



Tacony Academy Charter School Celebrates Black History Month with Local Leaders at Black Excellence Career Fair

PHILADELPHIA, PA; Feb. 14, 2024—Tacony Academy Charter School, one of four American Paradigm Schools (APS), today hosted a Black Excellence Career Fair, honoring Black History Month. Tacony’s 9th through 12th grade students participated in a panel discussion with nine local leaders about their career journeys and what it means to embody Black Excellence in the workplace.

The initiative is a part of Tacony’s perpetual goal to build partnerships, find opportunities, and facilitate experiences educating students while inspiring them to be lifelong learners. The panelists included:

- **Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II**, Culturally Responsive Associate Professor of Education, Director of District and School Relations & Director of the Center for Urban Education, Equity, and Improvement for Cabrini University
- **Honorable Judge Garrett D. Page**, Common Pleas Court, Montgomery County
- **Dr. Patrick Michael Oates**, Senior Vice President of Business Development & Strategic Planning for EMSCO Scientific, Inc.
- **Lakira Janay (Former Tacony Student)**, Cosmetologist, Lakira Janay Hair
- **Dawn Caldwell**, Agent, Chapel Realty Sales
- **Randy Robinson**, Partner, M | R Strategies LLC
- **P. Michael Boone**, entrepreneur, author, barber, and advocate for social change and founder of Junior Barber Academy
- **Jennifer Hampton MSN FNP BC**, Family Nurse Practitioner, Cooper University Hospital
- **Melanie Zorrilla**, Aesthetic Registered Nurse at sculpMD

"At Tacony Academy Charter School, we believe it’s paramount to celebrate and discuss Black excellence within both our educational environments and workplaces to recognize the monumental achievements and diverse career paths of Black professionals, which serves as a beacon of inspiration for our students," said CEO of Tacony Academy Charter School Naimah Wimberly. "By learning from the journeys of those who have paved the way, our students gain invaluable insights and motivation to pursue their own paths of success. These discussions remind us that every career journey, marked by its unique challenges and triumphs, offers a blueprint for resilience, creativity, and excellence. Our aim is to empower our students with the knowledge that they, too, can achieve greatness and make significant contributions to society, regardless of the field they choose to enter."



To learn more about Tacony Academy Charter School, please visit ap-schools.org/Tacony-Academy-Charter.

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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