

25,000 STUDENTS / GREATER PHILADELPHIA'S 9TH LARGEST EMPLOYER / \$115 MILLION IN SPONSORED RESEARCH / 50+ PATENTS SINCE 2009, AND NUMEROUS COMPANIES CREATED / \$300 MILLION IN CURRENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS / 3,600+ STUDENTS EMPLOYED LOCALLY IN NATION'S PREMIER CO-OP PROGRAM / FOCUSED ON EDUCATING THE CITY'S WORKFORCE

THE EDUCATED URBAN WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A Q&A with Drexel President John Fry



Q: Mayor Nutter said in his inaugural address, "If we don't have educated, trained, skilled workers we will struggle to attract these new businesses, grow the companies that are already here, and create the new jobs that are so needed in our city." How can colleges and universities help fill this need?

A: Urban universities have the capacity and responsibility to help our city develop a strong workforce. One aspect of that is attracting smart, entrepreneurial students and faculty from around our region, the nation and the world, and giving them such a compelling experience in Philadelphia that they want to stay.

But even more critically, we can and must help the city ensure that every Philadelphian has access to a great education from day one, in preparation for success in college or the job market.

Q: What can higher education institutions do to improve the school experience for young Philadelphians?

A: We should be impacting the educational system in a variety of ways, from the earliest grades through high school, starting in our own neighborhoods and fanning out.

Drexel has a really fruitful partnership underway with the **POWEL SCHOOL** in Powelton Village next to our campus. We've got tutors and Drexel Community Scholars helping this great neighborhood K-4 school provide an even stronger foundation for our youngest students, including rebuilding the school library. Our **NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVES** also include a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program for middle schoolers and a community-wide educational planning process.

In broader West Philadelphia, our **LINDY SCHOLARS PROGRAM** matches middle school students with Drexel mentors for tutoring and educational activities throughout the school year. Citywide, we participate in **PHILADELPHIA YOUTH NETWORK'S WORKREADY PROGRAM** helping high school students find jobs or service programs that build their career skills, and we host **PHILADELPHIA FUTURES' SUMMER INSTITUTE**, a bridge program introducing public high school graduates to college-level academics. We also host a summer program for incoming 9th graders in partnership with **BREAKTHROUGH OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA**, an academic enrichment program building a path from middle

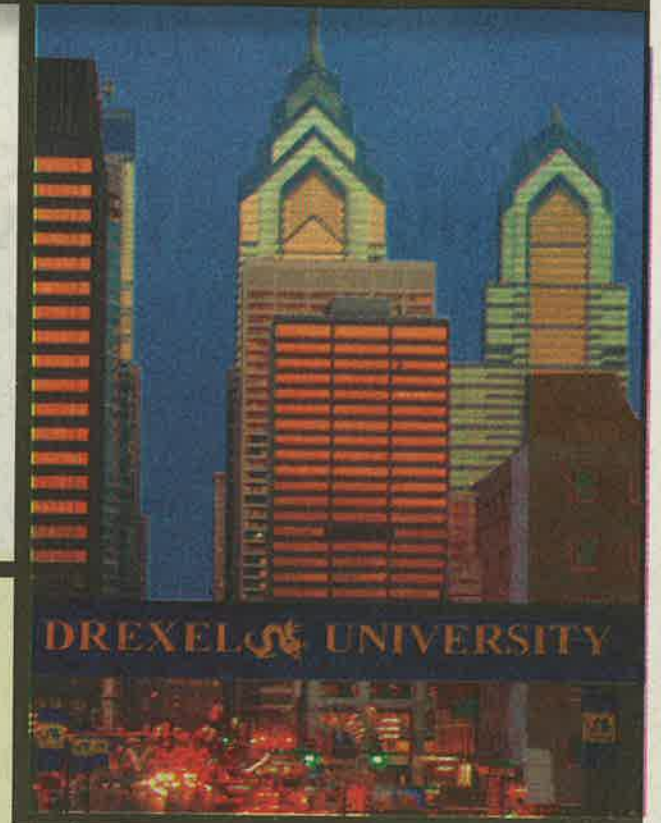
school to college for promising low-income students from Philadelphia public schools.

There's an element of self-interest, of course, in that we want the city's schools to produce outstanding students who can take advantage of programs like Drexel's **LIBERTY SCHOLARS**, where we provide full tuition and fees for 50 high-potential Philadelphia students each year with significant financial need.

Q: Where do the resources come from for colleges and universities to work with the schools?

A: Certainly we have to invest significant resources of our own, and we do. Friends and supporters who feel passionately about these issues can also play a big role. For example, philanthropist Philip B. Lindy not only funded Drexel's Lindy Scholars program, but last year gave us \$15 million to establish the **LINDY CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**.

There's also the opportunity to work with like-minded organizations doing great work in the education space, like we do with Breakthrough, Philadelphia Youth Network and Philadelphia Futures, where partnership amplifies the impact of both of our resources.



And because our concern for a great workforce is shared by the region's biggest employers, we can work with great corporate partners like PECO, who gave \$1 million to establish the **PECO-DREXEL COMMUNITY EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**, making our Powelton Village and Mantua efforts possible.

There's no easy answer to the funding question in today's challenging economy. But the issues we're dealing with are so critical that we must have the will to move forward. Philadelphia needs and deserves a great educational system, and institutions like Drexel need to step up and play a big role.

