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**ESPERANZA ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL RECOGNIZED AS SCHOOL PEER LEADER AT SPR AWARDS CEREMONY**

**Sample tweet:** Congratulations to @Esperanza\_CS for receiving a Peer Leader Award in the middle school category and demonstrating one of the highest scoring reports from 2016-2017 @PHLSchools. <http://bit.ly/sprawards>

**Philadelphia, PA – January 29, 2018.** The School District of Philadelphia recognized [Esperanza Academy Charter School](#) with a Peer Leader Award in the middle school category at the 2016-2017 School Progress Report City & Peer Leaders Awards Ceremony.

According to School District Superintendent Dr. William R. Hite, Esperanza Academy was one of the highest scoring schools out of 164 that reported progress in the 2016-2017 school year. “This is not a sector conversation but a quality conversation. The banners represent high quality schools across Philadelphia and across our sector,” said Dr. Hite. “Every child’s potential is limitless and deserves a great school.”





*From left to right: Senior Vice President and CEO of Esperanza Academy Charter Schools David Rossi, Vice President and Director of Instruction for Esperanza Academy Tania Diaz, Director of Curriculum Lori D. Walinsky.*

“This award validates the work that we do in our school and as a broader organization to break barriers and empower our local community. It represents the countless hours and tireless efforts of our staff, faculty, students, and families as we work collaboratively to promote excellence and high academic achievement,” said Tania Diaz, the Vice President and Director of Instruction for Esperanza Academy.

Esperanza Academy Charter School has been serving the young members of its community for 18 years. The school started in the single hallway of a converted warehouse in 2000 and has grown into a multi-school campus. Enrollment has likewise expanded from an original freshmen class of less than 200 to a student body of 1,450 in grades 6 through 12. In 2017, Esperanza Academy began the process of adding a K-5 elementary program.

Diaz attributes Esperanza Academy’s outstanding progress over the last several years to their goal of providing students with the tools necessary to become successful and contributing members of society.

“We believe that we can achieve this by providing them with a high quality educational program, a rigorous curriculum, a safe, nurturing environment, and role models who they can aspire to become,” Diaz said.

Esperanza Academy expects to continue empowering students towards excellence, increase overall proficiency in ELA, Math, and Science, and exceed the standard for PA Academic Growth in every content area and grade level in the 2018-2019 school year.

The award ceremony took place on Monday, January 29, 2018 from 10 a.m to 11 a.m at Potter Thomas School at 3001 North 6th Street Philadelphia, PA 1133. For more information about Esperanza Academy Charter School please contact Tania Diaz at [tdiaz@neacademy.net](mailto:tdiaz@neacademy.net).

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[Esperanza](#) is a national community-based organization founded in 1987 by Rev. Luis Cortés and the Hispanic Clergy of Philadelphia & Vicinity with the biblical mandate to serve and advocate for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40). Beginning with a local initiative, with programs targeted to address the unmet needs of North Philadelphia's Hispanic community, Rev. Cortes is now sought by national and international leaders alike on issues of economic and workforce development, housing, immigration, and education. Under his leadership, Esperanza has grown from a small 20-person operation to a \$40 million organization with more than 400 employees. Follow us on social media @esperanza\_us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), [EsperanzaUSA](#) on Facebook and Esperanza US on [YouTube](#). For more information, please visit [www.esperanza.us](http://www.esperanza.us).

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