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## **Columbus Collegiate Academy Receives National Recognition for Driving Dramatic Student Achievement Gains**

*CCA Named Highest Gain Charter Middle School in Nation, Wins \$48,000 Award!*

*March 9, 2011. Columbus, OH.* The Columbus Collegiate Academy has been recognized and honored as a New Leaders for New Schools Effective Practice Incentive Community (EPIC) gold-gain school. Columbus Collegiate is one of only eighteen charter schools in the nation, and the only one in Ohio, to win the award, which recognizes strong student achievement gains.

“We are so proud of our students and staff. Our teachers and staff share the belief that all students can and will learn when provided the right environment for academic success. Through high expectations, a structured school day, and an uncompromising focus on academics our students are outpacing students from around the country,” said Andrew Boy, Founder and Executive Director of Columbus Collegiate Academy.

Schools were selected from the 175 charter schools from 23 states and the District of Columbia competing in the EPIC National Charter School Consortium for \$1.8 million in incentive funds. School leaders will receive awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$12,000 while most teachers at each school will receive awards ranging from \$3,000 to \$4,000. Once this fourth cohort of schools is awarded, the total amount of EPIC incentives distributed to charter educators will top \$6.4 million.

“We are thrilled that Columbus Collegiate Academy is a 2011 EPIC Gold Gain School. This award recognizes the exceptional quality of the academic program at Columbus Collegiate, the relentless efforts of its staff and leader, and the positive impact that Columbus Collegiate has on its students,” said Kathryn Mullen-Upton, Director of Sponsorship of the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation.

Columbus Collegiate is a public, charter middle school that has been in operation since August of 2008. During the 2009-2010 school year, the school served 85 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from within the Columbus city area, all of whom were admitted through a public lottery. 92% of the students were African-American and 94% qualified for the federal free and reduced price lunch program.

### **Key Facts**

- This is the second consecutive year CCA won an EPIC award. CCA was a 2010 silver gains award winner. This year, CCA claimed the #1 spot among all middle schools.
- 14 other Ohio schools entered the competition, but were not among the award winning schools.
- Columbus Collegiate commenced operation on August 25, 2008 with 57 sixth-grade students who are 92% African-American, 8% Latino, and 96% qualify for free/reduced lunch. The school will grow until reaching a capacity of 250 students in grades 6-8.
- Columbus Collegiate students participate in a longer school day and complete challenging homework assignments daily.

- Students engage in an intensive curriculum with a strong focus on skill development, especially in the areas of literacy (100 minutes daily) and mathematics (100 minutes daily).
- Students wear a simple uniform and adhere to a rigorous code of conduct.
- The school holds weekly Community Meetings and Advisory periods in which students develop excellent public speaking and self-advocacy skills.
- Students live up to the school's values by conducting themselves according to the principles of Scholarship, Teamwork, Respect, Intelligence, Virtue, and Effort (STRIVE).

Questions related to Columbus Collegiate Academy can be directed to [info@columbuscollegiate.org](mailto:info@columbuscollegiate.org) or to the Executive Director Andrew Boy at (614) 205-0250.