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News Release

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Chester Community Charter School Hosts Teen Summit Event for More Than 300 Seventh- and Eighth-Grade Students

Pennsylvania's Largest K-8 Charter School Provides an Open Forum for Students to Discuss Building Confidence, Anti-Bullying, Respect and Social Media Conflict Resolution

Chester, PA (May 6, 2014) – More than 300 seventh- and eighth-grade students took part, recently, in the Teen Summit for Students event, hosted by [Chester Community Charter School \(CCCS\)](#), the largest K-8 charter school in Pennsylvania, together with the school's Parent Teacher Association and the Phenomenal Youth Organization. The program included remarks and performances by special guests, Grammy-award winning producer/songwriter, Carvin Haggins, recording artist Briamarie, singer/songwriter Julia Figueroa, and Chester Community Charter School CEO, Dr. David Clark, each of whom spoke on social, community, and school-related issues. The event was moderated by journalist and consultant Syreeta Martin.

The hour-long program, held at the school's East Campus, engaged students in an open dialog wherein they discussed their feelings and opinions on building confidence, anti-bullying, respect for others and other challenging social issues faced at school, home and in their community.

Commenting on the need for restricted content on social media, Vatangoe Donzo, a CCCS eighth-grader, said, "I think there needs to be more supervision on sites like Instagram and Facebook. People constantly post inappropriate and 'ratchet' updates, some that hurt people's feelings. That shouldn't be allowed." Donzo won an award in the program's art/poster contest for his winning submission that depicted social issues that most affect today's youth.

Chester Community Charter School PTA President Sharona Brown, in discussing the success of the event, said, "It's all about the children. We believe that it's important to hear their voices and appeal to them on that level." She continued, "Children today face so many obstacles, ones that we never had to face. It's imperative that we keep the lines of communication open, surround and support our children as a community of concerned adults, and do everything we can to ensure their continued success, in school and in life."

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VIDEO – Remarks from Dr. David Clark, CEO, Chester Community Charter School <http://bit.ly/1sgJ3OW>

VIDEO – Remarks from Carvin Haggins, Grammy award-winning producer/songwriter <http://bit.ly/Rklk2d>

About Chester Community Charter School

Chester Community Charter School opened its doors on September 9, 1998, serving 97 students from its modest four meeting rooms, in the lobby of the Howard Johnson Hotel. Since that time, the school has steadily grown to include more than 3,000 students. www.chestercommunitycharter.org

Photo Captions

Photo 1



Caption 1

Syreeta Martin, journalist and consultant (seated, left), recently hosted Chester Community Charter School's (CCCS) First Annual Teen Summit for Students event, where more than 300 seventh- and eighth-grade students participated, addressing topics such as confidence, anti-bullying issues, gaining respect, and social media conflict resolution, among others. Remarks were given by Dr. David Clark, the school's CEO (seated, right), and special guest Carvin Haggins, Grammy-award winning producer/songwriter (seated, far right), who shared their personal stories of overcoming adversity as teens.

Photo 2



Caption 2

Chester Community Charter School (CCCS) eighth-grader Vatangoe Donzo (left) stands with Syreeta Martin, journalist and consultant (right), during a question-and-answer session at the school's recent First Annual Teen Summit for Students. Speakers included special guest Grammy-award-winning songwriter/producer Carvin Haggins (seated, far right) and Dr. David Clark, the school's CEO, (not pictured), who told personal stories of triumph. Additionally, CCCS students designed posters, as part of a school-wide contest. The posters focused on social issues, and trophies were awarded for the best submissions. The event was co-sponsored by the CCCS Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and the Phenomenal Youth Organization.

Photo 3



Caption 3

Grammy-award-winning producer/songwriter Carvin Haggins (right) answers a question from Syreeta Martin, journalist and consultant (left), during a question-and-answer session at Chester Community Charter School's (CCCS) recent Teen Summit for Students event. The program featured remarks from Dr. David Clark, the school's CEO, and musical presentations by BriaMarie and Julia Figueroa. Guests addressed a broad range of topics, including confidence, anti-bullying issues, gaining respect, and social media conflict resolution. Additionally, six CCCS students were awarded trophies and certificates for social issue posters which they designed as part of a school-wide contest. Teen Summit for Students was sponsored by the CCCS Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and the Phenomenal Youth Organization.

Photo 4



Photo 4

Chester Community Charter School seventh-graders, Tiana Watkins (left) and Megan Magallanes (right), were two of six recipients, who were awarded trophies for their “social issues” posters at the school’s First Annual Teen Summit for Students event, recently. Sponsored by the CCCS Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and the Phenomenal Youth Organization, the event focused on subjects such as confidence, anti-bullying issues, gaining respect, and social media conflict resolution. Remarks were given by Dr. David Clark, the school’s CEO, and special guests Carvin Haggins, Grammy-award-winning producer/songwriter, BriaMarie, recording artist, and Julia Figueroa, singer/songwriter.

Photo 5



Caption 5

Chester Community Charter School (CCCS) recently held its First Annual Teen Summit for Students event wherein more than 300 seventh- and eighth-grade students participated to discuss topics such as confidence, anti-bullying issues, gaining respect, and social media conflict resolution, with Dr. David Clark, the school's CEO (standing, far left) and Carvin Haggins, Grammy-award winning producer/songwriter (not pictured). Each spoke of their own experience, as teens, in communities similar to the City of Chester. The event included special guests BriaMarie, recording artist, and Julia Figueroa, singer/songwriter. Teen Summit for Students was sponsored by the CCCS Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and the Phenomenal Youth Organization.

Photo 6



Caption 6

Chester Community Charter School recently held its First Annual Teen Summit for Students event, wherein guest speakers addressed topics such as confidence, anti-bullying issues, gaining respect, and social media conflict resolution, with Dr. David Clark, the school's CEO, (not pictured) and Carvin Haggins Grammy-award-winning producer/songwriter (not pictured). Julia Figueroa, singer/songwriter (seated, left) performed an original song she wrote to inspire the more than 300 seventh- and eighth-graders who attended the event. Teen Summit for Students was sponsored by the CCCS Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and the Phenomenal Youth Organization.

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