



Transforming Education through Research: Lindley Academy Charter School Highlighted in Case Study

“Qualitative Research With Diverse and Underserved Communities” spotlights Lindley’s focus on race-fluency

PHILADELPHIA, PA; Jan. 4, 2024—Lindley Academy, one of four American Paradigm Schools (APS) located in North Philadelphia, has been selected to be featured in “Qualitative Research With Diverse and Underserved Communities,” which highlights Lindley Academy’s journey to becoming race-fluent.

Published this year, “Qualitative Research With Diverse and Underserved Communities” provides explanations of various qualitative methods and mechanisms of analysis with case study examples. Lindley Academy partnered with Cabrini University for its case study, where they focused on conversation and action around bias, prejudice, racism and equity to deconstruct and reconstruct mindsets, and to sustain open and honest conversations that include the voices of the voiceless, marginalized, underrepresented, and devalued.

With 92% of Lindley’s students identifying as Black and only 25% of its faculty identifying as Black, the school embarked on a journey to improve race-fluency in an effort to be better partners to its Black students and their families. Lindley challenged its educators to prioritize this work through involving the voices of community members and professional development sessions.

“Having our teachers self-reflect and recognize the unintentional bias they may have and how that shows up in their classrooms was the first step,” said Dr. Kwanza Waters-Cogdell, former Assistant Principal at Lindley Academy Charter School and current Principal of APS’ Tacony Academy Charter School. “It’s important for educators to understand that this isn’t a one-size fits all approach—we need to look at ourselves, look at our systems and come together to strive for continuous improvement for our students and community.”

As a result, Lindley Academy and Cabrini University were committed to learning in public, identifying and addressing emerging trends, acknowledging long standing issues, and finding their voices in the communities they serve. The two organizations developed four steps toward

equity, which are scalable and replicable for other organizations to adapt, and further reaffirms Lindley's commitment to a caring school community.

“We’re proud to be nationally recognized for the ongoing equity work we’re doing with our staff in an effort to be one with the community,” said Dr. Margery Covello, CEO of Lindley Academy Charter School. “As educators, it’s imperative that we understand and respond to the evolving needs of our students, families and neighbors—our dedication to these endeavors is unwavering, as is our commitment to being a steadfast presence in the Lindley community.”

For more information and available positions at Lindley Academy Charter School, please visit ap-schools.org/Lindley-Academy.

About American Paradigm Schools

American Paradigm Schools (APS) is a nonprofit charter management organization that supports and serves four charter schools in North and Northeast Philadelphia. These schools are: First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School; Lindley Academy Charter School; Memphis Street Academy; and Tacony Academy Charter School. For more information, visit www.ap-schools.org.

American Paradigm Schools are dedicated to equity and excellence for all learners, while celebrating the uniqueness of our communities. Our values drive our dedication to providing a world class education.

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