancy A. Walker, Secretary of Labor & Industry. "By investing in PAI, we're not only preparing Philadelphia's youth for high-demand careers but also addressing the workforce gaps that Pennsylvania employers are eager to fill. This initiative represents a crucial step in empowering the next generation with the skills and opportunities they need to thrive in today's economy."

This funding is part of a broader \$3.9 million initiative to support pre-apprenticeship opportunities through career and technical education (CTE) programs run by school districts, employers, community non-profits, or economic development organizations. Notably, PAI is the only organization operating exclusively in Philadelphia among the nine pre-apprenticeship programs receiving support.

"Receiving this investment marks a significant milestone for our initiatives at Parkway West. This funding will enhance our pre-apprenticeship pathway and broaden our scope beyond the Early Childhood Education space," said F. Christopher Goins, President and CEO of Philadelphia Academies, Inc. "Our goal is to establish a robust pipeline to support more Black men in becoming educators—a mission informed by the success of similar initiatives I've spearheaded in Chicago. This comprehensive approach will empower our students with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in high-demand educational roles, significantly contributing to a more diverse teaching workforce."

During the 2023-24 school year, PAI's Early Childhood Education Pre-Apprenticeship achieved remarkable results: every enrolled pre-apprentice completed an in-school internship, and 100% of participating seniors successfully finished their Early Childhood Portfolio for Childhood Development Association (CDA) testing.

Dr. Khalid N. Mumin, Secretary of Education, added, "Investing in the education of our youngest

Pennsylvanians secures a bright future for everyone in the Commonwealth. I am thrilled to see programs like this expanding, offering life-changing opportunities to our youth.”

With this funding, PAI is set to significantly enhance its role in connecting students with the in-demand career field of education, resulting in a more skilled and capable local workforce that can contribute to the community and economy for years to come.

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About Philadelphia Academies, Inc. (PAI) was established in 1969 to address the dropout crisis plaguing Black males in Philadelphia schools. Today, PAI is dedicated to solving the critical challenges facing our city’s education system through its programmatic initiatives which include career exploration for middle school students, workforce development for high school students, capacity building for teachers & school leaders, and connecting industry leaders to classrooms. For more details visit academiesinc.org or follow PAI on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), or [LinkedIn](#).