



100%
ACCEPTANCE



**Perspectives
Charter Schools**

Educating for College
Preparing for Life

A DISCIPLINED LIFE®: TAKING HOLD
2014 ANNUAL REPORT

DEAR FRIENDS OF PERSPECTIVES

100% of graduates accepted to college. Graduates persisting in college at a rate above the national average. Alumni becoming ethical leaders in education, medicine, business and more. What does it take to get there?



At Perspectives Charter Schools, we realize that it takes educating the whole child. It takes the A Disciplined Life education model, which combines a rigorous college prep curriculum with social-emotional learning through the 26 principles of A Disciplined Life®.

It also takes going beyond the classroom and the traditional school day. Research shows that by the time they reach sixth grade, middle-class children have spent 6,000 more hours learning out of school than the students we serve at Perspectives. We are constantly looking for ways to fill that gap for our students—the gap at the intersection of academic rigor and social emotional learning.

We provide college tours beginning in the sixth grade, set all of our juniors up with 5-day internships with businesses throughout the city, offer extensive field studies that use the city as a classroom, and provide a huge variety of after-school and summer-programs for our students, from math enrichment to music to athletics. We also provide highly-trained social workers and college counselors on each campus, with student caseloads much, much lower than in the Chicago Public Schools system.

We aren't doing this alone. Partnerships at every step of the way make this work possible. Five-star providers like the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship and One Goal offer enrichment programs to our students. Some of the best companies in Chicago, such as Ernst & Young LLP and AAR CORP., are offering internships to our students and supporting our Annual Benefit. World-renowned foundations like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are supporting our work. Furthermore, our teachers and school leaders are embodying the A Disciplined Life principle “be a life-long learner” as they go across the country to learn best practices for personalized learning, restorative justice, and college counseling.

As these partnerships continue to grow, our results keep getting better and better. Our middle school students nearly triple their national ranking in math and reading from 6th to 8th grade. Our high school ACT average exceeds the average for all schools in the Chicago Public Schools system, including selective enrollment schools.

Results like these make people take notice. People from around the world are asking to learn more about the A Disciplined Life education model, and we have presented about our model in forums as diverse as Chicago Ideas Week and a suburban school district in New Jersey. Our “I Am For Peace” march drew media attention from more than 30 media outlets, both locally and nationally.

In the end, what it takes to get the results we have seen is more partners like you. As you read this annual report, please think about how you can continue to partner with Perspectives to provide opportunities for our students and how you can help us spread the A Disciplined Life education model around the world.

Let's continue to work together to develop the next generation of ethical leaders.

With gratitude and respect,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Rhonda Hopps, CFA.

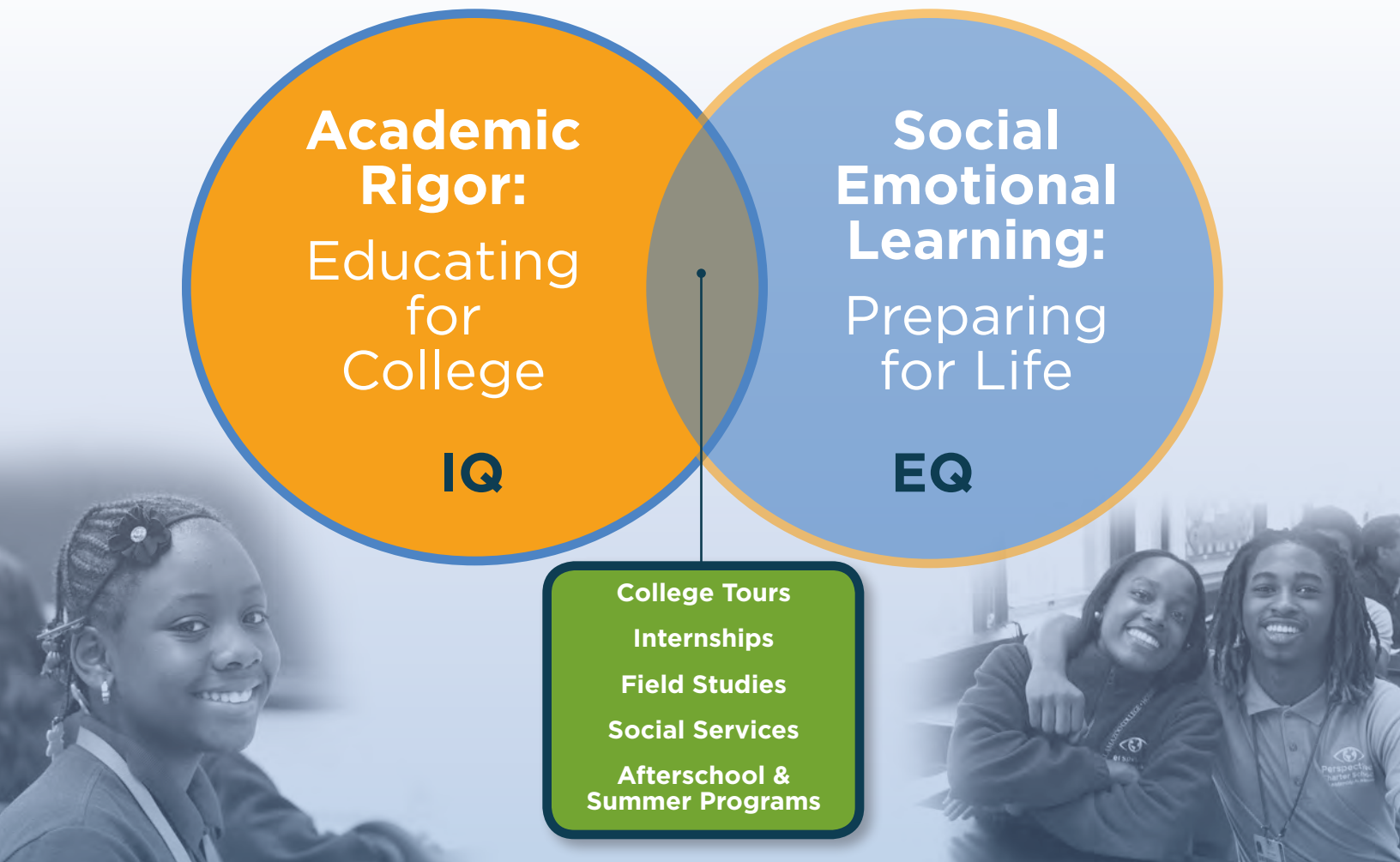
Rhonda Hopps, CFA
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Tony Anderson.

Tony Anderson
Board Chairman

100%
COMMITMENT

A Disciplined Life[®] Education Model



Academic Achievement and Strong Character:

A Disciplined Life Education Model

- This past year, our middle school students nearly tripled their national ranking in math and reading from 6th to 8th grade.
- Our ACT average was the highest in network history—and it was higher than the average for Chicago Public Schools, including selective enrollment schools.
- Our alumni are persisting towards college graduation at a rate above the national average
- **100% of our graduates** were accepted to college, earning more than **\$12 million in scholarships**



PERSPECTIVES Students Take Flight WITH AAR



At the controls...

Global aviation and technology

company AAR CORP. gave high school juniors and seniors their first glimpse of aviation education and careers during "Taking Flight," a daylong excursion to AAR's 1.6 million-square-foot aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul facility at the Indianapolis International Airport.

"Taking Flight" is one of many field study opportunities for students attending Perspectives/IIT Math & Science Academy (MSA) in Bronzeville. Students at all Perspectives campuses explore their communities, the city and other states through field studies every year. Rhonda Hopps, CEO of Perspectives, believes that field studies like this give students valuable insight into the rewarding careers they can attain. "The A Disciplined Life education model drives academic performance and builds character and responsibility," said Hopps. "It also stresses the kind of life skills necessary to succeed in the workplace, such as interpersonal communication, leadership and creativity."

Even at 6:30 a.m., a lesson in math factors could be heard on the bus carrying MSA students to Indianapolis. Upon arrival in Indianapolis, the students toured the Aviation Technology Center at Vincennes University where they learned about careers as avionics technicians, aerospace engineers, aircraft mechanics and air traffic controllers.

"Perspectives students are being prepped for careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. AAR is providing them memorable exposure to real-world applications of their studies," said AAR Director of Recruiting Greg Dellinger.

After touring the Aviation Technology Center, which includes a wide range of fixed- and rotor-wing aircraft and engines, the students were transported in style across the airfield in a Boeing 737 to AAR Aircraft Services. Equipped with safety glasses and insatiable curiosity, the students visited the impressive facility and learned what aircraft maintenance entails.

"As a leading provider of diverse products and value-added services to the global aviation and defense industries, AAR is committed to STEM learning," said Chairman and CEO David Storch. "Like AAR, Perspectives is invested in quality STEM education that ensures that America's workforce will be filled with the best and brightest candidates."

100% LIFE-LONG LEARNER

Field studies provide students with real-world, experiential learning opportunities.



Students gain valuable science, technology, engineering and mathematics experience with AAR CORP. and Vincennes University.



TRANSFORMING LIVES:

HONORING BO JACKSON

The theme of the 2014 A Disciplined Life® Benefit was “transforming lives”—and that is exactly what Perspectives teachers and students have been doing for the past twenty years.

It was 20 years ago that Kim Day and Diana Shulla-Cose sat down to figure out how they could prepare students for success in college—and prepare them to be the ethical leaders their communities needed. They narrowed in on 26 principles, which they soon came to call the principles of A Disciplined Life. Those principles became the foundation of Perspectives, which began as a single 6th grade classroom in a South Side school.

In 1997, Perspectives became one of the first five charter schools in Illinois.

Today, it is a network of open-enrollment, tuition-free public schools serving 2,200 students in grades 6 through 12.



All-star MLB and NFL athlete and philanthropist Bo Jackson received the A Disciplined Life® Award

Turning the 26 principles of A Disciplined Life into a network of schools sending hundreds of graduates to college each year has required the support of thousands of people—and the A Disciplined Life® Benefit is one of the more

significant ways they show their support. The 2014 Benefit was the most successful ever, raising more than \$600,000 to support Perspectives students.

At the Benefit, co-chairs **Rick Fezell**, Vice Chairman, Central Region Managing Partner, Ernst & Young LLP and **David Storch**, Chairman and CEO, AAR CORP., encouraged others to get involved and spoke about how working with Perspectives students has been transformative for their employees.

“The kids are giving us more than we are giving them,” Storch said.

One of the highlights of the night was a speech from Bo Jackson, this year’s winner of the A Disciplined Life Award. Each year, Perspectives presents this award to someone who has exemplified the 26 principles of A Disciplined Life in the support of young people.

“Jackson has been called the greatest athlete of all time by ESPN—and he is also a great person and a great human being,” Perspectives student Reginald Bradfield said in presenting the award to Jackson. “He is a compassionate, ethical leader who is giving back to his community.”

Students like Reginald will become the next generation of ethical leaders—thanks to the support of leaders like Fezell, Storch, Jackson and all of the A Disciplined Life® Benefit sponsors.

100%

REFLECTIVE



I AM FOR PEACE



The “I Am For Peace” movement began with a discussion in an A Disciplined Life class.

Since that conversation two years ago, the movement to spread peace through A Disciplined Life has gained national attention and thousands of supporters, including U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

In that A Disciplined Life class, Perspectives junior Razia Hutchins was talking with her fellow students about a boy who was shot and killed after a basketball game at a Chicago high school. They realized that many people don't care about violence unless it affects them personally.

“If we are going to stop violence in Chicago, we need everybody to care,” Hutchins said.

With that sentiment in mind, Perspectives students organized a peace march on June 5th through the South Side of Chicago with more than 2,000 students, family members, and supporters. The march earned attention from more than 30 national and local media outlets, and Perspectives students were able to be ambassadors for A Disciplined Life in live television interviews.

At the same time, Perspectives raised more than \$35,000 through a Kickstarter campaign to create an “I Am For Peace” documentary to spread their message of peace beyond the march. The documentary premiered in October 2014 to rave reviews. It follows three Perspectives students as they study A Disciplined Life and plan for the peace march.

In the documentary, award-winning performer Jennifer Hudson and Secretary Duncan speak about the power of A Disciplined Life to create a more peaceful country.

“What Perspectives has worked extraordinarily hard on ...is making sure that students are taught the skills, the habits of mind, and the habits of behavior they need to be successful in school, in the classroom, on the streets, in the communities, and ultimately in life,” Duncan says in the documentary.

“The ‘I Am For Peace’ movement will continue--and grow even larger--in 2015,” said Perspectives founder and president Diana Shulla-Cose. “The vision of this powerful movement is to have communities around the world studying the principles of A Disciplined Life and marching for peace with Perspectives.”

100% RESPONSIBLE



WELCOMING **ANTHONY DAVIS** HOME TO PERSPECTIVES



Anthony Davis shares his experiences with a class at Perspectives

Not long ago Anthony Davis (Joslin '11) was a schoolmate to some of the same students who cheered him on at the Perspectives Rodney D. Joslin Campus in the South Loop. The NBA New Orleans Pelicans superstar, with the support of Boost Mobile, gave back to the students of the Joslin Campus when he helped unveil the new "A Disciplined Life® Anthony Davis Court" earlier this school year.

Davis continued to embody many of the 26 principles that comprise A Disciplined Life and the educational foundation he received at Perspectives during his first two seasons with the Pelicans.

The education that Davis received at Perspectives through the A Disciplined Life education model was readily apparent during his visit. Davis spoke candidly with students and responded to questions about playing in the NBA, in the Olympics, and

at the University of Kentucky, but students were equally interested in his experience as a student at Perspectives. In response to the question about his favorite principle, Davis replied quickly "Demonstrate perseverance. You have to work hard every day at school, at work and at home."

"Those 26 principles really help you," Davis said to the New Orleans Times-Picayune last year. "I think they can really help you become a better person in life. I think that's why, myself personally, I abide by those rules, just trying to become a better person. They're everywhere. Constant reminders. It makes you live a disciplined life."

After the court dedication, Davis spoke with NBC5. "It meant a lot to come back to my community and my school to dedicate the court, and then to have my jersey retired."

100% PERSEVERANCE



A slam dunk on the new basketball court



Students enjoying the day's festivities

A Disciplined Life® at Northwestern University

By Stephanie Caldwell, TECH '11

When I first learned about the **A Disciplined Life** education model, I thought it was a good idea, but I was skeptical of how it might be implemented in everyday high school life. Soon enough, I was incorporating A Disciplined Life into my studies and personal life. I learned to demonstrate a strong work ethic and to accept only quality work from myself.

I graduated from **Perspectives High School of Technology in Auburn Gresham** with the confidence and skills necessary to succeed in college and in life. I currently attend **Northwestern University** as a junior with a full scholarship and I am studying mechanical engineering.



College is a perfect balance of difficulty and fun. It teaches life skills such as hard work, networking, time management, and forming and maintaining good relationships. Through A Disciplined Life at Perspectives, I already had a taste of these social emotional learning principles. It affected my life as a student and as a person because it gives guidelines about how to be successful in every aspect of life, be it academically, professionally, or personally.

I share A Disciplined Life with my college classmates every time midterms and finals seasons come around. A lot of times, we can get overwhelmed with studying and preparing for these important tests, especially when the grades could make or break you. I encourage them to 'demonstrate perseverance' and have a 'strong work ethic', which will make them successful on these important assignments.

My advice to current middle- and high-school students is to start practicing the 26 principles of A Disciplined Life early in your academic and personal lives. Don't hesitate to embrace the core concepts of self-perception, relationships, and productivity, because once you move from high school into college and the real world, you're going to realize how much you need it.

Because of A Disciplined Life, I strive to maintain a high standard of excellence in everything I do. You can do the same.

EDUCATORS

LIVING A DISCIPLINED LIFE®

CHALLENGE EACH OTHER INTELLECTUALLY

"I ask the very best from my students and I continually reflect on how I can challenge myself to better live A Disciplined Life so I can be a positive role model."

—Ron Delarmente
Perspectives High School of Technology



SEEK WISDOM

"When I accepted the role to teach A Disciplined Life, I never expected to learn so much about myself as a teacher, as a friend, and as a person."

—Karla Wilson
Perspectives Leadership Academy



BE REFLECTIVE

"I reinforce the principles of A Disciplined Life in my classes everyday to help students take ownership of and value their education."

—Tina Ellis
Perspectives/IIT Math & Science Academy



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FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	Year Ended June 30, 2014
Cash	\$ 2,225,183
Cash held for debt service	75,000
Investments	10,451
Pledges/other accounts receivable, prepaid expenses and deposits	1,533,721
Property and equipment, net and long term pledges receivable	8,158,424
Total Assets	\$ 12,002,779
Liabilities	
Accounts payable, accrued salaries and related liabilities	\$ 2,373,570
Capital lease obligations/deferred rent, incentives and revenue liability	1,447,290
Notes payable	2,398,507
Bond payable	4,500,000
Total liabilities	\$10,719,367
Total net assets	\$ 1,283,412
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 12,002,779

Statement of Activities

Revenues	Year Ended June 30, 2014
All government sources	\$28,597,504
Contributions:	
Individuals/Corporations/Foundations	1,408,563
Special events, net	464,811
Goods and services	176,822
Other	431,373
Total Revenues	\$ 31,079,073
Expenses	
Program services	\$27,086,682
Management and general	1,501,218
Fundraising	744,315
Depreciation and amortization	\$ 1,387,727
Interest	250,239
Total Expenses	\$30,970,181
Change in Net Assets	108,892
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$1,174,520
Net Assets, end of year	\$1,283,412

Source: Fiscal Year 2014 Audited Financial Statements

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Renita Dixon, David Mosen, Kim Smith,
Dr. John Staver, Joel Stender, Steve Young

Special Thank You to Committee Staff:

David Baker, Dr. Judith Lederman,
Dr. Norman Lederman,
Dr. John L. Anderson

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 and integrity
- Be generous
- Be a life-long learner
- Live a healthy lifestyle

RELATIONSHIPS

- Communicate effectively
- Challenge each other intellectually
- Show gratitude
- Solve conflicts peacefully
- Respect differences
- Be positive and supportive
- 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 CAMPUSES LIVING A DISCIPLINED LIFE:

Perspectives Rodney D. Joslin Campus

1930 South Archer
Chicago, IL 60616
312.225.7400

Perspectives Middle Academy

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773.358.6300

Perspectives Leadership Academy

8131 South May
Chicago, IL 60620
773.358.6100

Perspectives High School of Technology

8131 South May
Chicago, IL 60620
773.358.6120

Perspectives/IIT Math & Science Academy

3663 South Wabash
Chicago, IL 60653
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