

THE BUSINESS ALBUM

STEPS succeed

Baltimore's Building STEPS provides underserved high school students with tools to get into college

Building STEPS (Science Technology And Education Partnerships) celebrated its 10th graduating class at its annual Achievement Luncheon recently.

Based on the principle that "a college education changes a person's life," Building STEPS helps Baltimore City kids do something no one thought they could — go to college.

The Baltimore-based nonprofit organization provides underserved high school students with the tools and support to get into and graduate from college.

Ninety percent of this year's graduates are headed to college. Almost all are the first in their family to do so.

"The annual luncheon is all about the graduates and their remarkable accomplishments from college acceptance to

college degrees. As a small not-for-profit, we invite our stakeholders and supporters to celebrate with our students each year," said Debra Hettleman, executive director of Building STEPS.

Available at Digital Harbor, Dunbar, Forest Park, Patterson and W.E.B. DuBois high schools, the multiyear program includes a monthly seminar series, a paid summer internship, extensive college access and financial aid workshops, and ongoing alumni support.

Eighty percent of Building STEPS graduates earn a college degree. Forty-seven percent of the college graduates have earned, or are in the process of earning, a post-baccalaureate degree, including M.B.A., M.D., M.D./Ph.D., M.S. and Ph.D.



Students from Patterson High School who are participants in the Building STEPS program.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF BUILDING STEPS



From left, Matthew Weinberg, founder and chairman of Building STEPS; Jim Saunders, Towson University; Dyan Brasington, vice president for economic and community outreach at Towson University.



From left, Sheldon Caplis, Citi; Stuart Kaplow, Stuart D. Kaplow PA; Jill Loris; Scott Plank, Under Armour.



From left, Debra Hettleman, Building STEPS' executive director; Beth Mayers; Lynn Katzen; Jennifer Meyerhoff.



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