



# ROWE-CLARK MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY

*The Exelon Campus of Noble Street Charter School*

## Key Facts:

- Located in existing building at 3645 W. Chicago Ave, in Chicago's West Humboldt Park community, which will be remodeled to open as a charter school campus in Fall 2007.
- Plans to serve 530 students, grades 9-12. Opening with about 145 freshmen and adding about that number of freshmen yearly until it reaches capacity.
- All Chicago students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible for admission. A lottery system determines the final selection of incoming students, if applications exceed slots. No tuition or admissions examinations are required. Student recruitment will focus on the surrounding communities of Humboldt Park, West Town, and Garfield Park.
- Donors contributing \$4.2 million.
- The Noble Network of Charter Schools, with a proven track record for success, will operate the academy:
  - For the past 7 years, Noble Street Charter School has consistently ranked in the top 15 of all Chicago Public Schools based on Prairie State Achievement Examination test scores.
  - 100 percent of graduates have been accepted to college and more than 80 percent attend college.

## Mission:

- Provide Chicago students in one of the city's most ethnically diverse communities with the opportunity to attend a world-class math and science academy.
- Create an opportunity for students to acquire the education/skills needed to play a substantial role in the local, national, and international market of the future.
- Build on Exelon's existing "Energy for Education" initiatives and advance the company's philanthropic model that donates resources, encourages volunteerism, and partners with valued community organizations and institutions.

## Founding Educational Principles:

- Meet the highest standards of educational excellence to prepare a diverse student population for success in their college careers and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce.
- Implement a disciplined environment and dynamic curriculum that sparks interest and innovation in math and science.
- Create an academic and community culture that recognizes math and science education as a key building block for community empowerment and individual success.

## Noble Street Curriculum Model in General:

- **Focuses on post-secondary endeavors:** educational model focuses on efforts to improve student achievement in secondary schools.
- **Focuses on a rigorous learning environment:** raises academic standards, strengthens and diversifies the academic curriculum and provides a supportive learning environment, while also attracting and retaining high-performing teachers.
- **Nurtures life-long success:** students learn in innovative institutions and engage in positive interpersonal relationships that bridge the gap between high school and post-secondary education.

### **Enhanced Math & Science Instruction at the Academy:**

- Academy will require **6 credits in math for graduation**, compared with 3 required credits for traditional public school students.
- Science curriculum is more rigorous than traditional public schools, requiring students to pass **four lab sciences**: freshman physics, biology, chemistry and calculus-based physics. At least **two AP science courses** are also planned.
- Academy students will spend **1 additional month in school per year** as compared with the traditional public school year and receive about **33 percent more reading and math instruction**.
- The academy will provide an after-school or summer **math and science program for community students, grades 6-8**.

### **Exelon Curriculum Enhancements:**

- Exelon's **strong employee volunteer and giving programs**, as well as Employee Network Groups, will be focused on the academy and its surrounding community. Volunteers will participate in activities such as after-school programs, tutoring, and one-on-one mentoring.
- Exelon plans to **expand its existing education programs** such as summer jobs, stay-in school initiative, internships, math and science fair/club sponsorships, and create an Exelon Scholarship program.
- In addition to the financial contributions, the Rowes, the Clarks, Exelon executives and employees are **personally committed** to continuing involvement in school governance: an Exelon executive will serve on the Noble Network of Charter Schools Board; and the Rowes, Clarks and Exelon executives will serve on an advisory committee to the Academy. John Rowe, Frank Clark, and other Exelon executives will have the opportunity to participate at the academy in a guest lecture series, career fairs, and other planned programs.

### **Donations:**

- Rowe Family Charitable Trust (John, Jeanne and Bill Rowe): \$2 million
- Frank and Vera Clark: \$200,000
- Exelon Corporation: \$2 million to the Renaissance Schools Fund in support of the academy

### **Exelon Energy for Education:**

- Educational initiatives are a long-standing area of focus for Exelon's philanthropic giving and employee volunteerism. In 2006, the company's philanthropic giving totaled \$33 million, 21 percent of which was dedicated to education-related funding.
  - **Exelon-United Way "Stay in School" Initiative:** The company has partnered with three leading Chicago youth agencies (BUILD, Center for New Horizons, and Youth Guidance) to reduce high school drop out rates in the Humboldt Park, Bronzeville, and Austin communities. The program targets 1,400 teenagers from 12 CPS schools, and the success rate is 100 percent.
  - **Chicago Math & Science Initiative:** \$500,000 grant to Chicago Public Schools to improve the math and science curriculum at four CPS elementary schools.
  - **Exelon Environmental Fellow:** An industry-leading initiative that created a new learning module for CPS students. Thousands of students have participated in hands-on outdoor labs that use the city's parks and natural areas as classrooms.
  - In addition to CPS, Exelon also contributes to the **Big Shoulders Fund**, which supports Chicago Archdiocese schools in low-income communities, including Pope John Paul II Catholic School on Chicago's west side and St. Margaret of Scotland in the Beverly community. The company's involvement reaches beyond financial support, including board membership by company executives and volunteer action by employee network groups.

### **For more information:**

- Call Noble Street at **773-278-6895**
- Or visit the **website** for details **[www.Noblenetwork.org](http://www.Noblenetwork.org)** or **[exeloncorp.com/community/mathandscienceacademy](http://exeloncorp.com/community/mathandscienceacademy)**