

Philadelphia ^{ACADEMIES} INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHILADELPHIA ACADEMIES, INC. RECEIVES \$150,000 GRANT FROM PECO

Grant Benefits Electrical Academy Programming and Capacity Building Initiatives

PHILADELPHIA (June 3, 2011) – Philadelphia Academies, Inc., a nonprofit youth development organization, has received a \$150,000 grant from PECO, to benefit programming for students enrolled in the Academy of Applied Electrical Science. The grant also will support the development of nine other career areas, help expand Philadelphia Academies’ network of career academies in Philadelphia public high schools, and provide enhanced volunteer training and professional development to teachers.

A longstanding partner to Philadelphia Academies, Inc., PECO helped launch the Academy of Applied Electrical Science – the very first career academy – in 1969 with Academies founder and visionary Charles Bowser.

“Being a business leader also means playing an active role in the community, and PECO is leading by example. We applaud their ongoing commitment to education and human capital,” said Lisa Nutter, president of Philadelphia Academies, Inc. “This generous contribution from PECO is an investment in the youth of Philadelphia, and will aid us in our mission of expanding life and economic options for public high school students through career-focused programming and activities.”

Recently, PECO opened up its line school to 20 Philadelphia Academies, Inc. Electrical Academy high school students from Mastbaum and Swenson Arts & Technology high schools. Students experienced a day-in-the-life of a line mechanic, learned important community safety lessons, and were introduced to the highly competitive nature of the linesmen job application process.

“Then and now, PECO sees and values young people as our future,” Mrs. Nutter said. “This gift and these real-life experiences enable us to grow the tradition of business/education partnerships, with the goal of improving the lives and educations of public high school students in our community.”

Philadelphia Academies, Inc. and the career academy model were founded 40+ years ago when Charles Bowser, then executive director of the Urban Affairs Coalition and Deputy Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, brought together PECO executives and other corporate leaders to formulate a plan to bring business into Philadelphia schools in a way that would engage both the students and the business partners in meaningful ways. The idea was to create small learning environments, based on careers, to keep Philadelphia public high school students engaged in their own learning, motivated to work and ready to live productive lives upon graduation.

The first career academy – the Academy of Applied Electrical Science – opened at Edison High School in Philadelphia in the fall of 1969, with 30 students enrolled. Today, Philadelphia Academies, Inc. serves thousands of students across 10 career academies in 16 Philadelphia public high schools. And the career academy model has been replicated in thousands of schools throughout the nation, and is credited as one of the most successful education reform efforts in the country.

ABOUT PHILADELPHIA ACADEMIES, INC.

Philadelphia Academies, Inc. is a nonprofit youth development organization working to change life outcomes for kids using first-of-its-kind career academies. The mission of Philadelphia Academies, Inc. is to expand life and economic options for Philadelphia public school students through career-focused programming that prepares young people for employment and post-secondary education. The Academy model, which was created in Philadelphia in 1969, has been replicated in more than 2,500 schools throughout the country.

The Applied Electrical Science Academy is one of 10 Academy career areas. Others include: Automotive and Mechanical Engineering; Biotechnology; Business and Technology; Communications; Environmental Science; Health and Life Sciences; Hotel, Restaurant, Travel and Tourism; Process Technology; and Urban Education. For more information, visit www.academiesinc.org

ABOUT PECO

PECO is one of the Greater Philadelphia region's most active corporate citizens, providing about \$5 million in grant support annually to numerous educational, environmental, arts and culture and community development organizations. Company employees volunteer thousands of hours of time and talent each year as board members and volunteers in their communities. For more on PECO and its community relations program, visit www.peco.com/community.

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