



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 9, 2008
Contact:

College Access Grant Awarded to Partnership to Serve Pennsylvania Students

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Project GRAD USA (GRAD USA), and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) have partnered under the federal formula grant, the College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACGP) to deliver coordinated, intensive college access services to 16,629 students across Pennsylvania in seven low-income high schools and their feeder middle schools, including providing financial aid information statewide. This partnership will serve the following high schools and their feeder middle schools: Chester, McCaskey, Sayre, South Philadelphia, Strawberry Mansion, Vaux, and Woodland Hills.

GRAD USA will provide targeted, intensive intervention services from its College Readiness Initiative (CRI) leveraging the significant college access resources provided by PHEAA state-wide. These services include academic support in literacy and mathematics and college access services focused on students and parents. In coordination with these services, PHEAA will provide financial aid informational workshops, training, and materials throughout the State including the seven identified high schools. PDE will ensure CACGP implementation, effective program delivery, quality control and will support buy-in with the targeted districts and the statewide effort.

The Pennsylvania Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education within the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) assists the General Assembly, the Governor, the Secretary of Education, and Pennsylvania higher education professionals in providing for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of postsecondary and higher education.

Project GRAD USA is a national nonprofit education reform model serving over 121,000 economically disadvantaged youth in 205 schools across the nation. GRAD's mission is to ensure a quality public education for economically disadvantaged students so that high school graduation and college entrance rates increase dramatically.

PHEAA is Pennsylvania's student financial assistance agency. It is a full-service student financial aid organization and a national leader in providing affordable and efficient access to higher education. PHEAA manages more than \$84.4 billion in total assets and serves millions of students and thousands of schools nationally through its state grant, guaranty, servicing, and financial aid processing systems.

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