

**For Immediate Release**

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**District Proposes Revamping of Career and Technical Education**  
**With the Opening of Six Academies of Excellence**

PITTSBURGH September 9, 2008 –The creation of six Academies of Excellence top the District’s recommendation for the revamping of its Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. Dr. Julia Stewart, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education, presented details of the plan designed to prepare students for 21<sup>st</sup> century employment. The plan develops Programs of Study at six Academies of Excellence and adds Satellites of Success at three District secondary schools.

“Our Career and Technical offerings must be upgraded to prepare our students for life after high school,” said Superintendent Roosevelt. “This plan enhances our strong CTE programs while adding programs that will prepare our students for high priority occupations that are in demand and earn a family wage.”

**Academies of Excellence**

There are more than 3,400 District students currently enrolled in at least one CTE class. Currently, the District offers 51 CTE programs within multiple comprehensive high schools. To streamline programming and alleviate the excessive costs associated with duplicate programs, the District’s plan recommends the opening of six Academies of Excellence. The proposed Academies of Excellence will create small learning communities, 150 to 350 students, within comprehensive high schools or other facilities. Each Academy will offer several Programs of Study, aligned to high priority occupations as identified by the state and region. A Program of Study is a two to three-year educational plan, based upon career clusters, linking students to post-secondary education or apprenticeships.

Studies show that students in Career Academies earned higher hourly wages and that increased knowledge and skills from high school impacted the continuation to higher education and lifelong learning.

“We wanted to create a more efficient and effective method for delivering Career and Technical Education to our students,” said Dr. Julia Stewart, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education. “In addition to preparing students for entry level jobs, we want to ensure that CTE students are prepared for post-secondary education.”

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In conjunction with the District’s Excel.9-12, The Plan for High School Excellence, the Academies will be phased in over the next three years. The proposed timeline for implementation is detailed in the chart below.

<b>Academy of Excellence</b>	<b>Programs of Study</b>	<b>Proposed Location</b>	<b>Academy Year</b>
Business, Finance and Information Technology	Business Information Technology Finance/Accounting Technology CISCO Information Technology	Pittsburgh Carrick	2009 – 2010
Engineering Technology	Engineering Technology	Pittsburgh Allderdice	2009 – 2010
Consumer Sciences	Hospitality and Tourism Culinary Arts Cosmetology	Pittsburgh Westinghouse	2010 – 2011
Transportation and Logistics	Automotive Technology Diesel Mechanics Automotive Body Repair	Pittsburgh Brashear	2010 – 2011
Health Sciences	Medical Records Nursing Allied Health	Hospital TBD	2011 – 2012
Construction and Trades	Carpentry, Plumbing, HVAC, Welding, Electrical Occupations Production Technology Computer Assisted Drafting and Design	South Annex and/or other facility	2011 – 2012

In addition to the Academies, the plan calls for the development of Satellites for Success. These Satellites are proposed for several District secondary schools. The proposed timeline for implementation of the Satellites for Success are detailed in the chart below.

<b>Satellite of Success</b>	<b>Proposed Location</b>	<b>Satellite Year</b>
Robotics Technology	Pittsburgh Peabody	2008 – 2009
Environmental Sciences, Engineering and Biotechnology	Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy	2009 – 2010
Graphic Design, Visual Arts and Performing Arts	Pittsburgh CAPA	2010 – 2011

The estimated cost for the renovation of existing instructional space to support the proposed plan is between \$15 and \$18 million.

The public can review the plan by visiting the Pittsburgh Public Schools website at [www.pps.k12.pa.us](http://www.pps.k12.pa.us), visiting the Division of Communications and Marketing, Room 203. Public feedback can be provided to the Superintendent via email to [superintendentoffice@pghboe.net](mailto:superintendentoffice@pghboe.net) or via mail.

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