



Press Clippings
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Web

Title: 3 Philadelphia-area Companies Land on 50 Best Workplaces for Diversity List

Author: Michelle Caffrey

Link: <http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/Best-Diversity-Companies-Philly-404842285.html>

Date: December 5, 2016

Fortune Magazine released its list of the 50 best workplaces for diversity Monday, and three Philadelphia-area companies [made the cut](#).

Local media giant Comcast took the highest spot of all area companies, coming in at No. 12. It's a ranking that reflects Comcast's efforts in recent years to increase diversity in the hiring process, open up the career pipeline to non-traditional employees and ensure that programming decisions are made by employees who reflect the diversity of Comcast's customers, all topics Senior Executive Vice President David L. Cohen discussed at a Peirce College leadership breakfast focused on the non-traditional workforce back in September.

"[Diversity] is a sound business practice," said Cohen, also Comcast's Chief Diversity Officer, at the time. "If you do business in Philadelphia, almost by accident you are going to end up doing business with a lot of diverse companies and a lot of diverse people ... as a Philadelphia corporate citizen, I also want the Philadelphia community to be as strong and vibrant as possible. In a city that is a majority minority, how can you contribute to the vibrancy of the city and community without making sure your workplace and suppliers are as diverse as the community with which you're doing business?"

To learn the two other Philly-based companies that made the list, [click here](#).

Read more: <http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/Best-Diversity-Companies-Philly-404842285.html#ixzz4Zdg2QXy1>

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Title: New grant helps District's Educational Options Program

Author: Lane Whitman

Link: <http://thenotebook.org/articles/2016/12/12/new-grant-helps-district-s-educational-options-program>

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Thanks to a \$236,000 grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, Philadelphia residents who are over age 17 and are working toward their high school diplomas through the School District's Educational Options Program will soon receive additional support.

The Counseling and Access for Postsecondary Success (CAPS) Initiative grant will expand counseling services for students preparing for higher education and provide professional development opportunities for those planning to enter the workforce.

School District officials and program representatives recently announced the grant, which will be awarded each year for the next five years, at South Philadelphia High School to an auditorium filled with about 100 students and their teachers.

"EOP is helping the city of Philadelphia's economy more than anyone knows. Once that individual earns that high school diploma, we prepare them to return to the workforce or higher education," said Audrey Nock, site director at South Philadelphia High School.

The Educational Options Program serves participants who have earned some high school credits, but are not enrolled in a traditional day school. It offers evening classes in three-month cycles three times a year for students to earn their high school diplomas.

The program now operates at four sites in Philadelphia: Benjamin Franklin High School, South Philadelphia High School, Philadelphia Leadership Academy North at Hunting Park, and Philadelphia Leadership Academy South at Westminster.

"This grant will allow the District to continue to assist students who have taken time away from school to plan for their future in a meaningful way," said Superintendent William Hite.

Through the grant, each site will have one full-time and one part-time CAPS counselor to guide students in choosing a college or training program, registering for classes, and accessing financial aid resources. These advisory services will be available to all EOP students.

Students participating specifically in the CAPS program will be required to take a CAPS Initiative Advisory course for one trimester. The course will be a graduation requirement and will cover topics pertaining to postsecondary success in higher

education or trade school through curriculum materials that were designed by Naviance College and Career Readiness program.

Students using the CAPS program must be over 19, meet certain income requirements, and qualify as first-generation-to-college, as mandated by the U.S. Department of Education.

“Philadelphia is the only school district receiving this particular grant. It is typically awarded to higher education institutions,” Hite said.

At the event, Paul Thach, 23, who is EOP South Philadelphia High class president, shared with his peers that he will be graduating in December. The news was met with a round of applause.

“With the help of EOP, I have been accepted into the Year Up Program. The Year Up Program provides an internship and admission to Peirce College. EOP put me on the right track by providing me this opportunity,” said Thach.

The Educational Options Program serves close to 1,200 students in Philadelphia.

For Shamira Riggs, 27, the new CAPS grant will allow her to explore her career options before graduation.

“I want to go to trade school. I’m not sure what I want to do, but I’m taking up something,” Riggs said. “I can’t stop right here, right now.”