



# Perspectives Charter Schools

Educating students for college, preparing students for life.

Thanks to You

# Our Model Works

2010 Annual Report

[www.perspectivescs.org](http://www.perspectivescs.org)



Perspectives Leadership Academy, May 2010 Graduation.

# The Perspectives Model Works!

Our mission at Perspectives Charter Schools is to provide students with a **rigorous and relevant College for Certain education**, based on A Disciplined Life®, preparing them for their future in a changing world, helping them become **intellectually reflective, caring and ethical** people engaged in a **meaningful life**.

This mission has translated into another year of many successes for our young scholars. Day by day, month by month, **we are positively impacting young lives daily.**

- Students at our Rodney D. Joslin campus took the Spring 2010 Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) — and showed the **greatest single-year growth among all charter schools** in Chicago. These students grew an amazing 9.1 percentage points in the meeting/exceeding category for composite score. By comparison, the overall increase in the percentage of Chicago Public School students in this category over the same time period was just 1.3 percentage points. Also at our Joslin campus **100 percent of our 2010 graduates were accepted to college and 97 percent enrolled in college this fall.**
- Students at our two Auburn Gresham high schools made history! Four years ago, the former high school at this location had a graduation rate of just 35 percent, prompting Chicago Public Schools to shut it down and open Perspectives schools on the campus. Four years later, **our first graduating class of seniors more than doubled the graduation rate and increased their average ACT score by three points.** Ninety-seven percent of these graduates were accepted to college, and this fall, 90 percent enrolled in college. The vast majority — nearly 90 percent — are first-generation college students.
- This year, Perspectives helped its graduating seniors land more than \$1.7 million in scholarship offers. **From the very first day as Perspectives sixth graders, our students are learning that college is in their future.** They are receiving the kind of support along the way that makes that dream a reality.

Data Source: Office of Performance Data, Chicago Public Schools





# A Disciplined Life®

Well before the value of social emotional learning became widely recognized in education, Perspectives Co-Founders Diana Shulla-Cose and Kim Day had already realized how critical this kind of learning was to their students' success. They believed that social emotional learning and academic achievement were interdependent.



Rodney D. Joslin students from left to right: Dwayne Wooten, Manuel Whitfield, Frank Kmiec and Ronald Brown.

Photo by Andrew Young Photography

Today, the 26 principles of A Disciplined Life® form the foundation of our culture at Perspectives Charter Schools, helping to prepare our students for success in college, the workplace and in life. Over time, A Disciplined Life® has become integral to every aspect of Perspectives, informing our behavior, communication and productivity, while being the cornerstone for our curriculum and professional development. It serves as a common language for our students, staff and parents.

A Disciplined Life® (ADL) translates into success for our students as described by Manuel Whitfield, junior, Rodney D. Joslin campus:

"There are two ADL principles that drastically affected me—Demonstrating Perseverance and Taking Initiative. I came to Perspectives in the middle of my seventh grade year and my behavior wasn't good at all. My grades were good, but you can never get far with terrible behavior. But eventually I changed. My whole persona changed because of this school, and it has made me into the young man I am today. I think that every school should have these principles because they teach students at a young age how to live their lives morally, as well as ethically."

## 97% of Our 2010 Graduates Were Accepted to College

With the goal of ensuring that every student graduates from Perspectives prepared to succeed in college and in life, we work hard to accelerate student achievement growth. When most of our students arrive at Perspectives, they're two to four grades behind. Our job is to help them catch up.

To achieve this, Perspectives provides not only a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, but longer school days to accommodate additional class time for math and reading, individualized instruction, tutoring, homework club, curriculum-driven field studies, and a variety of after school learning opportunities, including participation on any of our 45 sports teams.

In addition, we facilitate student growth by teaching our character-building 26 principles of A Disciplined Life® in every classroom, every day. In fact, as you look around our five schools, A Disciplined Life® is everywhere—on walls, bulletin boards and even on the ceilings.

Perspectives' College for Certain initiative provides intensive one-on-one interaction and support for students beginning in

sixth grade when our students are led on the first of their college tours. Each year they participate in career panels, and during their junior year students intern with local Chicago businesses, expanding their exposure to career opportunities.

The success of our model can be attributed to all of these factors and the talent and dedication of our education leaders and teaching staff.



Perspectives High School of Technology 2010 graduate James Guyton with his family.

Photo by Diane Alexander White

# College Dad Ensures Success Beyond High School

Perspectives' alumni network of more than 422 students is growing fast! With each year, we see more graduates leaving our halls and making their way to college and beyond.

At Perspectives, our College for Certain environment builds confidence, character, problem-solving skills, and intellectual inquiry, preparing students for the challenges of higher education, the workplace, and life. This College for Certain philosophy also includes a commitment to support students not only as they start college, but until they graduate with a degree.

That's where our "College Dad" comes in. As Director of College Counseling, Tony Seiden manages a team of four counselors and directs our college counseling program. As College Dad, he is also responsible for doing whatever he can to help students succeed in a college environment. He's a resource for students while they're preparing to enroll, and a shoulder to lean on as they grow accustomed to life on a college campus. Our College Dad is just a phone call or a text message away, ready to provide support, encouragement and guidance.

When Tamika Balentine's plans to enroll in a private college were disrupted by an unexpected financial hurdle, she turned to her College Dad. "I remember racing to my high school for a meeting with Mr. Seiden and my mom. With all of his resources, Mr. Seiden connected me to the right people. That same day,

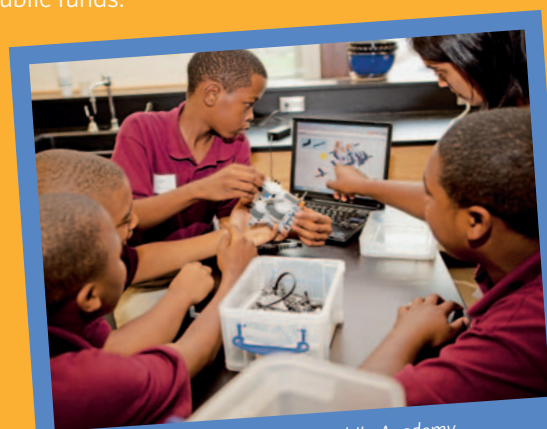
I was accepted into Rust College, in Holly Spring, Mississippi, where I was awarded a scholarship in the music field. I was overjoyed! I have no words to thank Mr. Seiden. As of today, college is going well and Mr. Seiden still checks up on me!"



L to R: Director of College Counseling Tony Seiden, Perspectives Leadership Academy College Counselor Stefan Fisher, Perspectives/IIT Math & Science Academy College Counselor Antoine Finner, Rodney D. Joslin College Counselor Jonathan Daniels, and Perspectives High School of Technology College Counselor Tynesha Parker.  
Photo by Andrew Young Photography

## Thanks to You We Bridge the Education Funding Gap!

**Thanks to you,** Perspectives is able to overcome the funding shortfall inherent in operating a public charter school in Chicago—where charters receive 75 percent of the funding that Chicago Public Schools receive. Despite this funding gap, at full enrollment we expect to meet all core operating costs with public funds.



Students from the Perspectives Middle Academy Project Syncere after school program, Paul Henderson, William Flemming and Matthew Timmons, led by teacher Ana María Nūngo.

Photo by Andrew Young Photography

We are well on our way to achieving that goal since we covered 92 percent of our operating costs with funding from government sources in 2010!

If all we did was provide an education, our costs would already be covered solely from public sources. We know, however, that our students require far more than the "basics." In order to achieve our 97 percent college acceptance rate and 77 percent three-year college retention rate our Perspectives model requires that we have a complex web of support services in place from day one to maximize the chances for our students' success.

Because of your generosity we have the resources to deliver on our promise to educate students for college and prepare them for life.



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## 2010 Audited Financials

### Statement of Financial Position

Assets	Year Ended June 30, 2010
Cash	\$ 1,928,695
Pledges/accounts receivable, prepaid expenses and deposits	2,460,775
Property and equipment, net	8,027,738
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 12,417,208</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	
Accounts payable, accrued salaries and related liabilities	\$ 3,213,862
Capital lease obligations/deferred rent and revenue liability	641,654
Notes payable	2,398,675
Bond payable	5,200,000
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 11,454,191</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$ 963,017</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 12,417,208</b>

### Statement of Activities

Revenues	Year Ended June 30, 2010
All government sources	\$25,037,075
Contributions:	
Individuals	216,428
Corporations/Foundation	1,823,369
Other	1,237,300
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$ 28,314,172</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Program services	\$25,818,008
Management and general	2,175,408
Fundraising	226,135
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 28,219,551</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	
<b>94,621</b>	
Net assets, beginning of year	
(As restated)	\$ 868,396
Net assets, end of year	963,017

## Governance

### Board of Directors

Laurence Ashkin, *Chairman*; Joel M. Stender, *Vice Chairman*; Deborah Stevens, *Treasurer*; Kimberly Waller, *Secretary*; Hall Adams, III, William Anspach, Jr., David E. Baker, Rick Callahan, Kimberly Daniel, Michelle M. Hughes, William D. Mack, Paul B. O'Kelly, James A. Peyser, Anthony A. Robinson, Loren A. Weil

### Advisory Council

Anne Bent, Robert Blackwell Jr., John D. Chavez, Howard Davis, The Rev. Wilfredo de Jesus, Luis Diaz-Perez, Evan Dijkas, Fay Ferguson, Barbara Fosco, Lisa Kornick, Janice MacVicar, Steve Milter, Johnita W. Mizelle, John Musachia, Rebeca Nieves Huffman, Nick Rosa, Steven Turckes, Steven L. Washington, Stephen Willis





## Dear Friends of Perspectives,

When I began the job as Perspectives' chief executive officer in January of 2010, I knew I was joining a special organization. Little did I know just how extraordinary Perspectives would prove to be.

We serve a student population facing enormous challenges. The vast majority come from economically disadvantaged communities where many students struggle and eventually drop out of school. The stakes are very high since research shows that young people who fail to earn high school diplomas face bleak prospects. Their job opportunities are often dismal. Many wind up incarcerated. For many, their worldview is limited by the neighborhood around them. Their idea of what is possible looks nothing like it does for students in wealthier communities.

**At Perspectives, we believe that a child's zip code should not dictate his or her destiny.**

We are opening up a world of possibilities and giving our students the power to rewrite their futures. We are doing it in record time and in record numbers. In Auburn Gresham, for example, with our graduation this past May of our first class of seniors we have more than doubled high school graduation rates in just four years.

This kind of change is needed urgently. Thanks to your support, we are making it happen now. The investment you make in Perspectives today has far-reaching benefits. We take every dollar and make it go further. We help students who are behind academically develop scholastic skills and catch up quickly. We teach them life skills that help them succeed not just at Perspectives, but in college and beyond. To ensure that we are able to continue this great work, we've engineered a significant financial turnaround—from a shortfall of \$2.2 million one year ago to this year's surplus of \$94,621—thanks to fiscal discipline and strengthened fundraising.

As someone who believes deeply in the power of education to open doors and change lives, I can't imagine anything more gratifying than what I witnessed this May at my first Perspectives graduation ceremony. There, I watched a young woman who had struggled with homelessness walk across the stage to accept her diploma. Not only was she graduating, thanks to her years at Perspectives and her own determination, she was heading to an excellent four-year college and a stable home in a college dormitory.

**Quite simply, our model works. We offer all of you our most heartfelt thanks and ask for your continued support as we progress toward full enrollment at each of our schools.** Together, we are changing the trajectories of young lives each and every day.

With thanks,



Rhonda Hopps, CFA  
Chief Executive Officer



Photo by Andrew Young Photography

*Co-Founder and Chief Education Officer Kim Day, Chief Executive Officer Rhonda Hopps, and Co-Founder and President Diana Schulla-Cose, surrounded by students at Perspectives Leadership Academy.*

## A Disciplined Life®

The principles of A Disciplined Life® form the foundation of our Perspectives Charter Schools experience.

### 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

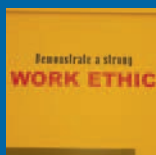


# Perspectives Charter Schools

In preparation for the 2010-2011 school year, all three schools at Perspectives' Auburn Gresham campus decided to change their school names to better reflect their commitment to providing college preparatory education.

"The vision of the newly named Perspectives Leadership Academy is to prepare all scholars for college success and to equip them with the passion and tools to become intellectually reflective, caring, and ethical leaders engaged in meaningful lives. Leadership development begins in the 9th grade when all students take a class focused on our **LEADER** values—Live A Disciplined Life®, Enthusiasm, Achievement, Demonstrate Perseverance, Effective Communication, and Responsibility."

*Perspectives Leadership Academy Principal Heather Haines*



## Our Schools

### Support Hub of Perspectives- Administrative Offices

3663 South Wabash Avenue, Third Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60653

1



### Rodney D. Joslin Campus

1930 South Archer Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60616

2



### Perspectives Middle Academy

8131 South May Street, First Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60620

3



### Perspectives High School of Technology

8131 South May Street, Second Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60620

4



### Perspectives Leadership Academy

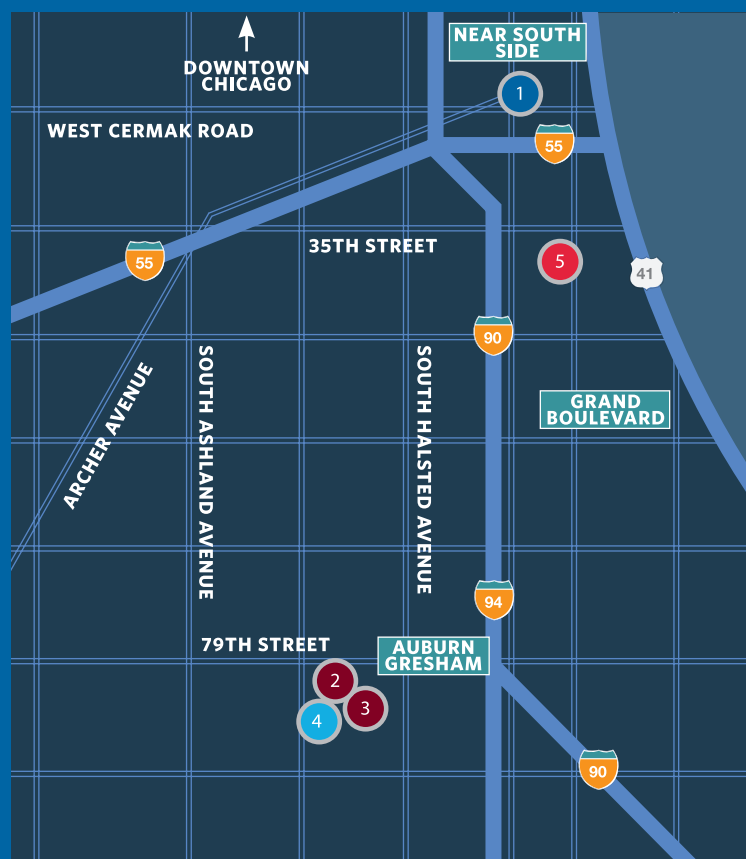
8131 South May Street, Third Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60620

5



### Perspectives/IIT Math & Science Academy

3663 South Wabash Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60653



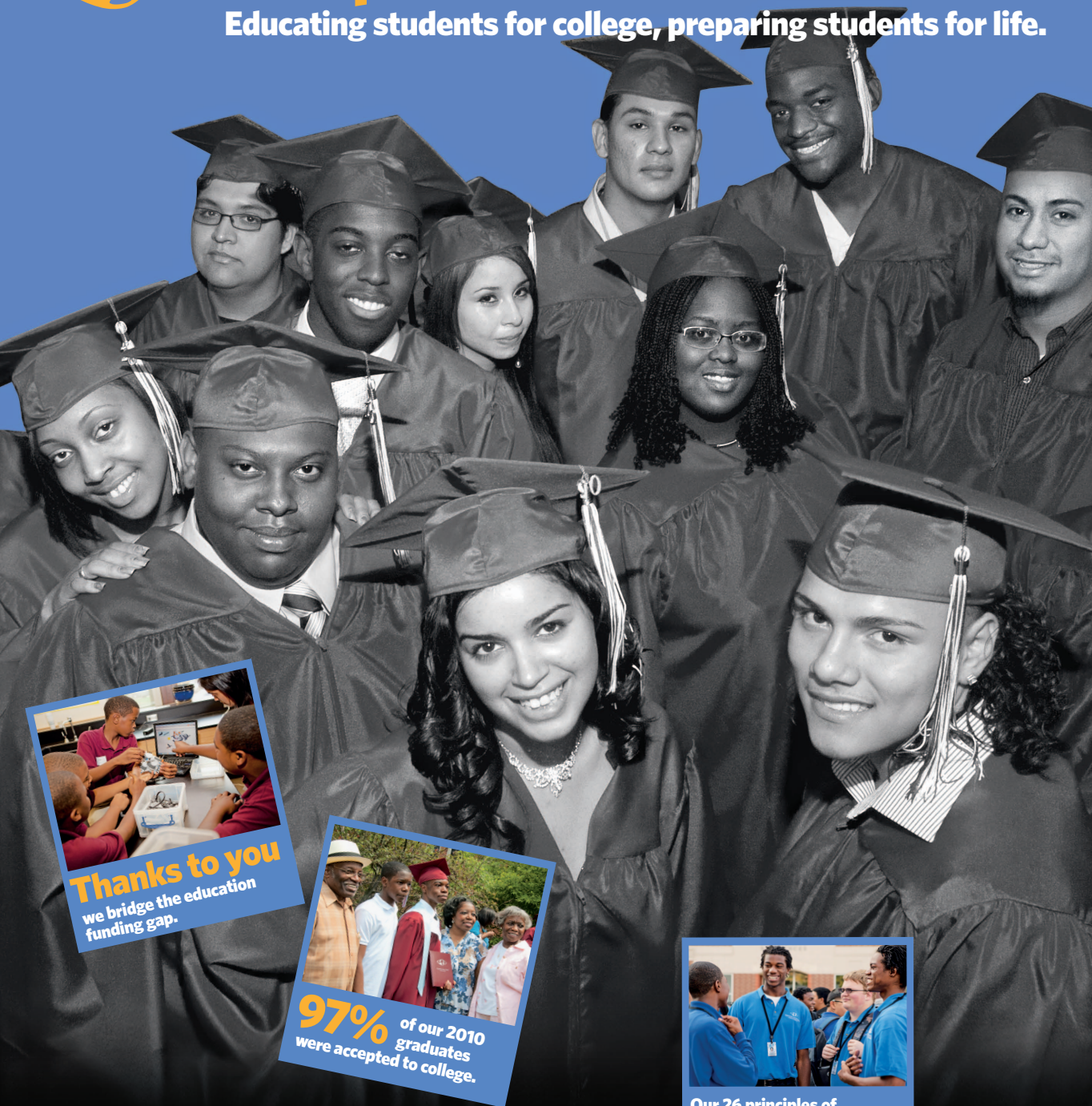
**For more information or to learn more about our schools,  
please visit [www.perspectivescs.org](http://www.perspectivescs.org) or call 312.604.2200.**





# Perspectives Charter Schools

Educating students for college, preparing students for life.



**Thanks to you**  
we bridge the education  
funding gap.



**97%** of our 2010  
graduates  
were accepted to college.



Our 26 principles of  
**A Disciplined Life**<sup>®</sup>  
teach strategies for achieving  
success in life.

The Perspectives model works.  
We are opening up a **world of possibilities** and giving our students the power to **rewrite their futures**, changing the trajectories of young lives **each and every day**.



College Dad ensures success  
beyond high school.  
**77%** of our graduates  
are still enrolled  
in college after three years —  
well on their way to earning their degrees!

**Learn more at [www.perspectivescs.org](http://www.perspectivescs.org) • 312.604.2200**