



ROWE-CLARK MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY

The Exelon Campus of Noble Street Charter School

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Daley Joins Business & Education Leaders to Announce Creation of World-Class Math & Science Academy in West Humboldt Park *\$4.2 million in donations from John & Jeanne Rowe, Frank & Vera Clark, and Exelon Corporation launch new charter school campus focused on training Chicago high school students for the 21st Century*

CHICAGO (February 8, 2007) – John and Jeanne Rowe today joined Mayor Richard M. Daley, Chicago Public Schools CEO Arne Duncan, and Frank and Vera Clark in West Humboldt Park to announce plans for a world-class math and science academy, guided by both families' commitment to providing access to opportunity for all Chicago students.

“The future of our children – and of our entire city – depends on schools that are capable of producing graduates who can perform the jobs of the 21st century economy, and also exercise their civic responsibilities,” said Daley. “I expect this school to be a great model of what we can accomplish when government partners with non-profits and civic-minded businesses like Exelon.”

“Today we welcome another great educational option for Humboldt Park. Noble Street has proven its ability to run a good school, and now - with the support of Exelon - they are taking that successful model into new neighborhoods. We're deeply grateful for the opportunity they are providing our children,” said Duncan.

The new academy will serve about 530 Chicago students, grades 9-12, and will be a campus of Noble Street Charter School, which brings a strong track record for academic success and enriched curriculum. The donations for the new academy include \$2 million from the Rowe Family Charitable Trust, a \$200,000 contribution from Frank and Vera Clark, and \$2 million from Chicago-based Exelon Corporation to the Renaissance Schools Fund in support of the academy.

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In an announcement ceremony held today at the site of the high school campus at 3645 W. Chicago Ave., John Rowe, Exelon's chairman and CEO, praised Mayor Daley's leadership for placing education at the top of the city's agenda for success. Rowe also shared his family's belief that educational institutions and opportunities can propel individual success and transform communities. This academy is the culmination of his long-term commitment to education and helping to provide others with the access to the kinds of education needed to compete and succeed in a global marketplace.

"Our mission is to launch a world-class math and science academy in one of the city's most diverse communities, to create opportunity and spark interest in the educational skills that drive local, national and international economies. This academy is where tomorrow's scientists will learn today," said Rowe.

Rowe also thanked his wife Jeanne, his son Bill, his colleague Frank Clark, ComEd chairman and CEO, and his wife, Dr. Vera Clark, for continuing their commitment to Chicago communities with their personal contribution to help launch the academy.

"Today's announcement fulfills a personal dream for Vera and me," said Clark. "We know what an education does to broaden a person's horizons and expand the realm of opportunity and available careers. Our family shares in the excitement of every family who will send their sons and daughters to this top-notch academy."

During today's event, Ron Manderschied, Noble Street President & CEO, announced that the school will be named the Rowe-Clark Math & Science Academy, The Exelon Campus of Noble Street Charter School, in honor of its generous donors. He also outlined the academy's approach to success and enhanced instruction plans.

"This next Noble Street campus is another step toward the educational excellence that we are committed to creating and delivering for Chicago students," said Manderschied. "In the Rowe and Clark families, and with Exelon and its employee volunteers as partners, we have assembled a team that can bring our math and science curriculum to the next level."

Noble Street shares the donors' goal of meeting the highest standards of educational excellence to prepare a diverse student population for success in college and the 21st Century workforce. The academy will create an academic and community culture that recognizes math and science education as a key building block for community empowerment and individual opportunity.

Students at the academy will receive an enhanced math and science curriculum that is more intensive than traditional public schools. They will benefit from two additional years of math programming, giving them a total of six credits over four years; and four lab sciences: freshman physics, biology, chemistry, and calculus-based physics. As part of this rigorous training, at least two AP science courses are also planned. Academy students will spend an additional month in school per year with a curriculum that includes about 33 percent more reading and math instruction. For the community, there will also be an after-school or summer math and science program for students from nearby schools, grades 6-8.

Walter Burnett, Jr., 27th Ward Alderman whose ward includes the West Humboldt Park community, also shared his support for the math and science academy. “I applaud Exelon and Noble for dedicating their resources to the students and families of West Humboldt Park. Tomorrow’s scientists will receive a world-class education to launch their careers here within the walls of this center of educational excellence,” said Burnett.

Today’s announcement concluded with the personal experience of a recent Noble Street graduate. Tiffany Hinton, a nursing major at UIC and a graduate of the Noble Street class of 2003, said that her Noble Street education spurred her academic success and plans for the future.

All Chicago students entering 9th grade will be eligible for admission, with a lottery system determining the final selection if applications exceed slots. This Noble Street campus will begin to build its student body by accepting 145 students for its first freshman class in the fall of 2007. For more information on the Rowe - Clark Math & Science Academy, visit www.noblenetwork.org or www.exeloncorp.com/community/mathandscienceacademy.

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The Noble Network of Charter Schools operates Noble Street Charter School, a public charter high school serving low-income, minority students on multiple campuses. Noble Street’s mission is to prepare Chicago’s youth to function successfully in society by requiring and facilitating educational excellence, civic responsibility and respect for the community, the environment and people from all walks of life. In 2007-2008, the school will operate five high school campuses and serve more than 1,100 students; the school is in the midst of a replication plan that will expand the student body to approximately 3,500 students on seven campuses beginning in 2011. Noble Street Charter School is the top-ranked non-selective high school in Chicago. Each year, approximately 95% of the senior class graduates and more than 80% enroll in college.