

Friends Select Faculty and Staff Take Part in POCC



Left to right (Top to bottom)- Friends Select POCC attendees: Deneen Young, upper school assistant; Fred Kogan, middle school art teacher; Anita Bailey, assistant director of admission; Norka Maldonado, upper school Spanish teacher; Desiree Lacey Tee, third grade teacher; Tracy Matthews, director of college guidance and testing; Ed Rhee, middle school dean; Anita Voluntad DePace, middle/upper school ESL; Marissa Colston, lower/middle school assistant.

By Haywood Brewster
Staff Reporter

On December 1-3, nine Friends Select faculty and staff will be attending the People of Color Conference (POCC) in Philadelphia.

Organized by NAIS, the POCC has been occurring annually for 24 years and its mission is to: "provide a safe space for networking and professional development opportunity for people, who by virtue of their race or ethnicity, comprise a form of diversity termed 'people of color' in independent schools." The POCC allows for many leadership opportunities for participating faculty as they return to their schools and share valuable tools learned at the conference. "I've had the opportunity to attend several conferences and always leave refreshed and excited to share new ideas to strengthen community at

Friends Select," said Marissa Colston, lower-and middle school administrative assistant and diversity committee clerk. "Through POCC, I have built relationships with faculty/staff at schools across the country and throughout the year, am able to continue the conversation and share ideas that have helped build and sustain inclusive school communities."

Going into its 18th year, the Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC) will also be participating in the POCC. The SDLC was created for high school students and it centers around self-reflection, forming allies and building community for all students with a focus of those students of color who are often in the minority at independent schools as well.

On December 3, Friends Select will host a College Fair for SDLC students following the POCC/SDLC closing ceremonies. More

than 40 colleges and universities, set up in the school's gym, will be in attendance to provide all SDLC attendees with information about the college admissions process.

The POCC serves as a network for support, rejuvenation, and amazing educational opportunities with the myriad workshops offered around cutting edge diversity and community building work.



Pan American World Airways started the use of nautical terms in connection with air travel. Words like "captain" and "stewards" were used to attract customers who were accustomed to luxury ship travel, as were the naval-style uniforms worn by crews.

Original founders celebrate the Independence Charter School



From left to right: Jay Borowsky, Pam Prell, Rosina Miller and Eric Cramer the original founders of the Independence Charter School.

Independence Charter School (ICS) is a community-based K-8 public charter school of academic excellence, centrally located in Philadelphia and serving a diverse community of learners. ICS provides an intellectually-stimulating curriculum with a global focus, designed to develop independent, thoughtful global citizens. ICS emphasizes second language acquisition and integrates arts, ideas and histories from around the world. ICS opened in September 2001 with 287 children in kindergarten through third-grade. By the end of its first fiscal year, ICS had demonstrated financial stability and academic success. The school added a new grade each year to build a K-8 program, quickly outgrowing its rented space. In 2007, ICS purchased the former Thomas Durham School, an early twentieth century building, from the School District of Philadelphia. ICS strategically renovated and expanded the historic structure, moving into its permanent home at the start of the 2008-2009 school year. ICS provides a tuition-free education to a vibrant group of nearly 800 elementary and middle grade students. Our talented, energetic, international corps of teachers and administrators executes an award winning curriculum with the ultimate goal of developing a multilingual, multicultural and high achieving student body.



The compass plant is called that because its lower leaves tend to line up in a north-south direction.



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