



Graduating Students, One Community at a Time

Program Description:

The Netter Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania, in partnership with the School District of Philadelphia and two West Philadelphia neighborhood, comprehensive high schools, received a \$300,000 award from AT&T to support West Philadelphia ninth graders in elevating their academic performance and achieving on-time promotion to the next grade. The Netter Center's Academic Support & Enrichment Program is dedicated to stemming the high school dropout crisis.

For more than twenty years, the Netter Center for Community Partnerships at Penn has worked with West Philadelphia schools and community partners to help transform existing public schools into innovative University-Assisted Community Schools that function as centers of education, recreation and cultural activities, social services, and community engagement for students, parents, and community members. Each day, hundreds of Penn students are working side-by-side with children and youth in local schools as tutors, mentors, and collaborative problem solvers.

Founded in 1992, the Barbara and Edward Netter Center for Community Partnerships is Penn's primary vehicle for bringing to bear the broad range of human knowledge needed to solve the complex, comprehensive and interconnected problems of the American city so that West Philadelphia (Penn's local geographic community), Philadelphia, the University itself and society benefit. With the support of the AT&T Aspire Local High School Impact Initiative, the Netter Center will expand upon its existing college and career programming at University City and Sayre High Schools to operate a University-Assisted Academic Support & Enrichment Program for ninth grade students. Over the 24-month program period, staff coordinators, along with university students serving as graduation coaches and tutors, will develop a support system for nearly 700 ninth graders to help them succeed academically, increase their chances of earning a diploma and begin planning for post-secondary success.

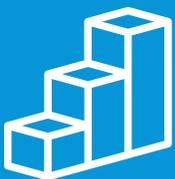


Ira Harkavy, Penn associate vice president and Netter Center director, said this collaboration has been recognized for its mobilization of significant resources that support students during the school day and after school.

- For example, in 2011-12, the Student Success Center staff at University City High School mobilized 90 Penn and Drexel students as graduation coaches.
- This team helped **94 percent** of the senior class graduate, **70 percent** of whom had post-secondary plans and secured **more than \$740,000 in scholarship and grant awards**.
- Over the past three years, the school's AP and Honors course participation **increased by 66 percent** across grade levels and subject content. In addition, average daily attendance rose from **71 percent** in 2008-09 to **83 percent** in 2011-12. With the support of AT&T, we look forward to deepening our work with local partners to further improve the outcomes of youth at both Sayre and University City High Schools.



Students:
700



Funding:
\$300,000

"Being able to work with the Student Success Center has been the most significant experience of my life. It has given me experiences working in a professional environment, learning about colleges, and thinking about the career I want to have. I've grown not just as a student but as a person too. I can honestly say that the SSC has been very important to me and I am glad that every year the program gets better and that more kids will have opportunities even earlier than I did."

Glen Casey, a senior at University City High School