

Growing our mission. Keeping our focus.

2008 Annual Report



Perspectives Charter Schools

OUR MISSION/NUESTRA MISIÓN

All Perspectives Charter Schools will provide students with a rigorous and relevant education, based on “A Disciplined Life[®],” that prepares them for life in a changing world and helps them further become intellectually reflective, caring, and ethical people engaged in a meaningful life.

Todas las escuelas de Perspectives Charter School ofrecen a los alumnos la educación sistemática y pertinente al mundo, basada en los principios rectores de “A Disciplined Life[®],” que les prepara para la vida en el mundo cambiante y les ayuda hacerse individuos intelectualmente estimulantes, solidarios y éticos, quienes se dedican a una vida plena.

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Growing our locations across Chicago

OUR CAMPUSES Our five campuses serve over 1,700 students from across the city.

RODNEY D. JOSLIN ACADEMY

Preparing students for college and life

341 students in grades 6-12
83% underserved students*
Over **90%** of graduates enroll in college and over **80%** of graduates are staying in college

PERSPECTIVES/IIT MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY

Our next generation of innovators

248 students in grades 6, 7 and 9
73% underserved students
Building a world-class university/public school partnership



CALUMET MIDDLE SCHOOL

Partnering with parents and the community

371 students in grades 7-8
88% underserved students
Outperforming average neighborhood schools on state assessment, attendance and student retention

CALUMET HIGH SCHOOL

Changing urban education

356 students in grades 9-11
91% underserved students
88% of students made expected annual gains in 2008

CALUMET HIGH SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

Growing community leaders

316 students in grades 9-11
86% underserved students
Averaged **2 points** of annual growth on ACT pretests

*% of students who receive free or reduced lunch

Bringing our mission to more underserved children. Adding our fifth Perspectives school. Remaining true to our “small school” vision with our plan for the future.

WELCOME LETTER

Changing the face of public education, one student at a time.

Our unique Perspectives model is rooted in a small school academic environment where teachers work to understand the personal learning needs of each student and where, through the principles of A Disciplined Life® and an academically rigorous college prep curriculum, we prepare students for success in college and in life.

This is the promise that launched Perspectives in 1997, when we decided we needed to provide underserved students of Chicago with a better school option. And it is the same promise our fifth school, the Perspectives/IIT Math & Science Academy, is already delivering on, since its doors were opened in the fall of 2008.

This model continues to work for the nearly 1,800 students we are serving this year. For the fifth year in a row, we saw impressive growth in middle school ISAT results, where we outperformed the district in all subjects. We also continued to send more than 90 percent of our graduates to college. Even more impressive: over 80 percent of our last two graduating classes are still in college.

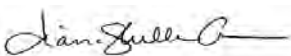
Over the next year we are committed to ensuring that our five schools are the very best Perspectives schools they can be. We will ensure that our students, who often enter Perspectives more than two years below grade level, are growing faster and further than other students in the city. And through strategic business planning and fundraising, we will grow a sustainable school model that will serve Chicago students for generations.

We are grateful for your support of Perspectives Charter Schools and our dream to improve public education for students across our city. We invite you to visit one of our schools to see first-hand the amazing work our students and teachers are accomplishing. With your continued support, we look forward to serving the students and families of Chicago.

Sincerely,



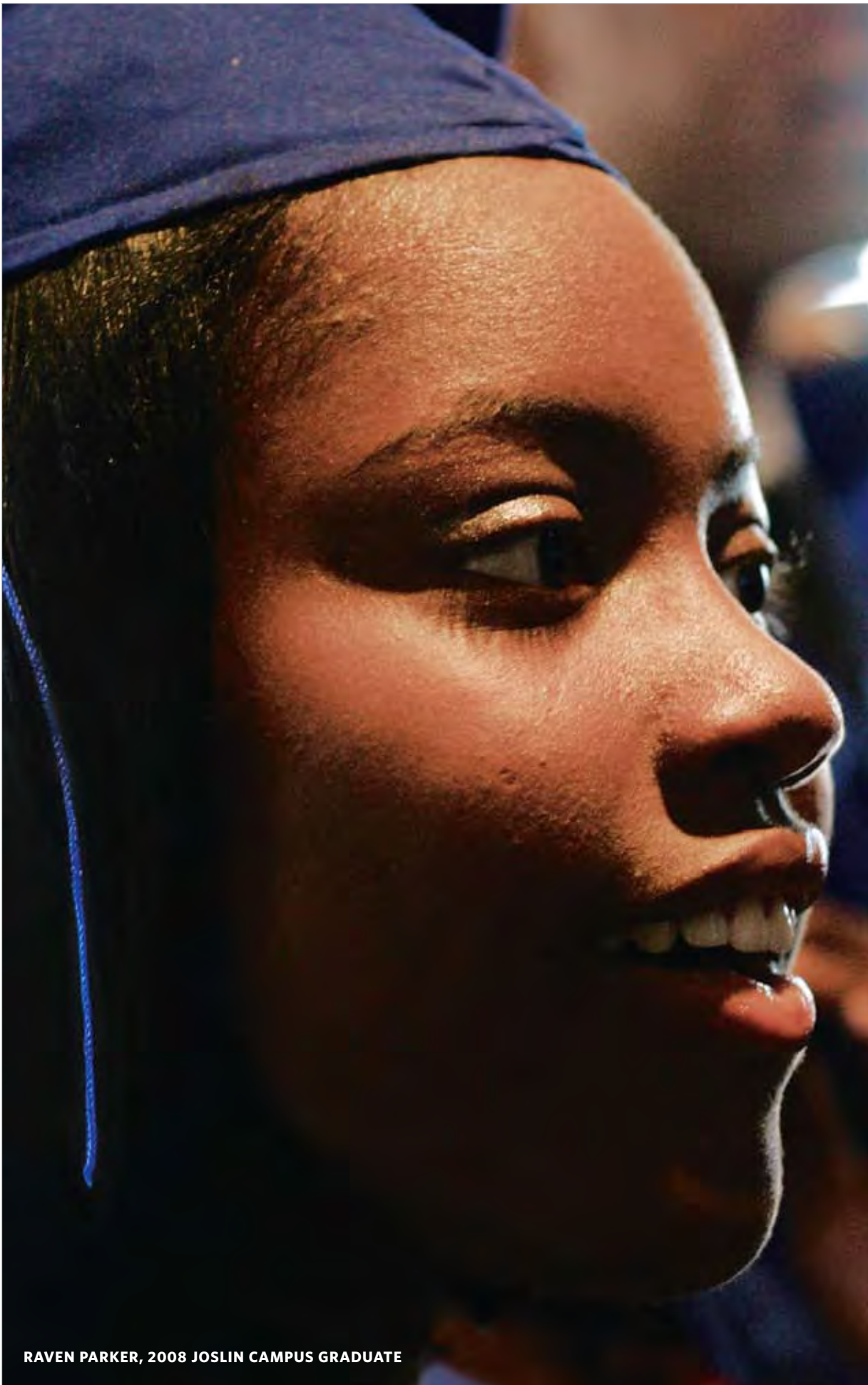
Kim Dixon
Co-Founder &
Chief Education Officer



Diana Shulla-Cose
Co-Founder & President



Larry Ashkin
Board Chair



RAVEN PARKER, 2008 JOSLIN CAMPUS GRADUATE



RODNEY D. JOSLIN CAMPUS

Prepared for college and life

COLLEGE RETENTION RATE

Perspectives	78%
National Average	67%
Chicago Public Schools	50%

% of graduates who are still in college as reported by the National Student Clearinghouse.

73.2% of middle school students met state standards, significantly higher than Chicago Public Schools

RODNEY D. JOSLIN CAMPUS

Our first campus has been making a difference in the lives of students since 1997. For over 11 years, hundreds of students from over 34 wards across the city have attended this school in the South Loop. Over 80 percent of all students have graduated since 2000, and 90 percent of all graduates have attended college. In 2008, 100 percent of all graduates were accepted to two or four-year colleges, while over 80 percent of our two previous classes were still enrolled in college.

In May 2008, our South Loop Campus was renamed in honor of our late Board Chair, Rodney D. Joslin. Rod was our first Board Chair and also served as our Chief Administrative Officer at the time of his passing in January of 2008. Rod’s leadership, vision and generosity were instrumental to the successful start Perspectives enjoyed, and he guided our growth so that we could provide more students with a Perspectives education.

MICHAEL MUNGUIA, SENIOR

Michael Munguia followed his two older sisters Angela and Leticia to Perspectives seven years ago, when he enrolled at Perspectives in sixth grade. “My parents thought it was a good school because it’s small and the teachers provide more one-on-one attention. They thought it would be better than my old school because, at that school, we didn’t really get one-on-one attention from the teachers.”

Michael is currently a finalist for a Posse Scholarship to Denison University in Granville, Ohio, and he plans to become the third in his family to attend college. Like many Perspectives graduates before him, Michael believes the principles of A Disciplined Life will be his greatest asset in college. “They pretty much cover everything that you need. When you’re in college, you need to use your time wisely because managing your time can be a really big issue. Turning in quality work is important, too. I think I’ll take all of the ADL principles with me.”

90% of graduates
continue to college

MICHAEL MUNGUÍA, SENIOR

"I think I'll take all
of the principles of
A Disciplined Life
with me."



MICHAEL MUNGUÍA AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL DR. LAQUITA CARTER

"I'm in it for the long haul
with Perspectives."

LASHAUN GOODWIN, PARENT



STUDENTS TERENCE AND CLARENCE GOODWIN WITH PRINCIPAL TAMARA DAVIS

Outperformed neighborhood schools on ISAT, attendance and student retention

Partnering with parents and the community

CALUMET MIDDLE SCHOOL

2

MAP LOCATION

CALUMET MIDDLE SCHOOL

Calumet Middle School graduated its first class of eighth graders this year. With nearly 200 students donning red caps and gowns and hundreds of family members cheering loudly, each speaker—students, teachers and guests alike—emphasized that this was only the first of three successive graduations for these eighth graders. Even in middle school, our students understand the importance of continuing their education in high school and in college.

As one of five schools in Chicago awarded a portion of an \$18 million grant through a partnership with Local Initiatives Support Council (LISC), Calumet Middle School will provide enhanced health, social and academic support for all students. This includes a health clinic opening during the 2008-2009 school year in partnership with Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation and Access Health Network. With these strong community partnerships, Calumet Middle School will provide the students of Auburn Gresham with a high quality college prep education for years to come.

LASHAUN GOODWIN, PARENT

Three of LaShaun Goodwin’s four children have attended Perspectives Calumet Middle School. Her twins Terence and Clarence are 8th graders this year, and her son Aaron graduated last June and went on to the Calumet High School of Technology. “I’m in it for the long haul with Perspectives,” she says proudly.

“I especially like the communication with teachers in the middle school,” Goodwin says. She hears from teachers via email “on a weekly basis, sometimes several times a week, and it’s not just bad. If they have a good report, they let me know.” She also appreciates our early emphasis on college. “They are naming each 8th grade class after a university—one class is Georgetown. It’s giving the kids a lot to look forward to.”

MAP LOCATION

3

CALUMET HIGH SCHOOL

11% higher attendance rate than neighboring schools

Changing urban education, one student at a time

CALUMET HIGH SCHOOL

Since opening in the fall of 2006, Calumet High School is giving students from the surrounding community hope, the hope that they can make it to college, graduate and become contributing members of their community. While students often enter ninth grade two or more years below grade level, we are committed to ensuring that each and every student is prepared to enter a four-year college. College banners line the hallways and a mural in the hall proclaims that college is for certain.

Calumet High School has benefitted greatly from a strong partnership with Ernst & Young, LLP. Among their many contributions as one of our leading donors, employees from their Chicago offices have served as mentors to many of our students and Vice President and Midwest Managing Partner Tony Anderson has arranged for a pair of students to travel to Kenya with the Field Museum for the past two summers. Ernst & Young’s support of our mission and dedication to our students has been key to the school’s success.

HERALD WATSON, ALUMNUS

Herald Watson graduated from Perspectives’ Joslin campus in 2003. He’s now working as a part-time math tutor for Perspectives Calumet High School and planning a career in education. “My background is in business, but I really want to give back,” he says. “The goal after being a teacher is to become a principal and maybe a superintendent.”

His students appreciate having a young role model who can relate to their experiences. “I told them my story right off the bat. I was a knucklehead back in the day.” Herald says he joked around his first two years of high school, only getting serious about his studies as a junior. Thanks to his teachers and then-counselor, current Perspectives Calumet High School Principal Glennese Ray, he won a full-tuition scholarship to the University of Illinois, plus a book allowance and stipend. He now tells his students, “You guys should be motivated to get your grades up. You can get paid to go to school like I did. That opened some eyes.”

"I really want to give back."

HERALD WATSON, ALUMNUS



PRINCIPAL GLENNESE RAY AND ALUMNUS HERALD WATSON

A close-up portrait of a young Black male, James Mills, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. He is wearing a light blue collared shirt. The background is a warm, yellowish-brown wall with a dark wooden baseboard and a small decorative object hanging on the wall to the right.

JAMES MILLS,
SOPHOMORE

"I'm definitely
going to college."

JAMES MILLS, 10TH GRADE STUDENT

Growing community leaders

2 points

AVERAGE ANNUAL
GROWTH ON ACT
PRE-TESTS

Growing students
faster and further

CALUMET HIGH SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

4

MAP LOCATION

CALUMET HIGH SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

Calumet High School of Technology opened in September 2007 to provide high school students from the Auburn Gresham neighborhood with the computer technology skills to get ahead in college and in life. While maintaining the foundations of all Perspectives schools, including A Disciplined Life and College for Certain, Cal Tech, as students and staff refer to the school, uses technology as a way to engage students and as a lens through which view all subjects and another way to engage students.

Cal Tech students are learning the business and technology skills that will help them succeed in college. This year, the school's sophomores and juniors are learning skills in photo and video editing, and web programming. Students are applying these skills in teams to create websites that champion a specific social cause chosen in their Social Justice class. These projects demonstrate their mastery of technology and business, while encouraging students to take an active role in improving their community.

JAMES MILLS, 10TH GRADER

Cal Tech sophomore James Mills says he is definitely going to go to college. "I would like to apply to Yale, because I want to go to Yale and become a senator or a congressman." Citing Barack Obama as one of his heroes, he spoke excitedly about this year's election. "It was so historic. It proves that no matter what age, race, gender, sexual orientation, that you can be anything you want and don't let anybody tell you otherwise."

He is confident that Perspectives is the right place for him to build the skills he will need to succeed in politics. "If you want a high school that will teach you, and not only teach you, but love you and respect you for who you are and who you want to be, Perspectives-Cal Tech is the right place to be."

NEARLY
700
APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED FOR
270 SEATS

PERSPECTIVES/IIT MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY

Our next generation
of innovators

IIT MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY

Two years ago, we approached Illinois Institute of Technology with the idea of opening a Math & Science Academy. Working with Drs. Norman and Judith Lederman of IIT’s Mathematics and Science Education Department, and led by Perspectives principal Mary Cummane, we have developed an innovative curriculum centered on scientific inquiry and problem solving skills. This curriculum will treat students as scientists and mathematicians, preparing them for college with authentic and engaging real-life learning experiences.

With significant support from the Motorola Foundation, the school’s lead donor, we are drawing on resources and volunteers from Motorola and IIT to provide enriching educational experiences throughout the year. Motorola helped develop our first science labs, sponsored our robotics team and donated solar panels that will soon be installed on the school’s roof. With leading contributions from Motorola and IIT, Perspectives is developing a world-class math and science academy.

MARY CUMMANE, PRINCIPAL

Math & Science Academy principal Mary Cummane, who received her master’s degree from IIT, has been with Perspectives for 11 years. She joined Perspectives as a science teacher at our Joslin Campus, where she also served as an instructional leader. In 2006, she served as the founding assistant principal of our Calumet Campus and spent 2007 as a Leader-in-Training, preparing for the opening of the Math & Science Academy.

“It’s been two years of my life to get this school up and going.” Mary has been involved in every aspect of opening the school from the planning and initial proposal, to establishing the partnership with IIT, and finding a facility, to hiring teachers and recruiting students. “Up until the first day of school construction was being done frantically to get the school ready, but seeing the enthusiasm and support of our parents, students and community members at our grand opening—it was a great feeling to see all of that support and a day for me to be full of gratitude. But now the real work begins.”

"It's been extraordinary
to watch Perspectives
grow from one school to
five campuses."

MARY
CUMMANE,
PRINCIPAL



STUDENTS NANCY MARQUEZ, TIMOTHY JOHNSON, AND SIRENA WILLIAMS,
A DISCIPLINED LIFE ADVISOR JOYCE MEAKINS, AND PRINCIPAL MARY CUMMANE

FINANCIALS

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION	YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2008
ASSETS	
Cash	2,153,830
Pledges/other accounts receivable and prepaid expenses	1,650,114
Property and equipment, net	7,477,408
Total assets	\$ 11,281,352
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable, accrued salaries, and related liabilities	1,917,166
Capital lease obligations and deferred rent liability	888,887
Bonds payable	5,400,000
Total liabilities	\$8,206,053
Total net assets	\$3,075,299
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 11,281,352

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2008
REVENUES	
All government sources	14,022,607
Contributions:	
Individuals	318,821
Corporations	203,450
Foundations	1,882,092
Special events, net proceeds	231,649
Contributed services, other	8,711
Student fees, fundraisers, and other income	246,087
Investment income	51,935
Total revenues	\$ 16,965,352
EXPENSES	
Program services	16,695,856
Management and general	1,817,406
Fundraising	361,127
Total expenses	\$ 18,874,389
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(1,909,037)
Net assets, beginning of year	4,984,336
Net assets, end of year	3,075,299

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

\$1,000,000+

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

\$200,000+

Doris & Laurence Ashkin
Motorola Foundation
The Renaissance Schools Fund

\$100,000+

LISC
United Way

\$50,000+

The Speh Family Foundation

\$25,000+

Clare Foundation
Ernst & Young LLP
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
The Mayer and Morris Kaplan
Family Foundation
NewSchools Venture Fund
The Bill Nygren Foundation
Prince Charitable Trusts

\$10,000+

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Clark
ComEd, An Exelon Company
The Field Foundation of Illinois, Inc.
Harris Bank
Irvin Stern Foundation
Morgan Stanley & Co., Inc.
Perkins & Will
The PrivateBank and Trust
Company
The Skilling and Andrews
Foundation
Arthur & Jane Slaven
Walsh Construction Company

\$5,000+

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David & Colleen Cole
Sheryl & Dominic Curcio
Robert & Bettina Frankel
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John & Martha Mabie
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\$2,000+

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Kemery Bloom
Burrell Communications
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Dianne & Tom Campbell
Dean & Alison Chung
Robert A. Colvin & Carla R.
Michelotti
Howard & Kim Davis
Jay P. Deratany

Kerry Dickson
Kim Dixon
Evan & Jennifer Dijkas
Dennis & Donna Drescher
Victor & Jean Elting
Jane & Jim Esser
Reven & Reed Fellars
Fay Ferguson
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Nancy Glover
Dr. Vicki Gordon & Dr. Donald
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Kimberly Waller
Steven L. Washington
Thomas Weeks
Loren & Diane Weil
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\$1,000+

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Howard & Marcia Aduss
Evan Ashkin & Cheryl Baker
Paul Bader
Beermann Swardlove, LLP
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Anne & Stephen Bent
Karen Bergren
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Mesirow Financial
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Perry Sainati
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William Shepard
R.S. Shields
Robin Steans & Leonard Gail
Carol Stein
Thomas M. Tully & Associates
Scott Weisenberger & Adrienne
Hepworth
Constance & Hugh Williams
Michael Winter

\$500+

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Leslie W. Berger
David Bornhoeft
Emily Borovsky
William Bransky
Amy Brierly
Darcy Bonner & Associates
Arie and Ida Crown Memorial
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Mulbe Dillard
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Emma, Charlie, Ben, Leslie & Gary
Wood
Deborah & Matthew Brown

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Gloria Stender
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Steve Wohl
Jill Anne Ying

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Michelle & Tony Anderson
Art Chicago
Check, Please!
Lisa Cotton
Entertaining Company
Sam Kori George
Jean & Lewis Greenblatt
Illinois Sports Facilities Authority
Gary Johnson
Lisa & Michael Kornick
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Debi Lilli/A Perfect Event
Paul Lindermuth & the Art of Food
Carol Mendelsohn
David Manilow
mk Restaurant
Armen Minasian
John Nedeau
Wendy Pashman
Dr. Julian Kerbis Peterhans
Red Light Restaurant
Richard Gray Gallery
Jill & John Svoboda
Mel Theobald
United Airlines
Larry Yellen

PERSPECTIVES 360°

Perspectives 360 is a \$5 million fundraising campaign that will ensure the sustainability of our network as we continue to invest in a school model that truly educates the whole student.

When our schools are fully-enrolled, with nearly 2,600 students in 2012, our network will be self-sustaining, operating on public funding alone. We open our new campuses with only a few classes, growing our schools slowly, to ensure that our A Disciplined Life culture can take hold and we can build a strong foundation for each school's future. While we know this is best for our students, it creates a gap in the funding we need to operate our schools and the per pupil revenue we receive from Chicago Public Schools.

This \$5 million campaign will fill that gap in funding as we continue to grow our five school network. An investment in Perspectives today not only supports our current students, but helps ensure that future generations of students are prepared for success in college and beyond.

To learn more about this campaign and all of our fundraising efforts please go to our website or call Sue Enright, Director of External Affairs, at 312.604.2190.

“Exelon and ComEd are proud to invest in charter school models like Perspectives, who are bringing positive change to our urban schools by preparing more students for success in college and in life.”
-John W. Rowe, Chairman and CEO,
Exelon Corporation

2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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A DISCIPLINED LIFE® / *La filosofía de a disciplined life®*

The principles of A Disciplined Life form the foundation of our Perspectives Charter Schools experience. They build a culture of success and address each student as a whole person, understanding that character growth and academic progress are interdependent.

SELF PERCEPTION

- Accept only quality work from yourself
- Take responsibility for your actions
- Seek wisdom
- Be open-minded
- Think critically and be inquisitive
- Love who you are
- Demonstrate honesty, integrity, and decency
- Be generous
- Be a life-long learner
- Live a healthy lifestyle

COMMUNICATION

- Communicate effectively
- Challenge each other intellectually
- Show gratitude
- Solve conflicts peacefully
- Respect each other’s differences
- Be positive and supportive of each other
- Show compassion

PRODUCTIVITY

- Demonstrate a strong work ethic
- Use your time wisely
- Listen actively
- Be punctual and prepared
- Be organized
- Be reflective
- Be reliable
- Take initiative
- Demonstrate perseverance

PERCEPCIÓN DE SÍ

- Aceptar de sí mismo solo trabajo de buena calidad*
- Ser responsable de sus actos*
- Buscar la sabiduría*
- Ser libre de prejuicios*
- Pensar críticamente y hacer preguntas*
- Quererse como es*
- Demostrar honradez, integridad y decencia*
- Ser generoso*
- Estudiar y aprender toda la vida*
- Vivir una vida saludable*

COMUNICACIÓN

- Comunicarse eficazmente*
- Retar el intelecto del uno al otro*
- Mostrar el agradecimiento*
- Resolver los conflictos pacíficamente*
- Respetar las diferencias del uno al otro*
- Ser optimista y apoyar uno al otro*
- Ser compasivo*

PRODUCTIVIDAD

- Demostrar una fuerte ética del trabajo*
- Usar su tiempo sabiamente*
- Escuchar activamente*
- Ser puntual y estar preparado*
- Ser organizado*
- Reflexionar*
- Ser digno de confianza*
- Tomar la iniciativa*
- Demostrar la perseverancia*

