

## **Education 2020 CEO Champions**

The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce creates and supports a committee of Nashville-area CEOs organized to advance improvements in high school and middle school public education. The CEO Champions is one of four committees (CEO Champions, Public Education Advocacy Committee, Education 2020 Leadership Council, and Education Report Card Committee) to work under the auspices of Education 2020, which functions as the education committee of the Chamber.

### **Purpose:**

- Serve as public champions of high school and middle school reforms, including: high school academies, Alternative High School Initiative (AHSI) schools, and charter schools.
- Advise the MNPS Director of Schools and Chamber staff on issues related to creating and sustaining successful high schools and middle schools.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Attend scheduled quarterly business meetings in which the committee will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the MNPS academies/Small Learning Communities (SLC) reform. These meetings will also serve as an opportunity to provide advice and counsel to the Director of Schools and the Mayor on reform efforts.
- Participate as available, as a Champions group or individually, in public appearances, press conferences, written op-ed pieces, speaking opportunities, or communications with elected officials to promote high school and middle school reform efforts.
- Encourage each CEO's organization to support high school academies at the industry partnership council level and the individual school/academy level.

### **Composition:**

The CEO Champions will have representation that covers the six broad industry areas served by MNPS academy partnership councils:

- Arts, Media & Communications
- Business, Marketing & Information Technology
- Engineering, Manufacturing & Industrial Technology
- Health
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human & Public Services

Mayor Karl Dean and Steve Turner, CEO of Butler's Run, will serve as co-chairs. Members will serve renewable one-year terms.

Education 2020 CEO Champions membership

Co-Chair Steve Turner, President, Butler's Run  
Co-Chair Karl Dean, Mayor of Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County  
Dr. Kevin Churchwell, CEO, Monroe Carell Jr., Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt  
Mark Claypool, President & CEO, Educational Services of America  
Peggy Cooning, V.P. for External Relations, Trevecca Nazarene University  
David Davoudpour, Chairman & CEO, Shoney's  
Marsha Edwards, President & CEO, Martha O'Bryan Center  
Ted Helm, Owner, Modular Designs  
Nicholas Holland, President & CEO, Centresource, Inc.  
David Klements, President & CEO, Qualifacts  
Michael Martin, President/CEO, The Tennessee Credit Union  
Richard McCarty, Provost, Vanderbilt University  
Randy Parker, CEO, PGC Holdings Corp.  
Ric Pennisi, Managing Director, Marsh  
Brian Philips, President, CMT  
Cabot Pyle, Director of Charitable Giving, Turner Family Foundation  
Dr. Jesse Register, Director of Schools, MNPS  
Ron Samuels, President & CEO, Avenue Bank  
Ralph Schulz, President & CEO, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce  
Butch Spyridon, President, Nashville Convention & Visitors Bureau

# OPINION

THE TENNESSEAN ■ 8A • TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009

## TENNESSEE VOICES

# Metro schools recruit a respected superintendent

By Steve Turner

Nashville is seeing an exciting redesign of many of our public high schools. Even more exciting is that Director of Schools Dr. Jesse Register has recruited a nationally-regarded expert in this area to lead the transformation. Jay Steele begins his work as associate superintendent of high schools here on Nov. 30.



Turner

Metro is creating Smaller Learning Communities (SLCs) in its traditional, comprehensive high schools. Many of these are taking the form of academies with a career or thematic focus. These academies bring "real world" relevance to

a rigorous curriculum that prepares students for both postsecondary education and a career. A key ingredient to the success of these academies is developing strong partnerships with businesses and community organizations.

For the past five years, Jay Steele has led the creation of some of the most highly-regarded career academies in the country. Mr. Steele has overseen the development of 15 academies in the St. Johns County School District in Florida. This district saw a 10 percentage point increase in its graduation rate once academies were fully implemented.

Recently I, along with Mayor Karl Dean, Dr. Register, and school board chair David Fox, saw several of the St. Johns County

Visit **TENNESSEAN.COM/OPINION** to read other Tennessee Voices.



high school academies firsthand. We toured an aerospace academy with higher education partnerships that allowed students to earn college credit in aerospace engineering and air traffic control.

We also talked to students in a business and finance academy that was sponsored by a local credit union. The students ran a branch office in the school as part of the academy curriculum, opening student and teacher accounts and processing actual deposits and withdrawals.

Just last month, the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce followed our visit to St. Johns County with a delegation of

seven Metro high school principals and 12 Nashville businesses, including higher education. The group spent a full day visiting high school academies and learning from Mr. Steele about how they built strong and successful partnerships with business.

It's the right time for Nashville businesses to explore a partnership with our high school students. Mayor Dean and I co-chair the chamber's CEO Champions, a group of business leaders supporting high school reform. I believe recruiting Jay Steele to Nashville creates significant momentum for the development of our high school academies and the future success of our students.

Steve Turner is president of Butler's Run and principal of Market Street Enterprises.

# OPINION

THE TENNESSEAN ■ 8A • TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009

## TENNESSEE VOICES

# Exploration fair opens doors for Metro students

By David Davoudpour

This Friday, Nov. 6, 3,000 ninth-grade students from 10 Metro high schools will have an incredible opportunity to explore the "real world" that awaits them after college or high school graduation.

These students will interact with more than 300 business professionals representing a wide range of careers at the first-ever Metro Schools Career Exploration Fair at the Nashville Convention Center.

These high school freshmen will have one-on-one conversations with adult volunteers about what it's like to work in a

particular industry and what kind of education you need to be successful. Students will learn more about their current interests, but will also discover many jobs and professions they never knew existed.

Students have already been preparing in class for this unique one-day experience and will be completing follow-up activities after the fair is over to reinforce what they've learned.

It is critical that our young people start thinking about their future at an earlier age. We know that ninth grade is a year when too many students get behind academically and then drop out of school. Many give up because they don't understand how their classroom work connects to what they will be doing as adults.

Our students also need to realize that



Visit **TENNESSEAN.COM/OPINION** to read other Tennessee Voices.

skills such as effective communication, teamwork and the ability to organize information will determine how successful they are as working adults in the 21st century.

Once these students complete their ninth-grade year, many will choose to enroll in one of Metro's many high school academies with a specific career focus or industry theme. These academies engage students from the 10th grade through high school graduation and include everything from a Health Science Academy at Glenclyff High School to a Business & Information Technology Academy at Antioch to an Architecture & Construction Academy at Cane Ridge.

Nashville's business community has a responsibility to help our students be successful.

High school academy partnership councils, representing all the industries at the fair, have met the challenge by mobilizing the business volunteers. In addition, the fair is funded through private financial and in-kind contributions.

As a member of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce's CEO Champions, a group of Nashville business leaders dedicated to supporting high school and middle-school reform, we believe the career exploration fair will help students better prepare for success in school, work and life.

David Davoudpour is chairman and chief executive officer of Shoney's.



**Davoudpour**

## TENNESSEE VOICES

## Academies of Nashville transform school

By **Marsha Edwards**

Almost all of us can remember that guy who stayed in school because he wanted to play a sport. Playing first base or hitting that clutch jump

**Edwards**

shot was enough incentive to keep his grades where they needed to be. He wanted to be in the game, so it became important to him to be in school, doing the

work, every day.

The creation of the Academies of Nashville — smaller learning communities within each of Metro's zoned high schools with a career or thematic focus — has

the potential to do the same thing for our students. Students will attend and enjoy school because they are actively engaged in learning that is both relevant and rigorous. And they not only will graduate on time, but also will be prepared for college, career and life.

Schools need to be structured differently and teachers need to teach collaboratively for the academics concept to work, but our success of our high school academies depends on the active participation of the business and nonprofit community. If nonprofits like the Martha O'Bryan Center do not step up to bring resources, experiences and opportunities to the table, the

academies in our community's high schools will lack the real-world relevance that excites students and our academic results will remain unchanged. And if you know teenagers, it doesn't take them long to see when something is "all talk and no cake."

**Experiences lift students**

At Stratford High School in East Nashville, there are two new academies for students in grades 10-12: one for science and engineering, and one for entrepreneurship and liberal arts. There is also a new school leader and, frankly, a whole new vibe and academic culture. Metro Schools conducted a national search that brought Principal Michael Steele

from Jacksonville, Fla., to lead the implementation of academies at Stratford.

At my company, we are committing resources and talent to our partnership with Stratford. We are renovating space inside the school where we will deliver subject-specific tutoring, pre-job training and college access counseling in partnership with Oasis Center. We've also secured a portrait development lab so students in the entrepreneurship academy can produce senior pictures. Students will learn to be entrepreneurs by starting their own business. The relevance of math and accounting is best taught when the money is real.

This city has been leaping forward over the past 10 years; just

look at our skyline. Now it is time to change the high school landscape for thousands of our young people.

As a member of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce's CEO Champions, I encourage your company or nonprofit to join the Academies of Nashville team. You can learn more about this opportunity by going to the "volunteer" page of [www.one-nashville.org](http://www.one-nashville.org).

At Martha O'Bryan Center, we believe in the power of work and education. It's time for all of us to get in the game.

Marsha Edwards is president/CEO of Martha O'Bryan Center and is a member of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce's CEO Champions. Visit [www.marthaobryan.org](http://www.marthaobryan.org).

# OPINION

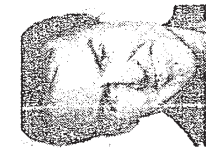
THE TENNESSEAN ■ 10A • FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2010

## TENNESSEE VOICES

# Career fair gives ninth-graders a glimpse of what's possible

By Brian Phillips

Ninth grade is a critical year for our high school students. In many cases, the choices these freshmen make will ultimately determine



Phillips

whether they graduate. That's why it is so important for students to explore career possibilities at the beginning of high school. Today, more than 4,000 first-time ninth-grade students in Metro's 12 zoned high schools will spend a day exploring their futures. These young people will interact with professionals employed by 127 Nashville com-

panies who are volunteering their day at the Nashville Convention Center. More than 300 careers will be exhibited at the Academies of Nashville Career Exploration Fair.

The career fair is not just a field trip. Participating students have prepared for the day by working on resumes, learning how to interact with professionals and researching potential careers. Each student will have a workbook for the day as they conduct three to five interviews with adults at the fair. Students will ask questions like: "Why did you choose this career?" and "What education beyond high school do I need to have this job?"

As a member of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce's

CEO Champions, a group of Nashville executives who advocate for the Academies of Nashville in our zoned high schools, we want our students to know about the many opportunities to have a successful and rewarding career when they complete high school and postsecondary education. More immediately, these ninth-graders will use their career fair experience to choose an academy with a career or thematic focus for the 10th-12th grade.

### Partnership brings results

Some of these students will choose the Academy of Digital Design & Communication at McGavock High School, where CMT has been an active academy

partner. We kicked off this relationship in April by hosting our company's annual day of volunteer service at McGavock with CMT employees teaching classes, hosting career exploration activities, painting a classroom and utilizing the expertise of our engineering team to rewire the school auditorium.

In June, we hosted a team of McGavock teachers for a three-day externship at our offices, which focused on how each department at CMT contributes to the overall success of the CMT Music Awards. During this externship, the teachers discovered ways to incorporate examples from our work and industry into their academy curriculum. Our partnership has deepened

with the CMT public affairs team attending monthly McGavock faculty meetings. At the school district level, Lucia Folk Sr., director of CMT public affairs, chairs the Arts, Media & Entertainment Partnership Council. To date, CMT employees have donated more than 700 hours of service to support McGavock High School and the Academies of Nashville.

I encourage every Nashville business to learn how to get involved with Metro's high school academies and our students. To learn more, contact the PENCIL Foundation or visit the volunteer page of [www.onenashville.org](http://www.onenashville.org).

Brian Phillips is president of CMT and is a member of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce's CEO Champions.

## CEO CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE STATEMENT, NASHVILLE, 6/18/10

**Today, the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and its leaders call on all businesses, small and large, to join the Academies of Nashville effort in order to reach the goal of business partnerships for every high school academy. This is more than a call for business philanthropy; it is a call for a smart business investment of your time, expertise, and assistance. Get involved now and help shape the future of Nashville.**

Today we're issuing a new challenge to the business leaders, entrepreneurs, managers and workers of the Nashville community. We are challenging you to join with us in a new effort to be meaningfully involved in helping our students, teachers, and school leaders succeed, by creating excellent high schools through the Academies of Nashville.

Here's why. We all know that the social health and economic vitality of the greater Nashville region depend on having a competitive, highly skilled and knowledgeable workforce. As such, every entrepreneur, every manager, every investor has a personal stake in the quality of Nashville's workforce, and they have a stake in success of our public schools. We also know that a successful Metro Nashville Public Schools system is the most important component of preparing large numbers of young men and women for success in colleges, careers and citizenship. Our private and specialized schools are valuable partners in building our local workforce, but we can't succeed as a community unless our public schools succeed.

High school is a key transition point. Students at this age need a clear plan and lots of relevance if they are going to be focused and do the hard work needed to make a successful transition to college, and other forms of skilled training after high school. Given the demands of today's skilled economy, every student should be prepared and aiming for some type of education or training beyond high school, in addition to having marketable skills and experience.

The Academies of Nashville give us a wonderful opportunity to bring relevance into the high school experience. These academies are building around specific career-themes, so they provide a perfect opportunity for Nashville business men and women to get involved. Through the PENCIL Foundation, business partners provide guidance and advice to the entire academy program, and get directly involved with students and teachers, both in-school and on the work-site. Academies have a direct link to our respective industries and areas of expertise-- whether it is the music, tourism and entertainment industry, modern high-tech manufacturing, human resources, information and communications technologies, law and public safety, biomedical research, health care delivery, logistics and transportation, and the list goes on.

Over the years, Nashville's business community has played an important role in challenging and supporting our public schools, and this longstanding partnership is paying off with a new urgency for change and promising results. But Nashville's business community can do more.

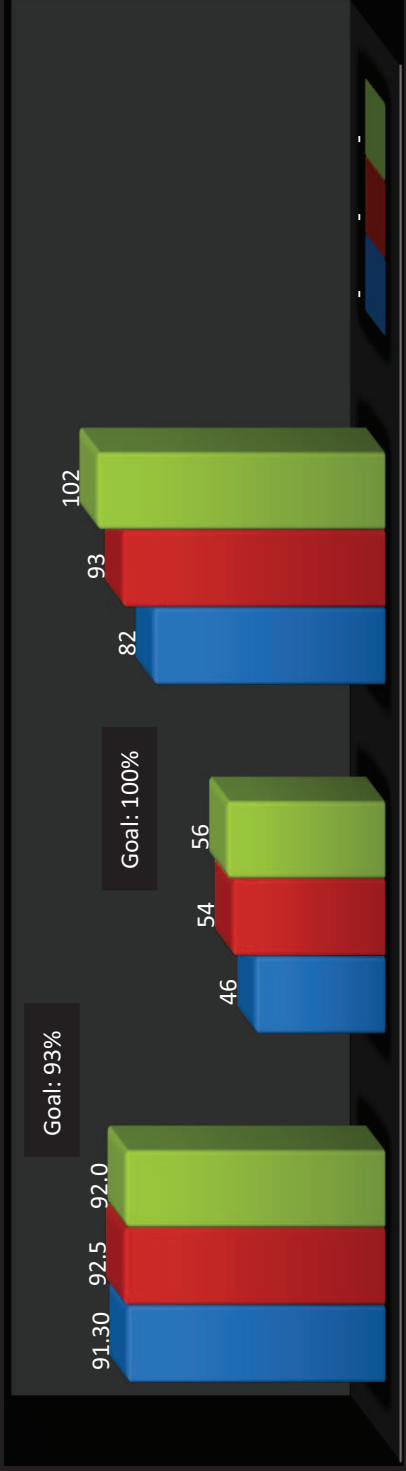
The CEO Champions

Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

# CEO CHAMPIONS DATA DASHBOARD

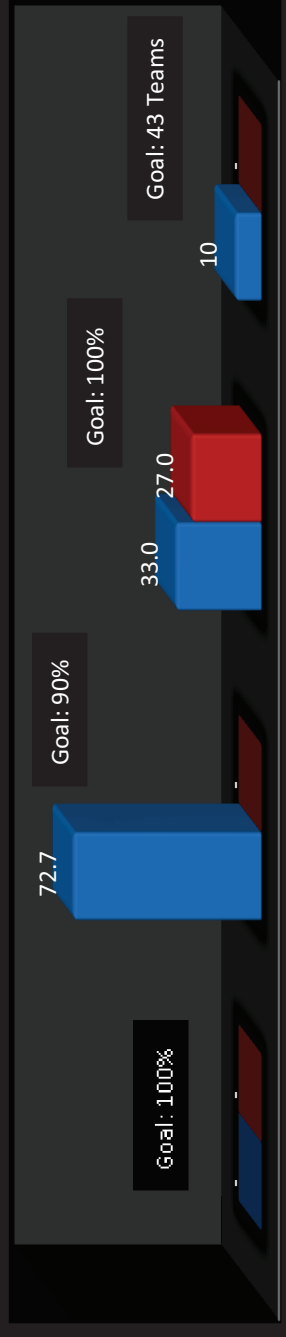
## Quarterly Data

■ 2009-10
 ■ Sep-10
 ■ Nov-1



## Annual Achievement Data

■ 2008-09
 ■ 2009-10



● 43 Academies in Nashville's 12 Zoned High Schools

