

National Black Church Initiative

P.O. Box 65177
Washington DC 20035
202-744-0184
dcbci2002@gmail.com
www.naltblackchurch.com

Contact:
Rev. Anthony Evans
202-744-0184

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NBCI Announces Educational Partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools and NAF

College and Career Readiness Initiative will Make Significant Impact on African American Students

Washington, DC –The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 34,000 churches representing 15.7 million African American churchgoers, is proud to partner with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and the National Academy Foundation to promote its College and Career Readiness Initiative during a time when national leaders are insufficiently funding education and career readiness programs aimed at improving the lives of our youth. The National Academy Foundation has been partnering with school districts to prepare students for college and career success using its proven model for over 30 years. By partnering with a well-established organization, we are ensuring that this initiative will be successful and the students will benefit.

These groundbreaking Career Academies prepare students to be both college and career ready. The school district, higher education institutions, local businesses, and community partners work collaboratively to provide students with hands-on work experiences in a chosen career field and prepare them for college education and job training after high school. Students have the possibility of earning college credits and/or career certifications while still in high

school. The focus areas for these career academies are widespread, ranging from architecture and design to environmental studies.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI says, “Our organization is proud to be a partner on this initiative. Education has always been a priority focus for our organization, and we feel confident that this program will have incredible results. In an environment where our national and state governments are slashing education budgets, it is heartening to see resources being dedicated to such a worthy cause. We look forward to seeing the progress, results, and student success stories as a result of the good work happening in Prince George’s County Public Schools.”

NBCI encourages all interested parties to contribute to this worthy cause if interested. Please contact administrators at secondary.reform@pgcps.org or (301) 952-6042 for more information.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI’s mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI’s programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.

About NAF

The National Academy Foundation (NAF) is an acclaimed network of career-themed academies that opens doors for underserved high school students to viable careers. For more than 30 years, NAF has refined a proven model that provides young people access to industry-specific curricula, work-based learning experiences, and relationships with business professionals. NAF academies focus on one of five career themes: finance, hospitality & tourism, information technology, engineering, and health sciences. More than 4,600 business professionals volunteer in classrooms, act as mentors, engage NAF students in paid internships, and serve on local advisory boards. During the 2012-13 school year 62,000 students attended 546 NAF academies

across 39 states, D.C. and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 2012, NAF academies reported 97% of seniors graduated.

About PGCPs

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 25 largest school districts, has 204 schools, approximately 125,000 students and nearly 18,000 employees. With an annual budget of \$1.6 billion, the district serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities. PGCPS is nationally recognized for its innovative programs and initiatives, including the expansion of Advanced Placement courses and partnerships with businesses and institutions of higher learning.