

***Graduate! Philadelphia* expands to six new locations throughout Philadelphia**

More than 460 residents have returned to college thanks to initiative

PHILADELPHIA – Ongoing demand from area residents interested in resuming their college studies has prompted Graduate! Philadelphia to expand its services to six satellite locations throughout the city.

Since Graduate! Philadelphia opened its College Success Center in the Gallery Mall in 2008, more than 460 adult learners have re-enrolled in college, and 10 have already graduated with their degrees. Another 1,000 people are in the center's pipeline preparing to enroll in college.

"Graduate! Philadelphia is an invaluable initiative because it's giving people opportunities and supports to go back to college, complete their degrees and advance in the workplace," said Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter. "Too many of our residents operate at a severe disadvantage in the workplace because of the lack of post-secondary education. Thanks to Graduate! Philadelphia, there's no excuse why we can't tap our workforce talent to its fullest."

In an effort to serve more people, Graduate! has expanded into four CareerLink Centers in Center City, North Philadelphia, Northeast Philadelphia and Germantown. It also provides its college advising services at CORA Services' Neumann Center in Kensington, and at Catholic Social Services' Northeast Family Service Center. The new locations bring the free Graduate! Philadelphia services into the neighborhoods and make them more accessible for residents.

"Graduate! Philadelphia is filling a critical need in the region particularly in difficult economic times with an increasingly competitive workforce," said Sallie A. Glickman, CEO of the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board (PWIB), which oversees the program in a joint initiative with the United Way of Southeastern Pa. "By offering additional access locations for adult learners, we can make sure more people are offered services they need to complete their degrees in their neighborhood."

Graduate! Philadelphia was founded in 2005 in response to the critical shortage of adults with college degrees in the region's workforce. At the time, more than 80,000 Philadelphia residents had some college credits but no degree. Statistics show that getting a college degree brings better job opportunities and about \$1 million more in wages over a person's career. In 2008, Graduate! Philadelphia opened the first-of-its kind College Success Center in the Gallery, which remains a main hub of activities, offering many workshops and direct access to college advisors.

"The new locations are a great opportunity for individuals to access "one-stop shopping" for college right in their neighborhood. You can talk with representatives of 15 different colleges, file for financial aid, get advice about next steps, make a plan, all not far from where you live or work," said Hadass Sheffer, Executive Director of

Graduate! Philadelphia. "We're delighted so many Comebackers have chosen to return to college and complete their degrees."

"The help is there," said Tanyelle Little, 36, of Mount Laurel, N.J. who now attends Thomas Edison State College after working with Graduate! Philadelphia and college staff to return to college. "You just have to take the initiative. The hardest step is getting yourself out of your door."

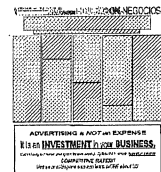
15 colleges and universities participate in the Graduate! Philadelphia initiative. They were selected for their high graduation rates, adult-friendly services, courses that are flexible, focused and convenient for adults, and all are fully regionally accredited. Graduate! Philadelphia locations include:

The Gallery I – Street Level
 9th & Market streets (enter at 9th Street, next to the Dollar Store)
 Philadelphia, PA 19107
 Phone: 215-574-1341
 Fax: 215-574-1535

E-mail: info@graduatephiladelphia.org
 Center Walk-In Hours
 Monday: 10:00 AM–2:00 PM
 Tuesday: 3:00–7:00 PM
 Wednesday: 3:00–7:00 PM
 Friday: 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

The Graduate! Philadelphia staff is also now at the following sites. Please call 215-574-1341, option 2, for scheduled days and times:

Northeast Philadelphia



CORA Services, Inc.
Neumann Center
1000 Orthodox St.
Philadelphia, PA 19124

Catholic Social Services
Northeast Family Service Center
7340 Jackson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19136

PA CareerLink Philadelphia
Northeast
3210 Red Lion Road
Philadelphia, PA 19114

North Philadelphia
PA CareerLink Philadelphia
North
990 West Spring Garden St.
Philadelphia, PA 19123-2606

Northwest Philadelphia
PA CareerLink Philadelphia
Northwest
235 West Cheltenham Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19144-3893
Center City
PA CareerLink Suburban Station
1617 JFK Blvd., Suite 200
Philadelphia, PA 19103

About Graduate! Philadelphia
Graduate! Philadelphia is an initiative of the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board and the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania to increase the number of working adults with college degrees in the Greater Philadelphia region. For more information, please visit www.GraduatePhiladelphia.org.