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New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association Re-Launches Parent Advocacy Program

Newark Event Brings Assemblywoman Speight and Dozens of Public Charter School Families

NEWARK, NJ – October 21, 2024 – The New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association (NJPCSA) kicked off the third year of its Parent Ambassador Program with an event in Newark on Saturday where over thirty parents of public charter school students and two public charter school alumni received training in advocacy.

The highlight of the event was NJPCSA's parent and alumni ambassadors meeting Assemblywoman Shanique Speight (D-Essex, Hudson), who represents residents of Newark living in the 29th Legislative District. "I commend NJPCSA's commitment to empowering parents and students in this city. A mother's power is the driving force behind her children's success and I look forward to supporting their work to strengthen quality education for all Newark students," **Assemblywoman Speight said.**



The event brought together parents, educators, public charter school supporters and alumni in the third year of a program supporting families as advocates for their children's education and engaging elected officials in all levels of government. This year the program is expanding with two alumni ambassadors and a parent cohort in Newark, the largest public charter school community in the state of New Jersey.

"Our parents are the most powerful voices for their children's education and the Parent Ambassador Program is part of our commitment to equip them with the tools and knowledge to be effective advocates. When parents are engaged, it makes a significant difference in shaping educational policies and opportunities for all students," **said NJPCSA Senior Director of Grassroots Advocacy Galen Johnson.**



"Through this program public charter school parents across New Jersey are once again taking their message straight to our elected leaders: charter schools strengthen the public education system as a whole and we must support all great schools that are working for families, both district schools and charter schools," **said NJPCSA President and CEO Harry Lee.**

One of the participating parents, Michelle Sanchez, whose children attend Robert Treat Academy Charter School in Newark, said about her experience, "As a public charter school parent I wanted to learn how to make a bigger impact in my community and beyond. This training event was eye-opening and empowering and I now feel more confident about advocating for my child's education and for all students in New Jersey."



NJPCSA is committed to continuing its advocacy training efforts, empowering parents to be informed and effective champions for public charter schools. These efforts align with the Association's mission to ensure that all New Jersey students have access to high-quality, public schools.

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About the 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 public charter school community and, by extension, public charter school students and their parents. There are currently 86 public charter schools in New Jersey serving more than 63,000 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.



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