

TODAY'S STUDENTS, TOMORROW'S ECONOMIC DRIVERS

COSE GETS BEHIND CLEVELAND'S NEW ENTREPRENEURIAL PREPARATORY SCHOOL

This summer, the Cleveland Municipal School District will open the doors to a highly anticipated Entrepreneurship Preparatory School, or E Prep. E Prep will give students between 6th and 12th grade access to a tuition free Ohio college preparatory community school, sometimes referred to as a charter school. The Head of School will be Marshall Emerson III, a five-year veteran from the top-performing W.E.B. Dubois Academy in Cincinnati.

E Prep is a dream come true for many, but especially for one of its co-founders, John Zitzner, who is also founder of the local nonprofit E CITY.

E CITY has been providing after school entrepreneurship programs to Cleveland schools since 2002 and ignited the E Prep dream when Zitzner and others realized it

was making a real impact on the children.

"The mindset and lifestyle of the entrepreneur captivated students and prompted them to see a different future and place a higher value on education," said Zitzner. He wondered if there was a way to have an even broader impact.

"Based on what we've seen in high performing urban charter schools on the East Coast, we are absolutely convinced that all students can learn. In fact, it is our goal that 100 percent of our students who stay with our school through the 12th grade will be accepted to a four-year college," said Zitzner.

E Prep was a perfect fit for COSE support, so Carol Staiger, owner of VANTAGE POINT Marketing Consultants and chair of the COSE Community Leadership Committee,

invited Zitzner to submit a proposal for a planning grant. Ultimately, a \$30,000 gift paved the way for necessary research that would help launch a world-class entrepreneurship preparatory school.

"As a community, it is critical that we band together to foster quality education for our urban children and young adults," said Lou Licata of Licata and Associates Co. LPA and COSE Chairman. "And, as small business owners and employees, it is imperative that we encourage and promote entrepreneurship among our youth. The students of today are the business owners of tomorrow and the future of our region." <<



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP E PREP,
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