



Philadelphia Education Fund  
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# NEWS RELEASE

## Ed Fund Announces EDDY Award Winners Celebrates the Stars of Public Education

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PHILADELPHIA (October 14, 2008)** – The Philadelphia Education Fund (Ed Fund) proudly announces the EDDY award winners for 2008 to be honored at the EDDY Awards on November 13, 2008 at Moore College of Art and Design. According to executive director, Carol Fixman, “The EDDY’s provides us the opportunity to celebrate the important people and organizations whose stories exemplify the myriad successes of public education in our area. Our EDDY award winners this year are wonderful role models for all of us and represent the many facets of our region’s public education successes.”

Philadelphia native and Overbrook High School graduate, Dr. Guion S. Bluford, Jr. will be the Star Alumnus Award winner. Dr. Bluford became a NASA astronaut in 1979, is a veteran of four space flights and has logged over 688 hours in space. He was the first African American astronaut to fly in space. He graduated from Overbrook High in 1960 and the Pennsylvania State University in 1964 with a degree in aerospace engineering. He received his Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in aerospace engineering with a minor in laser physics from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Dr. Constance Clayton will receive the Star Commitment to Education award in honor of her life-long career in the School District of Philadelphia as superintendent, teacher and alumna. Dr. Clayton received her B.S and M.S. from Temple University and her Ed. D., as a Rockefeller Scholar, from the University of Pennsylvania in 1981. She has received numerous honorary degrees and served on many boards across the region and nation. Dr. Clayton served as superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia from 1982 to 1993 and has the distinction of being the first woman and the first African American to head the position.

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The Star Business Award will go to Songhai Press which is committed to the development, production and marketing of culturally relevant and authentic educational materials, programs and services for educators, children and families. Songhai Press's website is introduced by an ancient Chinese proverb which expresses their mission and purpose. "If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant a tree; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people." Founder Derrick Gantt will accept the award.

The Philadelphia Community Commitment to Education Award will be given to the Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN) which works with hundreds of Philadelphia young people every year to help them take their rightful places as full and contributing members of the region's workforce. As a catalyst for collective action, PYN makes connections among individuals, organizations and systems and helps our city's youth be better prepared to thrive in our regional and global economy. Co-Presidents Laura Shubilla and Stacy Holland will accept the award on behalf of PYN.

The Rising Star EDDY is given to a college student in the College Access/Philadelphia Scholars Program whose success exemplifies the unlimited potential of Philadelphia's youth. This year, the award will be given to three remarkable sisters who are all participants in the College Access Program, are all attending college and are all recipients of a Philadelphia Scholars "Last Dollar Scholarship." Tracey A. Whitfield, a 2005 graduate of Bartram High School is a student at Penn State University. Joanne A. Butler, a 2007 graduate of Germantown High School, is a student at Community College of Philadelphia. Bessie T. Butler, a 2008 graduate of Germantown High School, is a student at Community College of Philadelphia. The three sisters will accept the award with their mother, their inspiration, Sara Whitfield.

The 2008 EDDY Awards will be held on November 13 at Moore College of Art at 20<sup>th</sup> Street and the Parkway. Ticket information is available on line at [www.philaedfund.org/eddys](http://www.philaedfund.org/eddys) or by calling Jenifer Trachtman at 215-665-1400, ext. 3309 or [jtrachtman@philaedfund.org](mailto:jtrachtman@philaedfund.org). The event begins at 5:30 p.m. with a small plates reception, followed by the awards ceremony at 6:45 and a dessert reception at 7:30 p.m.

**The Philadelphia Education Fund** is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of public education throughout the Philadelphia region. For 23 years, the Ed Fund has been working in partnership with school districts, universities, non-profit organizations and businesses to initiate and implement innovative educational programs, improve teacher quality, engage the community in school reform and conduct research. The Ed Fund is one of the largest of 80 education funds affiliated with the national Public Education Network. Visit [www.philaedfund.org](http://www.philaedfund.org).

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