



Best Stories of 2014: Education

Kristen Gillette | December 30, 2014

Generocity.org generally covers education stories that happen outside the classroom. Here's our favorite stories of education initiatives happening outside of the classroom.

1. Boys.Write.Now. Runs Workshops Teach Boys Writing, Visual Arts Skills, and More



Many teachers struggle to get their male students involved in creative writing as much as their female students. So over this past summer, Samuel Reed, a teacher at the U School and a consultant at the Philadelphia Writing Project, helped organize several Boys.Write.Now workshops over the summer.

2. 12+ Helps Neighborhood School Students Attend Post-Secondary Education



Over 70 percent of the 2013 graduates from Kensington Health Sciences Academy (KHSa) have gone on to a post-secondary education thanks to help from 12+, a nonprofit organization in Philadelphia that prepares students for secondary education.

3. Mayor's Commission on Literacy Launches myPLACE, A Network of Learning Centers for Adults



Between 20 to 30 percent of Philadelphians lack basic literacy skills, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. To combat these staggering numbers, earlier this year the Mayor's Commission on Literacy partnered with community organizations to build a network of myPLACE hubs where adults can improve their literacy, computer skills, and educational attainment.

4. The GREEN Program Brings Students to the Best Places to Study Sustainability , Including Philadelphia



The GREEN program is a new kind of study abroad program that helps students from around the world visit other cities and countries to study innovative practices in sustainability. Next year, the program will bring students from around the world to Philadelphia to study sustainability as well.

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5. Tapping Parents to Boost Students Reading Levels: The Springboard Effect



On average, low-income elementary students experience a three-month learning regression when school is out, and they often struggle to catch up with their more affluent peers. So Alejandro Gac-Artigas started probing, rallied some funders, and set out to narrow the achievement gap — an undertaking that catapulted his organization, Springboard Collaborative, into 20 low-performing schools in Philadelphia and Camden, N.J.

6. Steppingstone Scholars Pilots 'Middle Grades Academy' With Help From Philadelphia Foundation Funding



Steppingstone Scholars, an education-focused nonprofit, received funds from the S. Albert Fund at The Philadelphia Foundation to help pilot a school-based program model, "Middle Grades Academy," in partnership with Drexel and Temple universities in September. Steppingstone is working with Drexel at McMichael Promise Academy, located in the West Philadelphia Promise Zone. Steppingstone offers enrichment services to 4th through 8th graders and is

focused on incorporating STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) into the curriculum. Photo by Adachi Pimentel of Adachi Photography

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