



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 1, 2022

CONTACT:

Sheila Rawlings
The Neighborhood Academy
412-867-6092
sheila.rawlings@theneighborhoodacademy.org

Heather Moreland
FAME
412-363-5553
hmoreland@famefund.org

**THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY AND FAME
A PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION**

CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE OF EDUCATION FOR PITTSBURGH'S BLACK COMMUNITY

PITTSBURGH, PA - June 1, 2022 - Today, FAME (Fund for Advancement of Minorities Through Education) announced that The Neighborhood Academy joins FAME as their newest partner school. This partnership will help change the educational landscape for Pittsburgh's African American community.

According to [Public Source](#), from 2017-18, statewide numbers show achievement gaps between white and black students across Pennsylvania of 34 percentage points for English, 36 percentage points for math, and 39 percentage points for science.

FAME and The Neighborhood Academy share common goals to increase access to higher education pathways for African-American students in the Pittsburgh area. The ultimate goal is to remove barriers for students and families by creating true ease of access to college for African-American students in Pittsburgh.

A significant factor in providing college access is providing access to high-quality college-prep coursework in high school. FAME Scholars receive academic support, counseling, programming, and need-based merit scholarships to attend local independent partner schools. The Neighborhood Academy is a private, independent school dedicated to providing a college preparatory high school education to underserved local students.

In 2016, FAME and The Neighborhood Academy began collaborating informally based on these shared goals. After much discussion among the leadership of both organizations, steps were taken to formalize the collaboration by adding The Neighborhood Academy as a FAME partner high school. As a result, FAME Scholars will now be able to use their FAME Scholarships to

attend The Neighborhood Academy, the only school within the PCIS, Pittsburgh Consortium of Independent Schools, specifically designed to meet the needs of African American student scholars.

FAME and TNA will work closely to ensure that each FAME Scholar receives the academic support and enrichment opportunities needed to prepare for college with little to no financial burden. The first FAME Scholars have been identified and will begin in the fall of the 2022-2023 school year in 9th grade.

"I am very excited about the partnership between The Neighborhood Academy and FAME. I look forward to our organization's impact on the lives of African American families throughout the Pittsburgh region and beyond. Together, we will provide youth with access to quality learning experiences to prepare more African American students for success in their educational journeys." says The Neighborhood Academy Head of School, Dr. Anthony Williams.

"Along with the FAME Board of Trustees, I am excited and proud that The Neighborhood Academy will become our newest FAME partner school. During the past six years, TNA's leadership and excellence in our work together has created a strong foundation for this partnership. Based on mutual respect, this partnership will allow FAME to offer Black students and families the opportunity to experience quality education, college preparation, and cultural affirmation in a physically and emotionally safe environment. Ultimately, to the benefit of FAME, TNA, our communities, city, and region," says FAME CEO, Darryl T. Wiley.

About The Neighborhood Academy:

Established in 2001 by Josephine B. Moore and The Reverend Thomas E. Johnson, Jr., [The Neighborhood Academy](#) is a faith-based, college preparatory, independent school whose mission is to break the cycle of generational poverty by empowering youth and preparing them for college and citizenship.

The Neighborhood Academy exists to provide a holistic college-prep education for students in grades 6-12 whose families demonstrate financial need. The Neighborhood Academy is dedicated to developing our students' minds, bodies, and spirits so that they might become fully productive members of our society. By doing so, our students will break the cycle of generational poverty that has held them captive and deprived society of the full value of their lives.

About FAME:

Since 1993, the [FAME \(Fund for Advancement of Minorities through Education\)](#) organization has provided critical educational resources and merit scholarships to African American students in grades 3-12 in the Greater Pittsburgh area.

FAME's mission is to educate, empower and embolden African American youth to become student ambassadors of today, leaders of tomorrow, and stewards of their communities by providing access to college-preparatory education at participating independent schools in the Greater Pittsburgh area through the provision of need-based financial assistance.

###

