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Prep Zone Student Entrepreneurs Finalists in Competition

Two Prep Zone students participating in the national entrepreneurship program NFTE (Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship) placed as finalists in the Philadelphia Youth Business Plan Competition held May 27, 2009 at Temple University. The students enrolled in NFTE as part of Prep Zone, an innovative high school afterschool program developed and run by the Center for Afterschool Education at Foundations Inc. and supported by a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant from the Pennsylvania State Department of Education. Prep Zone offers students the opportunity to earn credit during afterschool time for substantial projects that apply classroom learning to real-world situations.

The NFTE program includes rigorous coursework, development of an entrepreneurial project and business plan, and culminates in levels of competitions.

Nastassia Harewood of Maritime Academy, supported by teachers Stephanie Johnson & Melissa Poorman, earned 2nd place. Ms. Harewood won a \$1,000 Venture Capital Grant and a Dell Laptop, and will go on to compete in New York City for the NFTE National Competition in October, 2009. Ms. Figueroa of Esperanza Academy, supported by teachers Julia Snyder & Christine Poirier, achieved 3rd place in the competition, winning a \$500 Venture Capital Grant and a Dell Laptop.

Five schools participate in the Prep Zone consortium, including Esperanza Academy, Maritime Academy, World Communications Charter School, Franklin Towne Charter, and Boys Latin Charter School. Foundations established a unique partnership with NFTE to provide the entrepreneurship course in classes at three of the five schools—Esperanza, Maritime, and World Communications—with the Prep Zone staff providing project and skills support during the afterschool hours. Prep Zone aims to build partnerships with community businesses and organizations to help children succeed through school to graduation and beyond, by expanding young people's education and learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

Foundations, Inc. is a non-profit organization committed to improving the quality of educational opportunities within schools, after school, with families, and in communities. Through its national Center for Afterschool Education, its School Services division, and its school-based and community initiatives in northwest Philadelphia, PA, Foundations provides capacity-building technical assistance, tools, and services that support children's learning and healthy development across the day, nationwide.

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