CEO of the World or Judge?

Cee-Asia’s answer depends on whether she’s joking around or taking you seriously. “I found my passion, says Cee-Asia. “It’s the law.” And she credits PEF with providing the opening.

Now a freshman at Rutgers, Cee-Asia has taken advantage of PEF’s college and career ready programs. Starting with Navigation 101 in its pilot year at School 2, Cee-Asia determined on business as a career path and first began to think that college was in her future. As a member of GUFE [Girls United for the Earth], she started learning about the larger world and eventually made the service learning trip to Costa Rica. “Cee-Asia is tenacious. She was scared during the entire Costa Rica trip,” recalls Ms. Laldee, her mentor, “but she fought her fear and participated in everything, including the trip into the bat cave.”

A new pathway opened for Cee-Asia as she interned with PEF’s partnership with the YMCA to provide science programming afterschool and in the summer. “I really wasn’t passionate about going into business. It was just something to say. Once I started working with kids and teachers, I learned that I am good at mediating. It’s a part of my personality. I see that it fits with the law.”

Cee-Asia is majoring in criminal justice with a minor in psychology. She wants to work in family law and plans to attend NYU law school. Is she worried about her future? No, she’s determined. And she knows that PEF, its staff members and volunteers can be depended upon for support.

To see more about PEF’s college and career readiness activities, see page 7.
PEF is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to stimulate community action for change so that the Paterson Public Schools ensure that all Paterson children achieve high standards. 

Our Goals

*To build our community’s civic capacity to support monitor and advocate education reform. 
*To educate and enable community leadership to understand and act on changing educational needs. 
*To provide a forum for the community to effectively participate in the decision making processes concerning education.

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From the Executive Director’s Desk

I cannot imagine a better 1st year as Executive Director of PEF! Over this past year I’ve worked with our board members, staff and you – our community, to create a strategic direction that maintains a path towards sustained effectiveness, efficiency and impact. The great news is that we were all in agreement, to maintain the mission and direction of the organization. The resulting strategic plan stays the course and moves us toward engaging more parents and community members to build a college and career readiness culture in Paterson.

We recognize our Parents as the first, strongest and most natural advocates for their children. We know that parent voice has significant impact. We want more parents advocating for all students and students advocating for themselves. We want students to be fully engaged in charting their own futures. We will continue to be a catalyst for change so that Paterson Public Schools ensure our children graduate from high school ready to pursue college or career.

Over the coming year we’ll focus on building a “college and career readiness culture” in Paterson. We must raise the expectations we hold for our children because we know they will rise to meet the high expectations when we give them the resources and the opportunities. The phenomenal results we are seeing with Paterson Reads, Full Service Community Schools, STEAM, and our youth enrichment programs prove it!

I am so excited about the work ahead of us and I look forward to working with you over the coming year. We need your help to get every Paterson child on the pathway to success!
Pathways to College and Career: Stay the Course

PEF’s programs are structured to raise expectations for what Paterson children can and should do. They exemplify policies and resources needed to support graduating every Paterson child. For the first time this year, we were able to bring together some of the youth leaders who participate in PEF’s various program. It was a day of cross program-learning, so they could show each other highlights of their work and how this work is preparing them for college. As we expected, the presentations were amazing.

Our E3 University interns worked closely with teachers to provide hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programming for approximately 100 middle school students at the YMCA’s afterschool and summer programs. Through exploring the Passaic River’s ecology and history, they’ve become excited about STEM and have come to love learning through discovery. Even better, they’re passing that infectious excitement on to the younger students. Something else they didn’t expect – they discovered a love of Paterson that they did not know they had prior to doing this work.

The GUFE (Girls United For the Earth) girls said that the group helped shape them into the young women they are now. The opportunities it gave them to be able to travel and learn about the Earth and how to better protect it, would impact their lives forever. Furthermore, the work they did on the trips to Grenada and Costa Rica had real impact on the global environment. The young women created a video of their 2013 Costa Rica trip which you can watch on our website [www.paterson-education.org](http://www.paterson-education.org).

PEF’s MOTH (Matter Observed Through Hombres) boys have been working on college planning, building and testing structures, life on Mars and environment related current events including the Ebola outbreak, environmental effects on Fracking and hurricane Sandy aftermath. Their learning excursions have taken them to Liberty Science Center, The Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Barbour Pond, the United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey (UACNJ) and the Astronomy Club at William Paterson University. The group is already preparing for their 2015 trip to OSA Conservation in Costa Rica.

JFK High School College Track facilitators led workshops for more than 400 juniors this year and used the Paterson College Guide (also written by our students) to mentor freshman students. These young people are staying the course and bringing their peers along for the ride. Over this year, students visited 6 area colleges and universities and were able to shadow college students throughout the day.

This is what we want for all our children! This is why we continue to advocate for adequate resources, innovative programs and more funding so our children can thrive.

For more pictures of our activities, see page 7.
Foundations
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
The Henry & Marilyn Taub Foundation
The Nicholson Foundation
Public Interest Projects
The Blum-Merians Foundation, Inc.
The Schumann Fund For New Jersey
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St. Paul's CDC
State Farm Insurance
WPU Small Buiness Development Center
William Paterson Univeristy
YMCA of Paterson

Individuals
Michelle Abel
Leslie Agard-Jones
Joseph Andriulli
Sandra Bosque
Alan and Kathy Bowen
Catherine Brennan
Patsy Brooks
Rosa Brown
Karen Brown, Esq.

Maureen Bruins
Robert and Katherine Brundige
Anthony Cavanna
Majorie Christie
Marsha Cohen
Terry Corallo
Sandra Corpuz
Linda Crescione
Ralph and Marcua DeLuccia
Lois Deyo
Teri Duda
Andrew and Barbara Dunn
Donnie Evans
Frances Finkelstein
Nancy Forsberg
Clare Gordon
Renee Greene Levitt
Miriam and Abraham Greenhouse
Cynthia Harris
Norma Harrison
Jim & Eileen Heuer
Keisha Hill
Thank You! Gracias!

Individuals, cont’d

Jonathan Hodges
Christopher Irving
Barbara Jarosz
Karen Johnson
Aubrey Johnson
Jacqueline Jones
Stan Karp
Errol Kerr
Richard Kilpatrick
Arnold Korotkin
Sharon Krengel
Barbara Lawrence
Stan Lane
Barbara Lawrence
Sherry Lottero
Gregory and Beverly Luciano
Victoria Madden
Andrew Mainardi
Kim Mapp
Diane Margolin
Joyce Mason
Karen Mayo-Hogan
Eileen McCoy
Gunnar and Susan Mengers
Alonzo Moody
Kenneth Morris
Janet Morrison
Dolores Most
Laurie Newell
Zaida Padilla
Brenda Patterson
Susana Peron
Mary Anne Perrotta
Lisa Pollak
Philip Pope
Cora Quince
Charles and Barbara Reilly
Stefanie Rotsaert

Maria Santa
Mireille Schuck
Eileen Shafer
Yolanda Simmons
Sharon Sloatmaker
Glenn Smith
Lisa Smith
Tim M Smithhart
Alveria Spencer
Inge Spungen
Harvey and Dorothy Starr
James Staton
Karen Sterling
Marie Stallard
Barbara Tanis
Lynn Tarant
James and Nancy Thomas
William and Bernadette Tiernan
Brenda Turnbull
Mark and Dawn Van Denon
Dorothy Vanderbeck
Charles Walker
Alrick Williams
Etrudes Williams
Pat Yankus
Mohammed Yusuf

Gerard Burns
Destinee Canty
Nazmure Canty
Shamaysha Canty
Windella Canty
Mariannela Carbajal
Najee Chambers
Quanesha Cook
Akiaya Curry
Robin Daniels
Vernon Donnell
Tina Dove
Destini Durant
Jamie Dykes
Denise Evans
Vilma Ferreri
Malcolm Freckleton
Willie Garcia
Eddie Gonzalez
Omar Grant
Nancy Grier
Marquesea Guthrie
Joann Harris
Sherman Henry
Samuel Hinds
Diego Huarachi
Harley Huarachi
Lorenzo Huarachi
Mary Huarachi
Nazir Huntington
Randy Jackson
Quashima Johnson
Gina Johnson
Meara Jones
Helen Kennedy
Chris Laldee
Audrea Leiva
Debbie Liberato
Diana Lockner
Kim Mapp
Candice Mapp
Vivian Matthews
Karen Mayo-Hogan
Jacquelynn McAnuff
Little McElveen

Volunteers

Michelle Abel
Leslie Agard-Jones
Doris Arnett-Gary
Mario Benitez
Lillian Branch
Antoinette Brevard
Karen Brown Esq.
Volunteers, cont’d

Kenneth Morris  
Casmeek Myers  
Dorothy Natale  
Stefon Ndubuisi  
Damaris Nganga  
Lories Nye-Slockbower  
Nicole Occhino  
Keirah Pace  
Margaret Padilla  
Cocoa Pearson  
Myra Piereschi  
Michelle Pio  
Julie Price  
Kiela Ramero  
Kwashon Reid  
Ty’Jahnay Reid  
Kenyatta Reid  
Damir Reid  
Terry Reid  
My’Heaven Reid  
Deny Reyes  
Lety Reyes  
Quazier Robinson  
Nia Rodgers  
Gina Marie Rosario  
Aileen Rosario  
Chantelle Rosario  
Librada Sanchez  
Rosa Santos  
Andre Sayegh  
Gladys Sinclair  
William Smallwood  
Precise Smith  
Henry Sosa  
Alveria Spencer  
Rev. James Staton  
Irene Sterling  
Sarah Sterling-Laldee  
Isa Suqi  
Marlene Tartaglia  
Ky’Zirah Townes  
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Jerry Traille  
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Jose Trinidad  
Stacey Tsapatsaris  
Don Vanderbeck  
Rayvon Warren  
Tamika Wiggins  
Danielle Wiggins  
Isaiah Wiggins  
Lutrisha Wilson

New Schools, New Hope

For 11 years, PEF has advocated for new schools. We stayed the course and it’s finally paying off!

This year, after countless trips with parents and community members to Trenton, the School Development Authority finally had ground breaking for Hazel Marshal School and the new School 16. Both are expected to open in September 2016.

We’re happy to report that both schools are designed to facilitate Full Service Community School programming. We celebrate this as another significant impact of PEF’s advocacy.

We need more of this so let’s keep the pressure on.

Our Paterson Reads initiative has also had a successful year. PEF provided support to expand the programs to reach more than 5,000 kids! The most significant program impact is that Paterson Public Schools hired librarians to work over the summer so that students would have access to books and technology.
The Honorable Judge Karen Brown, former PEF Board Chair, was keynote speaker at our Youth Summit. She shared how she broke her family’s cycle of poverty by focusing on her education. Karen Brown is a Paterson native, a product of Paterson Public Schools and is currently Newark’s Corporation Counsel. She said “Staying the course, is what got me to where I am today!”

The Youth Summit was a day of cross-learning, so young people from all our programs could show each other highlights of their work and how it is preparing them for college and careers. E3 University interns, GUFE (Girls United For the Earth), MOTH (Matter Observed Through Hombres), JFK High School College Track facilitators and PEOC’s new Youth Academy of Leadership Advocacy (YALA) were all represented. As we expected, the presentations were amazing. Here is Cee-Asia being interviewed about her future plans.

PEF’s MOTH (Matter Observed Through Hombres) boys are captured on their learning excursion to Liberty Science Center. The group is already preparing for their 2015 trip to OSA Conservation in Costa Rica.
December 5-6, 2014: Pathways to College Youth Leadership Retreat. YMWCA Camp Linwood MacDonald, Sandyston.

December 13th 11AM-2PM and December 22nd 9AM-1:30PM: Holiday Book Wrap at Barnes & Noble, Rt.3 Clifton. Call Doris at PEF to volunteer.

January 2015: NJ School Performance Reports Released for all public and public charter schools.

February 28: Celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday and “Read Across America” 2-4PM at the Paterson Public Library, 250 Broadway. Join the Cat in the Hat for an afternoon of fun and a book give away.

March: PEF’s School Budget Report published

March 14: Graduating Every Paterson Child Conference

May 18: How to Run for School Board briefing, PEF Offices. Get ready, nominating petitions are due July 27th

May 17: PEF’s Jazz Brunch 2-5PM, place TBA

June 4: 50 Book Club Celebration, at the Paterson Public Library, 5-7PM. Fun, Food, and Books for our most avid readers.

July 6-August 14: “Every Hero Has A Story” Paterson Reads city-wide summer reading program at the Paterson Public Library, its branches, and many child serving organizations across Paterson. Help us stem summer learning loss. Many volunteer opportunities are available for you. Call us at 973-881-8914 for information.

July 27: Nominating petitions due for Paterson School Board Election.

September 14: Measuring School Board Performance Forum, PEF offices. Get ready to run and ready to vote.

October 5: PEF School Board Candidate Forum, 6:30PM, JFK HS TV. See the Candidates in action. Find out who’s really ready to lead.

November 3: Paterson School Board Election on the General Election Day. Look carefully at your ballot to find the School Board candidates. They are listed on a separate part of your ballot.

Calling all School 16 Alumni!

We found out that PEF supporters Dolores Most and Richard Williams are School 16 alumni. We would love to have you join them and PEF for the New School 16 ribbon cutting in September 2016. If you went to School 16, call us at (973) 881-8914 or send email to Merip@paterson-education.org

We’d love to do a College Track session for you! Call us at 973-881-8914 and ask for Doris for more information