



EXPERIENCE THE FUTURE

At the core of the Freire Schools mission is the belief that **every student has the power to build the future**. That is why Freire Schools is committed to ensuring that all students participate in engaging and meaningful professional prep programming as part of their college prep experience.

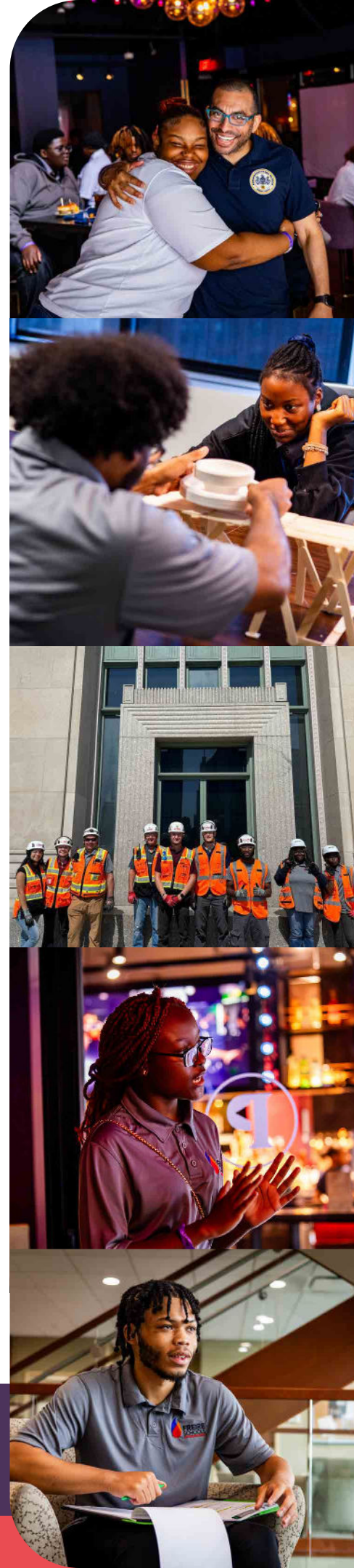
Freire Forward is a network-wide experiential learning initiative that helps Freire students connect their classroom learning to hands-on experiences and begin to establish a vision and framework for their future. Through classroom lessons, dual enrollment courses, career days, job exposure field trips, and now our Freire Experienceship Program, our students cultivate work readiness skills while forming valuable connections with businesses and professionals.

Professional career exposure programs significantly impact students, both during high school and throughout their future. These programs increase college matriculation rates, lower unemployment rates, and expose students to contacts and career options they may not have previously considered.

Freire Forward is made possible through a deep and diverse network of business partnerships throughout the region committed to creating real-world opportunities for kids to experience the future and dream bigger than they ever have before.

JOE HENNELLY
Director of Career Exploration
Freire Schools

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MOVE FORWARD WITH FREIRE

BECOME A BUSINESS PARTNER

Freire Forward is looking for business partners committed to investing in our future and developing a skilled workforce in the region. Whether you're interested in representing your company at a half-day career fair, hosting students at your business for a half-day job exposure trip, or serving as a Freire Experienceship Program site, we want to hear from you. Reach out to Director of Career Exploration Joe Hennelly at joe@freireschools.org or 215-850-8027.

SUPPORT FREIRE FORWARD

To continue to expand professional prep programming to serve more students, we need your support. Please join us as a Freire Forward sponsor at one of the following levels:

- **Dean (\$25,000+)** – We can fund a class of 25 student Experienceship participants.
- **Advisor (\$15,000)** – We can expand the number of student interns by 10 students and provide expert training (e.g. resume writing, soft skills workshops, interview prep).
- **Tutor (\$10,000)** – We can fund the Career Fair and two job exposure experiences at every Freire campus.
- **Mentor (\$5,000)** – We can fund a cohort of 5 student interns.
- **Partner in Education (\$2,500)** – We can fund the Career Fair and two job exposure trips at a Freire campus.
- **Friend of Freire (\$1,000)** – A request of all our Experienceship hosts. We can cover the stipend for one student Experienceship participant, and their transportation and professional attire.

When you support Freire Forward, you play a critical role in inspiring students and unlocking opportunities for the next generation. And, critically, your support allows us to compensate student interns. Too often, economically disadvantaged students are excluded from unpaid opportunities because they need to work after school and in the summer. Freire Forward rights that inequity and shows students that we value their time and work.

HOW TO DONATE

You can donate online today by using the QR code, or send a check payable to the Freire Foundation to:

PO Box 59028
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Questions about donating, including how to donate through the PA-EITC program? Contact Chief Advancement Officer Melanie Reiser at melanie@freireschools.org or 267-992-4346. The Freire Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit (EIN# 27-2568814).

All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



SCAN TO DONATE



PROFESSIONAL PREP

Under the leadership of Director of Career Exploration Joe Hennelly, Freire Schools has been expanding our Freire Forward programming, integrating hands-on professional prep opportunities into our college prep model. Three of our exciting professional prep programs include:

CAREER FAIRS/CAREER DAYS

To expose all students to different careers, colleges, and trades, we host annual career fairs or career days at every campus. We invite regional business professionals and community leaders to spend a few hours talking with students about their jobs, companies, and the paths they took to get to where they are today. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about a wide array of professions in a short period, often tied to classroom career exposure lessons. Past career fair partners include:

- Boeing
- CHOP
- City of Philadelphia Office of the Mayor
- OCF Real Estate
- Philadelphia Flyers
- Philadelphia Defenders Association
- Philadelphia Police Department
- PHLY Sports Media Group

JOB EXPOSURE TRIPS

Through our job exposure program, our high school students take career interest surveys which we use to match them to field trips where they have opportunities to tour workplaces and shadow professionals aligned to their interests. A typical trip includes an ice breaker activity, students interviewing company employees, a company tour, a lunch with informal conversation between students and company employees, and time for reflection. Past job exposure trip partners include Gambone Group, REC Philly, Delmarva Power, CITI Bank, Reed Smith LLP, and WSFS Bank.



"The Experienceship taught me the fundamentals of finding the career that could best fit me ... I've met and gained connections with people that will last a lifetime and possible career opportunities after my four years of college."

HASAN LOPEZ, TECH Freire Class of 2024, Lincoln University Class of 2028



EXPERIENCESHIP PROGRAM

In 2023-24 we launched our Experienceship Program as the centerpiece of the Freire Forward professional prep program. During this two-week paid internship, students take part in soft skills lessons, leadership training, job shadowing, and reflection on the experience and lessons learned.

2025 EXPERIENCESHIP

HIGHLIGHTS

When we initially launched our Experienceship Program in June 2024, we worked with a cohort of 30 students from TECH Freire and Freire High (selected from over 75 applicants). In 2025, we expanded the program to 57 students from TECH Freire, Freire High, and Freire Wilmington. Students were immersed in a two-week paid job shadowing program that combined soft skills and leadership training with six days of job shadowing at 21 different companies/organizations.

Through immersive, hands-on learning, Experienceship students shadowed professionals across industries, built social capital and professional networks, planned events & mentored youth at LYTE, sat in on board meetings at WSFS Bank, built stock portfolios at Brown Advisory, learned the ins and outs of real estate development at Buccini Pollin Group, learned coding basics with Futures First Gaming, worked with patients at healthcare sites, shadowed politicians at Philadelphia City Hall, toured construction sites with D&R, and helped plan community events at World Cafe Live.

"It felt good being in a professional environment—like I was where I was supposed to be. I felt important, like I was doing something right for my future and investing in myself while others were also investing in me."

BRANDON CRENSHAW, Freire Wilmington Class of 2026

The Experienceship not only enriches students' learning experiences, but it also makes them more competitive when applying to college and for jobs, and helps them develop critical skills that are valued in the workplace (e.g. punctuality, problem-solving, communication, collaboration).

PAST PARTNERS

- African Family Health Organization
- Brawer, Hauptmann, Larkin Architecture
- BRR Architecture
- Brown Advisory
- Buccini Pollin Group
- Chapman Auto Stores
- Children and Families First
- Clarke & Cohen
- Common Ground Management
- D'Lauro & Rodgers Inc.
- Futures First Gaming
- Gilbane Building Company
- Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
- LYTE
- O'Donnell & Naccarato
- Parkway Corporation
- Public Health Management Corporation
- Quantum Restoration Services
- TCG (Tester Construction Group)
- T&M Associates
- The Office of PA Representative Ben Waxman
- The Office of Philadelphia City Councilmember Jeffery Young, Jr
- World Cafe Live
- WSFS Bank
- The Office of Philadelphia Municipal Court Judge Colleen McIntyre Osborne

About Freire Schools: Freire Schools is a high-achieving urban public charter school network with four campuses serving about 2,000 students in grades 5-12 in Philadelphia, PA, and Wilmington, DE. Committed to ensuring every student can succeed and grow through a college prep program infused with professional prep opportunities, Freire Schools was recognized in 2023 by Stanford University's Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) as a "gap-busting" charter network for closing the achievement gap.