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Barack Obama Green Charter High School Receives Prestigious NJDOE Award

(Plainfield, NJ) – Last week, Barack Obama Green Charter High School was presented with a Lighthouse Award by the New Jersey Department of Education for increasing equity in course enrollment. The award recognizes public schools that have demonstrated measurable progress towards equitable outcomes in areas such as increasing post-secondary enrollment, diversity in the teacher workforce, course enrollment and disciplinary outcomes.

In the past two years, Barack Obama Green Charter School has implemented an AP Capstone program, seen more students enrolled in rigorous coursework, and recorded historically high testing scores.

“We are honored to be recognized today by the state for our commitment to our students and their long-term academic success,” said Erin Richardson, Head of School for the Barack Obama Green Charter School. “We have found that students who are given the opportunity to enroll in course-work that interests them are more eager to challenge themselves in the classroom, setting them up for long-term success.”

The high school serves 232 students in grades 9 through 12 with 81% coming from economically disadvantaged families.

“Being recognized as a Lighthouse district is an incredible achievement that reflects the work our teachers and school leaders are doing every day to provide students with a quality public education,” said Harry Lee, President and CEO of the New Jersey Public Charter School Association. “Charter schools like Barack Obama Green Charter High School offer educators the flexibility and autonomy to develop policies and coursework that deliver positive results for their students in the classroom and future careers.”

Those in attendance at the ceremony include: Dr. Kenneth Bond, acting director of the DOE’s Office of Professional Learning, Union County Superintendent Daryl Palmeri and Union County Education Program Development Specialist Maria Mendez. Also in attendance were community supporters, board members, staff, parents and students.

More about the Lighthouse Awards can be found [here](#).

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About New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association

The New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association (NJPCSA) is the non-profit membership association that represents the state's charter school community and, by extension, charter school students and their parents. There are currently 87 charter schools in New Jersey serving 60,000 students. We are committed to advancing quality public education for New Jersey's children through the cultivation of excellent public charter schools. The Association seeks to influence legislative and policy environments, leverage collective advocacy, and provide resources to support our members in developing and operating high quality, public charter schools.