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Urban Prep Announces 100 Percent of High School Seniors Accepted to College for the Fifth Consecutive Year, Including First Graduating Class from Newest Bronzeville Campus

One in ten African-American males from Chicago Public Schools enrolling in college as freshmen this fall will be an Urban Prep alumnus

NBA Champion Dwyane Wade's foundation, Wade's World, makes special donation to celebrate Class of 2014's achievement

CHICAGO – April 8, 2014 – For the fifth consecutive year, 100 percent of high school seniors from Urban Prep's Englewood and West Campuses and the inaugural graduating class from its Bronzeville Campus—all African-American males—have been accepted to four-year colleges and universities.

During an assembly today at Urban Prep's Englewood Campus, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel joined Urban Prep Academies' founder and CEO Tim King, elected officials, community leaders, and Urban Prep students, faculty, alumni and parents in celebrating the seniors' achievements.

In addition to remarks from Mayor Emanuel and Tim King, the event included encouraging words from Urban Prep alumni currently in college. Attendees also observed an important Urban Prep ritual when several seniors who were recently admitted to college exchanged their red uniform ties for red-and-gold striped ties signifying their college-bound status. Students from all three of Urban Prep's campuses (Englewood, Bronzeville and West) attended the assembly to honor and support their "brothers."

The theme for the event was "Our Brother's Keeper," showcasing the close alignment of Urban Prep's success and mission to provide a high-quality and comprehensive college-preparatory educational experience to its students with President Barack Obama's newly-launched "[My Brother's Keeper](#)" initiative to increase opportunities for Black boys and young men.

"Urban Prep's Creed, which the students recite together every morning, includes the line 'We are college bound,' but equally important are the words a few lines later, 'We are our brother's keepers,'" said Tim King. "Try saying that 700-plus times over the course of four years and not understand that you have a responsibility to your Urban Prep brothers, families and communities."

With 240 seniors graduating from Urban Prep this year, more than one in ten African-American males from CPS enrolling in college as freshmen in the fall will be an Urban Prep alumnus. Students in Urban Prep's Class of 2014 have accrued more than \$11 million in scholarships to date and have been accepted to more than 185 four-year colleges and universities across the nation, including: Cornell University, Florida A & M University, Georgetown University, Grinnell College, Howard University, Morehouse College, Syracuse University, Tufts University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Virginia. This year, for the first time, Urban Prep seniors have also been admitted to Colgate University, Emory University, the University of Michigan, Williams College and the United States Military Academy (West Point).



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“The young men of Urban Prep are continually raising the standard of academic excellence,” said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. “The students graduating today serve as proof that with strong will and commitment, every child can achieve their dream of graduating high school, getting into and through college, and leading a successful life.”

To congratulate the seniors for their achievement, Tragil Wade, president of [Wade’s World Foundation](#) – the charity foundation of NBA champion Dwyane Wade and longtime philanthropic partner of Urban Prep – announced that Wade’s World will provide a \$10,000 donation to the Class of 2014 to offset the costs of their senior prom.

“We are overjoyed to be here today and announce this donation in support of the successful young men of Urban Prep,” said Tragil Wade, president of Wade’s World Foundation. “A 100 percent college acceptance rate is an incredible achievement. Wade’s World is pleased to help the Urban Prep Class of 2014 celebrate all their excellent work toward improving educational outcomes for themselves, their families and communities, and African-American boys throughout the U.S.”

The founding of Urban Prep’s three campuses are a direct response to the urgent need to reverse abysmal high school graduation and college completion rates, particularly among African-American boys, in Chicago and in urban centers nationwide. Urban Prep is a charter public school and students are selected via random lottery and the vast majority who start as ninth graders are significantly behind academically. More than 75 percent of Urban Prep students come from low-income families in Chicago.

Urban Prep’s Alumni Affairs Office tracks Urban Prep alumni in college. In addition to gaining admission to and enrolling in college at record rates, Urban Prep alumni are also exceeding local and national averages for college persistence: on average, 80 percent of Urban Prep alumni are persisting in college, compared to 70 percent for CPS and only 42 percent for African-American males nationally.

“Urban Prep’s record college acceptance, enrollment and persistence rates demonstrate that we’re changing the educational landscape for young Black males,” said Tim King. “Our schools, teachers and students are making a real difference in how Black youth are perceived in our country. I couldn’t be prouder of our accomplished young men, and I see bright futures ahead for each and every one of them. This is what happens when We Believe.”

Urban Prep will host a commencement ceremony for this year’s graduating seniors on June 14th at the Chicago Lyric Opera House.

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About Urban Prep Academies:

[Urban Prep Academies](#) was founded in 2002 by Tim King and a group of African-American education, business and civic leaders who wanted to improve the educational opportunities available to urban boys. In 2005, this nonprofit organization was approved to open Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men--Englewood Campus. Urban Prep is the country's first network of charter public high schools for boys. Since accepting its first class in the fall of 2006, Urban Prep has been recognized internationally for its success in improving the academic, social and emotional development of urban young men. Urban Prep currently operates three schools in Chicago’s Englewood, Near West and Bronzeville communities. 100% of Urban Prep's graduates have been admitted to college. The Urban Prep Motto is We Believe.

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