Urban League of
Greater Pittsburgh

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Agency Media Report

June, July & August

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If interested, please call 412-227-4229, or email development@ulpgh.org)

Date	Topic	Media Outlet
5/28/2014	**13th Annual Social Equity Leadership Conference** **Mentions: Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, Esther L. Bush and ad for Put Your Children 1st Campaign**	GPSIA
6/1/2014	**New Program helps Under-banked Households in** **Allegheny County**	Mount: Pittsburgh's Christian Lifestyle Magazine (Reprinted from The Pittsburgh Courier)
6/1/2014	**Spotlight: Marcus Poindexter** **Mentions: Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	University of Pittsburgh—CTSI
6/5/2014	**Latterman center plans health fair** **Mentions: Urban League**	Daily News
6/6/2014	**Tough Subject** **Mentions: Urban League**	Pittsburgh City Paper
6/6/2014	**ULYP June GBM hosted by UPMC Tickets at US Steel Tower, Pittsburgh** **Mentions: Urban League Young Professionals**	WPXI
6/9/2014	**ULYP June GBM hosted by UPMC Tickets at US Steel Tower, Pittsburgh** **Mentions: Urban League Young Professionals**	Tribune-Review
6/7/2014	**Public Service Announcement about the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh's Mature Workers Program**	KDKA, WZUM and other area radio stations
6/9/2014	**Duquesne school/community night focuses on new technology**	Tribune-Review—Trib Live *online
6/10/2014	**Solutions Night focuses on technology**	Daily News
6/11/2014	**ULYP June GBM hosted by UPMC Tickets at US Steel Tower, Pittsburgh**	Tribune-Review
6/11/2014	**B-PEP Jazz 2014** **Mentions: Esther L. Bush**	New Pittsburgh Courier
6/13/2014	**Attorneys Against Hunger** **Mentions: Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	Lawyers Journal

Date	Topic	Media Outlet
6/17/2014	**Evolving dads:** **Fathers are bringing more emotions to parenting** **Mentions: Urban League Charter School**	Tribune-Review
6/27/2014	**Program gives students a voice to express concerns about violence** **Mentions: Urban League**	Lawyers Journal
7/8/2014	**Do the Write Thing Challenge Dinner Celebration** **Mentions: Esther L. Bush, Evan Frazier and the Honorable Judge Dwayne D. Woodruff**	Pittsburgh New Courier
7/8/2014	**Courier to honor 50 Stellar men at MOE reception** **Mentions: Urban League**	New Pittsburgh Courier
7/13/2014	**Jon Delano Show — Bank On Greater Pittsburgh** **Guests: Esther L. Bush, Howard Slaughter**	CBS/KDKA Pittsburgh
7/14/2014	**Education and Equality** **Mentions: The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	Observer-Reporter
7/19/2014	**CNDC Presents "Light on the Hill" The 1st Annual Awards and Jazz Affair** **Mentions: Esther L. Bush and the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	Central New Development Corporation
7/23/2014	**Developers offer appeals to Wilson Supporters** **Mentions: Esther L. Bush, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	Pittsburgh Tribune Review
7/23/2014	**In fiscal education push, Citizens awards non-profits** **Mentions: Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Date	Topic	Media Outlet
7/23/2014	**Obituary: Charlotte Edmonds** **Mentions: Urban League**	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
7/23/2014	**Ad for Men of Excellence Insert**	New Pittsburgh Courier
7/29/2014	**Men of Excellence - Social Service—Winford R. Craig— Director of Information Technology** **Mentions: Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	New Pittsburgh Courier
7/29/2014	**Men of Excellence - Social Service—Richard Morris - Director of Housing** **Mentions: Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	New Pittsburgh Courier
7/29/2014	**Men of Excellence - Emmai Alaquiva** **Mentions: Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Urban Empowerment Award**	New Pittsburgh Courier
7/29/2014	**Men of Excellence - K. Chase Patterson** **Mentions: Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	New Pittsburgh Courier
7/31/2014	**UPMC Engagement and Inclusion Event—2013 Partnership Appreciation Event** **Mentions: Esther L. Bush named Community Partner of the Year**	UPMC
Spring/Summer	**The Company Playbook: Howard Hanna Annual Report 2013** **Mentions: The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	Howard Hanna Annual Report 2013
August 2014	**CTSI Partnership** **Mentions: Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	Hill District 365 The Partnership Council
August 2014	**Lunch and Learn** **Mentions: Health Education Office of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	Hill District 365 The Partnership Council
August	**U.S. Secretary of State Arne Duncan Announces National Preschool Initiative in Pittsburgh** **Mentions: Urban**	Pittsburgh Urban Media

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August	**U.S. Secretary of State Arne Duncan Announces National Preschool Initiative in Pittsburgh** **Mentions: Urban League**	Pittsburgh Urban Media
8/4/2014	**Neighbors, communities win big since Rivers' Opening**	Tribune Review
8/12/2014	**50 Men of Excellence Awards Reception** **Mentions: Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	New Pittsburgh Courier
8/12/2014	**Jobs, Jobs, Jobs: NUL conference addresses issues of under and un-employed** **Mentions: Esther Bush and Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	New Pittsburgh Courier
8/12/2014	**Central Baptist Church Hosts Awards, Jazz Affair** **Mentions: Esther Bush**	New Pittsburgh Courier
8/17/2014	**YP Weekend Alumni Cookout** **Mentions: Urban League Charter School**	WPXI website
8/17/2014	**Wilkins Woman dead: Suspect wounded** **Mentions: Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	Tribune Review
8/19/2014	**Community Calendar** **Mentions: Operation Home, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	New Pittsburgh Courier
8/20/2014	**Urban View: A weekly radio address from Esther L. Bush and the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh**	Pittsburgh Urban Media and WZUM 1550 AM
8/26/2014	**Take Charge of your health, be informed**	New Pittsburgh Courier
8/26/2014	**Gentlemen of Excellence** **Mentions: Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, and Ryan Scott**	New Pittsburgh Courier
Summer Issue	**Talk Magazine : Person of the Year: Esther L. Bush**	Talk Magazine

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THE MOUNT MAGAZINE NEWS PARTNER

The New Pittsburgh Courier

by Diane I. Daniels

For New Pittsburgh Courier

Statistics provided by officials of the Bank On Greater Pittsburgh program indicate that Allegheny County currently has 5.9 percent, or 30,950 unbanked households and 17.4 percent or 91,277 under-banked. According to Mayor Bill Peduto, "More than 10 percent or 14,012 of Pittsburgh residents have no bank account and another 19 percent or 27,209 residents rely heavily on risky alternative financial tools such as payday loans, check-cashing shops, and rent-to-own arrangements. This represents more than 130,000 households living without financial security."

With hopes to assist and to encourage unbanked and under-banked individuals and families to strongly consider opening bank accounts with traditional financial institutions opposed to continuing to rely on check-cashing or other alternative methods of banking, Esther L. Bush; president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, Rich Fitzgerald; Allegheny County Executive and Bill Peduto; Mayor, City of Pittsburgh last week kicked off a new initiative called Bank On Greater Pittsburgh.

Endorsed by the National League of Cities and identified by Mayor Peduto as one of the top 100 items on his agenda, BOGP is a collaborative effort of the Urban League, City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, the United Way of Allegheny County, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and nine financial institutions along with numerous community agencies. The partnership is designed to develop pathways to access basic, free or low-cost financial institution transaction accounts and financial education. "The positive impact of connecting unbanked and under-banked consumers with traditional banking services is tantamount to increased income for consumers, who will save immeasurably in fees, since these consumers will no longer be reliant on check cashing services, pre-paid debit cards and payday lenders," indicated Howard B. Slaughter Jr. PhD, chairman of the BOGP and a seven year Urban League Board member. "Our goal is to help unbanked and under-banked individuals gain access to free, low-cost starter or "second chance" financial deposit accounts, as well as access other financial services and financial education."

Slaughter pointed out that one in five Black families does not have a bank account which is seven times higher than White households. He also acknowledged that a close view of a representative sample of the millennium generation earning up to $74,999 yearly is just as likely to use a prepaid debit card as someone earning less than $25,000 yearly. All reasons, he said why it is important for consumers to build wealth and longterm financial stability which is greatly enhanced when relying on the use of traditional banking services and products. He said increasing the knowledge of people using the products will have a cognizant impact on the finances of the family and ultimately for the region which is what BOGP hopes to accomplish.

Based on the insight of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh and the funding capabilities of the United Way of Allegheny County, the BOGP is a collaboration between the two entities. Financial partners covering the Allegheny County region are Century Heritage Federal Credit Union, Citizens Bank, Dollar Bank, 5/3rd Bank, First Commonwealth Bank, First Niagara, Hill District Federal Credit Union, Huntington Bank and PNC Bank. Their responsibilities consist of assisting consumers plan and prepare to build financial relationships and expand their own client base.

Community partners include Action Housing, Advantage Credit Counseling, Allegheny County Housing Authority, Holy Family Institute/Duquesne Light CAP, Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh, Just Harvest, NeighborWorks and South Hills Interfaith Ministries. Offerings of the partners contribute additional resources which enhance services received by clients through educational services and relationship building which can contribute to lifelong benefits.

"Bank On helps people become more self-reliant through better use of their hard-earned dollars," said Bush.

"The values emphasized by the program align with our focus on economic self-reliance, which is the benchmark measurement for the mission of the Urban League Movement.

We cannot achieve parity, power and civil rights without having the means to care for ourselves. Prudent management of our personal assets is fundamental to economic self-reliance."

Because of the strong involvement with the Urban League, county residents outside of the city of Pittsburgh are fully included in the BOGP. Urban League representatives say their Duquesne Family Support Center serves Duquesne, West Mifflin and other neighboring communities and works with residents in the area. The financial partner, Century Heritage Federal Credit Union also has office locations and serves McKeesport, Duquesne and West Mifflin. Citizens, 5/3 and PNC Banks have participating branches in Homestead, and Dollar Bank has one in McKeesport. Partnerships with community agencies, including the Steel Valley Family Center which serves Homestead and Munhall also exist.

People with existing bank accounts are encouraged to participate in the BOGP. Slaughter points out that in many cases they could be construed as an underbanked consumer. "These consumers are equally important to educate on the benefits of establishing a holistic approach to traditional banking services, which will enhance their financial acumen and mitigate their need to revert back to using non-traditional financial services."

Excited about and a cheerleader of the BOGP, Felicia Davis a graduate of the former Peabody High School with a Bachelor's Degree from Chatham University and Masters in Business Administration also a parent speaks from experience about being a victim of a cash advance lender. She outlined that as a result of using a non-traditional funding source to barrow $1000 due to a family emergency and later because of loss of employment it took her 12 months to repay the loan. Payments were $265 at an interest rate of 300 percent at the end of the 12 month term she had paid $3180.00. Her advice is for consumers to take advantage of the BOGP and to learn as much as possible to gain self-sufficiency.

(To learn more about the Bank on Greater Pittsburgh call 412-277-4150 or visit www.bankongreaterpittsburgh.org.)

BANDING TOGETHER—KICKING OFF A NEW INITIATIVE, THE BANK ON GREATER PITTSBURGH ARE BOGP CHAIRMAN AND URBAN LEAGUE BOARD MEMBER DR. HOWARD B. SLAUGHTER JR., SUSAN B. SHIPLEY, PRESIDENT HUNTINGTON BANK, PITTSBURGH, ESTHER L. BUSH, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER PITTSBURGH AND ALLEGHENY COUNTY EXECUTIVE RICH FITZGERALD

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RESEARCH **PARTICIPANT** REGISTRY

SPOTLIGHT: THE URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

Marcus Poindexter, MSW, LSW, health advocate at the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, gives an overview of the services the Urban League provides.

The Urban League focuses on helping African Americans but turns no one away. We offer education, health advocacy, housing, youth development, hunger services, employment and career assistance, and economic empowerment programs.

The Urban League recently opened the health education office. We are a walk-in facility located at 610 Wood Street in downtown Pittsburgh. The primary thing we do is help people connect to health services in the greater Pittsburgh region, especially through community engagement. We do monthly lunch-and-learns where we invite people to the Urban League and provide information about different topics. Recently, we did "Healthy Eating on a Budget," featuring Judith Dodd, MS, RD, LDN. She is a food and nutrition advisor to Giant Eagle, Inc. and adjunct assistant professor of health and rehabilitation sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. She showed us how we can make money stretch while eating healthy foods. Our secondary role/function is enrolling African Americans in Pitt's research participant registry. We try to dispel the myths out there. We talk to people about what research really is and how participants are protected.

Also, Urban League education services help urban youths complete their General Educational Development certificate (GED) and find jobs. We engage youths in direct learning experiences with technology. The Urban League provides hunger services through emergency food assistance (a three-day food supply). We then check to see if people are eligible for the state's supplemental nutrition assistance program. We can help get them registered at a food pantry in their community for ongoing care. Housing is the Urban League's big-ticket item. People who need help keeping their current housing or have found themselves homeless will find help at the Urban League. Our housing or homeownership specialists can help people facing foreclosure. We also provide rental assistance (maybe a security deposit or first-month's rent).

We've seen a great response to Urban League services. People come back to us with many success stories.

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UPMC's Technology Development Center would like your help with improving the MyUPMC website.

We will be holding in-person discussions in June, July, and August. Meetings will last approximately 45 minutes and will be scheduled at your convenience. You do not need to be a MyUPMC user to participate, and any input you provide will remain anonymous.

If you or anyone you know would like to participate, please contact Julina Coupland, senior designer, at couplandje@upmc.edu.

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THE DAILY NEWS

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Latterman center plans health fair

Family-based McKeesport clinic to host agencies, providers for variety of events

By CAROL WATERLOO FRAZIER

It's been more than a decade since the staff and physicians at Latterman Family Health Center hosted a health fair.

On June 11 from 1-4 p.m., the center at 2347 Fifth Ave. in McKeesport will gather agencies and providers to offer those in the community a chance to achieve optimal health.

"All these agencies have been unbelievable," the center's Dr. Daphne Bicket said. "The response from the McKeesport Hospital Foundation, UPMC McKeesport, the Allegheny County Health Department and many others has been overwhelming."

Bicket said aside from gaining valuable health information, those attending the free event will have a chance to win some door prizes.

"We will have three door prizes — a TV donated by McKeesport Hospital Foundation, a family membership for the McKeesport and Wilmerding YMCA and a summer fun basket donated by the Latterman staff," she said.

For each station attendees visit, they will get one ticket for the raffles.

"The more stations they visit, the more chances they will have to win," Bicket said.

The stations will mostly be located in the center's 14 rooms, "which will offer more privacy for people and make them feel more comfortable," the family physician said.

For physical health, visitors can have their weight, blood pressure, blood sugar and bone health assessed and receive information about how to make lifestyle changes.

Staff from YMCA — personal trainer and wellness coach Rachael Ellis, membership director Katie Downing, YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program coordinator Shannon Vargesko, and Wilmerding/McKeesport YMCA executive director Scott Heasley will assist with physical activity recommendations and offer brochures about summer programs.

The Diabetes Prevention Program is designed to help reduce the number of new cases of diabetes by helping individuals with risk factors make lifestyle changes. The next 16-session program starts June 14. Those who attend 14 of the 16 summer sessions will have the $25 entry fee refunded.

The Y's Healthy Family Home is a 12-week childhood obesity prevention program for children ages of 5-12 and a caregiver. The program is designed to engage families in fun experiences that support a healthy lifestyle.

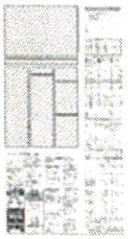
HIV screenings, which are a Grade A recommendation for all Americans ages 15-65, will be offered by the ACHD and Mon Yough Community Services.

"Those who desire testing should not eat, drink or chew gum for 30 minutes prior to the test," Becket said, noting the test involves a swab of the inside of the cheek. Results will be ready in about 30 minutes. Pamela Smith of the Pittsburgh Aids Task Force will be available to answer questions.

Janice Goldsborough, medical advocacy supervisor for the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, will offer advice to any individual who does not feel safe at home. Drs. Tamar Carmel and Barbara Nightingale, psychiatrists in training at Latterman, will screen for depression, anxiety and memory issues, and smoking cessation counseling will be provided by BJ Marconi, a registered respiratory therapist and certified smoking cessation counselor.

Home and family safety will be highlighted by Susan Kramer, who will instruct children and adults on good hand washing techniques using Glo Germ. The health department will offer fingerprinting kits, Mr. Yuk stickers and magnets, and other family safety materials.

In the parking lot, certified instructor Greg Moore will show how to properly install a car seat. Latterman's Dr. Essan M. Demian and Deb Pekala will offer information about various family planning methods and women's health topics will be discussed by Ebony Hughes, a clinical educator from Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC, and Health Equity Program specialist



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Erin Morse of the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh will provide information about women's health, assistance with applying for low-cost or free mammograms, and other information relative to women's health.

ACHD dentist Dr. Larry Kanterman will provide oral screenings and his staff will offer literature about oral health. Latterman doctor of pharmacy Nicole D'Antonio will be at the Ask the Pharmacist station. Kim Phillips will represent Neighborhood Legal Services and Jacquie Sledge, a certified application counselor from Primary Care Health Services, will help those who need to obtain health insurance; SNAP coordinator David Greve of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh will assess participants to see if they qualify for benefits.

Lung transplant recipient Jim Uhrig of Irwin and Lisa Upsher of the Center for Organ Recovery and Education will show videos about tissue and organ donation and the benefits they bring to families.

Before leaving, participants will be asked to complete a five-question exit survey.

"We want to collect medical data anonymously to plan future events," Bicket said. "We want to know what they got out of the health fair and if they will follow up on what they were told."

Free limited parking is available at the Latterman facility.

Carol Waterloo Frazier is an editor for Trib Total Media. She can be reached at 412-664-9161, ext. 1916, or cfrazier@tribweb.com.

CAROL WATERLOO FRAZIER | DAILY NEWS

Getting ready for the June 11 health fair at Latterman Family Health Center, from left, are Latterman staff members Kelly Fozard, Diana Byas, Laura Jones, Terra Murphy and Jennifer Ross.

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TOUGH SUBJECT

PPS, union differ on usefulness of teacher-quality report

(BY REBECCA NUTTALL)

A RECENTLY released report from the National Council on Teacher Quality lists Pittsburgh Public Schools' ability to work with the local teachers union as a critical component in improving teacher quality.

That relationship, however, has become more and more strained over the past school year, following the district's implementation of a new teacher-evaluation system that the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers says is too harsh. Now the NCTQ report is just one more thing the district and the union disagree on — and, says the union, it's being used as another tool to blame teachers for poor student performance.

"We did not endorse [the NCTQ report]," says PFT President Nina Espositio-Visgitis. "We discouraged members from participating, based on the NCTQ's track record. They continue the over-focus on teacher quality and what we want is a broader effort to strengthen schools."

As an advocate for teacher-policy reforms, NCTQ has completed reports in nearby school districts including Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia and Dayton, Ohio. The Pittsburgh report recommended ways for improving the "recruitment, development and retention of effective teachers."

Among the findings is the difficulty the district has in staffing high-needs schools. According to a report, high-needs schools tend to have a higher number of low-income students and lower state test scores.

On a central office survey of teachers who attempted to transfer voluntarily for the 2013-2014 school year, nearly half of the respondents said they would not move to a hard-to-staff school. At the NCTQ presentation on May 22, Superintendent Linda Lane found this statistic especially troubling.

"If you're coming to us saying, 'I don't want to go to your most challenging schools,' then maybe you should go to [another school district]," Lane said. "Those are not the teachers we need."

Esposito-Visgitis, who declined to attend the report presentation, told *City Paper* that the district is responsible for these teachers' responses.

"If the district would address the teaching and learning environments in these schools, we have shown that not to be the case," Espositio-Visgitis says. "Put a good principal there and people would flock there."

But Lane says some teachers' aversion to working in high-needs schools comes from the challenges of working with students of diverse races and those living in poverty.

"We have to be honest about the fact that there are professionals who don't want to deal with either of those issues [race and poverty]," Lane said.

According to NCTQ, a recent study by Mathematica — a public-policy think-tank — found that teachers can be incentivized to transfer to high-needs schools when they are given a combination of increased compensation and support.

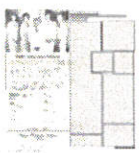
"It's not necessarily racism; it's not that teachers don't want to work with poor kids," says Kate Walsh, NCTQ president. "I think what the district can do is look for more inventive ways to get teachers into high-needs schools. It's not money that's getting these teachers into high-needs schools."

The report was funded by local education-advocacy organization A+ Schools, the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Overall, it recommended removing state-imposed restrictions on hiring and school staffing.

"There are a number of policy barriers working against getting the most effective teachers in front of the most vulnerable kids," says Carey Harris, executive director of A+ Schools.

Some of these state restrictions include use of the eligibility list, which is a state-required ranking of teacher applicants, in hiring and staffing decisions. According to NCTQ, the list keeps administrators from interviewing candidates who might not be at the top of the list, but would still be a good fit for a high-needs school.

Other recommendations include having Pittsburgh continue to use its new evaluation system and allowing performance to be a factor in determining which teacher



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will be laid off.

PFT President Esposito-Visgitis sees these recommendations as yet another attack on her members, and another way for the district to place blame on teachers without looking at additional factors that impact student performance.

"It's always the same," Esposito-Visgitis says. "It doesn't address poverty; it doesn't address school leadership. It's the same old, same old for years."

RNUTTALL@PGHCITYPAPER.COM

"WHAT THE DISTRICT CAN DO IS LOOK FOR MORE **INVENTIVE** WAYS TO GET TEACHERS INTO HIGH-NEEDS SCHOOLS."

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Upcoming

6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 11, 2014

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Events, Other

Please join us for our June General Body Meeting hosted by UPMC Talent Acquistion department! This meeting will be an opportunity to learn more about the Health Iniatives that the Urban League is embarking on, hear from UPMC doctors around some new and exciting technology which will change the face of medical care, and network with UPMC recruiters. This meeting is open to everyone in movement and in the YP arena in the region. Bring a friend and come kick off summer in a positive way. Light refreshments will be provided. This meeting will be at the U.S. Steel Tower and RSVP is necessary in order to gain entrance into the building. Please RSVP by June 11th at noon. See you on Wednesday!!!

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Wednesday, Jun 11 6:00p

US Steel Tower
Pittsburgh, PA

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Please join us for our June General Body Meeting hosted by UPMC Talent Acquistion department!

This meeting will be an opportunity to learn more about the Health Iniatives that the Urban League is embarking on, hear from UPMC doctors around some new and exciting technology which will change the face of medical care, and network with UPMC recruiters.

This meeting is open to everyone in movement and in the YP arena in the region. Bring a friend and come kick off summer in a positive way. Light refreshments will be provided. This meeting will be at the U.S. Steel Tower and RSVP is necessary in order to gain entrance into the building. Please RSVP by June 11th at noon.

See you on Wednesday!!!

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Age Suitability None Specified

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Duquesne school/community night focuses on new technology

By Michael DiVittorio

Published: Friday, June 6, 2014, 2:16 a.m.

New technology for students was the focus of Duquesne City School District's Solutions Night on Thursday.

Parents and their children learned about technology that will be available for the approximately 350 kindergartners through sixth-graders next school year.

The district purchased an iPad cart with 20 iPads, and materials to improve its English and math curricula.

The iPads will remain at the school and are not for students to take home.

Assistant to the Superintendent Stan Whiteman said the district does not have enough iPads to give to every student, but the devices will be very useful tools.

“Two plus two is still four,” Whiteman said. “It's going to be that way. That part of education hasn't changed, but the way education has evolved is how we get to that answer.”

Every classroom will have upgraded projectors with Apple TVs.

“All school districts and our children are advancing and evolving in technology,” district behavior specialist Eric Harper said. “We have to keep (our students) up to date and make sure our kids are going to be able to compete out here in this world for jobs and compete academically. When our kids leave, they're going to (either) West Mifflin or East Allegheny (school districts). So we don't want them to lose a step.”

“It's kind of unfair because I'm in sixth grade and won't be here much (longer),” Amnia'sha Zanders, 12, said. “For my little sister (Shautay'e McKoy, 10), I think she will learn faster and my niece will learn better.”

Amnia'sha and Shautay'e's stepfather, Sean Powell, was pleased to learn the school will put such technology to use.

"A lot of people at home can't afford (iPads), so good for (the district) to get them in school," Powell said. "It's going to be a great thing toward the future because books will be obsolete soon. Everybody's going to be going to the Pads. If you go to church, people pull out Nooks and stuff. I'm like, 'What happened to the old Bible?' The times are changing."

Whiteman showed a brief video about the trail of data left behind by users of digital services.

"It's all about protecting yourself," Whiteman explained. "Anything you put out there digitally stays out there for life."

Harmony Tillman, who is 6 years old, will enter first grade next school year.

She said she likes her school and is excited to use the new technology to play games.

Surveys were provided to parents to gauge their interest and involvement in education, as well as provide feedback on various topics.

"We have to bridge the relationship between the community and school," Harper said. "Right now the hot topic is our technology ... If parents want more information on healthy lifestyles, I'll bring that in. It's really parent/community driven."

The Pittsburgh Penguin Foundation provided 20 Kindle Fire devices this year.

Additional information provided at Thursday's event included documents from Bank On Greater Pittsburgh, UPMC Cancer Center and Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh.

Another Solution Night is planned for August, before classes begin.

More information will be sent to parents and posted on the district's Facebook page.

Monday - June 9, 2014

McKeesport Photo Galleries

CSX crews continue repairing damage from McKeesport train derailment

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