

Evans commits \$500K to cause

To build on "118 years of true grit on the football field," the Bloomsburg University Foundation announced "First and Goal," a \$2 million endowed scholarship campaign to benefit the football program at Bloomsburg University.

Funds raised through the "First and Goal" campaign, will make an additional \$80,000 to \$100,000 in scholarship funds available each year. This increase in scholarship funding allows head coach Danny Hale and his staff to continue this legacy for years to come. Co-chairs Gerald Frev '71 and Steph Petit '89, a former player under Landis, lead the leadership committee.

The campaign is more than halfway to its goal thanks to a leadership gift of \$500,000 from Jahri Evans '07, former Frankford High standout and All-American and current NFL Pro Bowler, and other gifts. Evans, an offensive guard with the New Orleans Saints, was a two-time All-American and two-time finalist for the Gene Upshaw Award as the top offensive lineman in Division II for the Huskies. He helped lead the team to an undefeated regular season and the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference East title.

"Coach Hale has been more to me than just a football coach," Evans said. "He believed in me and gave me a chance to play football and get a great education when others were not willing to do so. If it were not for coach Hale and his staff I would not be where I am today. My gift to the campaign is to give others the same opportunity and help make BU football the best it can be."

The field at Redman Stadium will be named in honor of Danny Hale at the conclusion of the campaign in spring 2012. Endowed scholarships of \$25,000 or more will be recognized as part of the campaign. Gifts of \$5,000 or more will be recognized on a dedication plaque at the entrance of the field.

For information on making a financial gift to the "First and Goal" campaign, go to [www.bloomufdn.org/firstandgoal](http://www.bloomufdn.org/firstandgoal).

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**August 30, 2011**  
**Philadelphia Tribune**  
"Ackerman wronged but not entirely right"

Linn Washington

No need to wonder why many teens across Philadelphia act so buck wild -engaging in an array of disruptive foolishness such as flash mobs - when so many adults in leadership positions in Philly's public and private sectors act like boneheads.

While not justifying buck wild behaviors, many teens do mimic poor examples set by adults on how to act... albeit with adolescent twists that often defy logic as defined by adults.

Even good teens often reject dogmatic adults telling them to do as adults say and NOT as adults do.

Teens understand the duplicity of adults who don't lead by example...even if those adults don't acknowledge their own duplicity.

The latest Exhibit A for boneheaded adult behavior is the public sacking of Schools Superintendent Arlene Ackerman two weeks before the start of the 2011-2012 school year.

This tumultuous removal replete with childish-outbursts from adult leaders in political and civic circles certainly doesn't signal reassuring concern to students in Philly's public schools.

Students already felt short-changed by Philly's public schools before powers punted Ackerman from her position.

Students from the best through the worst performing high schools routinely voice serious disappointments.

However, leaders responsible for stewardship of public education rarely listen to the youth despite constant rhetoric about caring.

It's amazingly pathetic how adult leaders who profess exceptional concern about children dug up \$400,000 from anonymous sources to help fund a buyout of Ackerman's contract when those same self-professed caring advocates didn't dig up money this year to fund sufficient summer jobs for teens.

One summer jobs initiative in Philadelphia provided 11,800 jobs to teens last year, but due to lower funding this year only granted 5,500 jobs to 14,500 youth applicants.

The money dug up to dump Ackerman could have helped fund over 600 youth summer jobs paying \$100 per week for six weeks - work experiences that would have reinforced academic development in classrooms.

"We hold children accountable but we don't hold adults accountable!" Ackerman declared during an interview last week.

Did Dr. Ackerman do a decent job?

Yes!

Ackerman, in a letter to the Philadelphia Tribune last week, listed 22 specific achievements during her tenure, including increases in academic performance by students and decreases in violence inside schools - improvements deserving of applause.

Is Ackerman the best schools superintendent since sliced bread as some of her supporters loudly shouted at the School Reform Commission (SRC) meeting last week?

No!

Ackerman, for example, waged relentless war on community-based charter schools - including charters born out of the long-standing Black community thrust for securing community control of schools.

Ackerman and the SRC have wasted hundreds of thousands of dollars fighting to renege on obligations to pay nearly \$2 million owed to the **Walter D. Palmer** Leadership Academy, a charter founded by activist-educator **Walt Palmer** whose roots educating folks date back to the mid-1950s.

Ackerman's administration constantly appealed the academy's courtroom victories ordering District payments.

The **Palmer** Academy witnessed its first graduating high school class this year. The academy achieved a 100 percent graduation rate - a rate exceeding that of District schools.

Of the academy's 42 graduates, 38 are going to college, two others to the Marines and tire remaining two obtaining computer skill training.

Ackerman, during her informative interview on WURD900AM last week, said she supported charter schools - surprisingly urging students to flee the public schools she once ran.

What Ackerman didn't tell WURD 's audience was that she supports charters operated by wealthy white corporations whose prime interest is pocketing profits and not empowering children like the Palmer Academy.

Ackerman's administration disproportionately favored white corporations controlling charter schools, according to Palmer, who calls it "a white hostile takeover of urban education."

Ackerman, during that WURD interview, acknowledged "missteps" she made, assigning some of those mistakes to bad advice from underlings.

Ill informed and/or ignorant advice from underlings is not exclusive to Ackerman.

A White House official created another minor mess for President Obama by rejecting a posthumous pardon for the legendary Marcus Garvey, founder of the largest Black rights organization in U.S. history who was falsely imprisoned by the federal government in the 1920s.

That Obama official claimed no evidence exists documenting an injustice against Garvey - an assertion both factually inaccurate and racially offensive.

Garvey saw education as "the medium of advancement."

Ackerman, during that WURD interview, revealed that whites receive over 80 percent of School District contracts - a fact that should shame Mayor Nutter, the SRC and fair-minded people across Philadelphia.

Critics savaged Ackerman for seeking fairness in the District's billion-dollar contracting where historically racist building trades unions enjoy sweetheart protection securing paycheck producing jobs.

Though it was maliciously manipulated into enormous ire against Ackerman, a contract awarded by the District to a minority firm was legally permissible based on legal-document language enabling the District to make "adjustments. ..to assure full compliance" with District goals for "utilization" of minority businesses.

That contract language also called for Philly trade unions to hire School District graduates and "local residents" - a requirement that remains unfulfilled, according to informed sources.

Ackerman's replacement, Dr. Leroy Nunery, told a Tribune reporter in May 2011 that he had not fully reviewed union compliance with hiring District grads despite having a report about it for nearly one year.

The disruption from sacking Ackerman shafts public school students... once again.

Activist Brother Rob Gray accurately noted that those behind Ackerman's sacking are as "slimy as an eel dipped in motor oil."

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**November 19, 2011**  
**Magazine**  
Education for Young Black Philadelphians"  
MICHAEL CHORD

**Philadelphia**  
"How to Improve  
by

Are Philadelphia's black children stupid? Why is it that they consistently lag behind all other kids in school? How is it that while 85 percent of Asian, 75 percent of Caucasian, and 55 percent of Latino students are proficient or advanced in math, as determined by this past spring's Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests, only 53 percent of African-American students are? And in reading, what's the reason that number is 72 percent for Asians, 70 percent for Caucasians, but just 47 percent for African Americans? Why is it even worse for black fourth- and eighth-graders with 68 percent of those fourth-grade students scoring below basic levels of achievement in reading on the 2009 National Assessment of Education Progress test and 46 percent below the basic levels in math? And for the eighth-graders, why are 58 percent below in reading and 60 percent below in math? Also, why are six of the state's 10 worst-scoring high schools on the PSSAs predominantly black in Philly? There is one of two explanations for all of this.

The first explanation could be that black youngsters are, in fact, stupid. That means they are genetically predisposed to be at the bottom. The brains of their African ancestors—and therefore the brains of these students—are not as evolved as those of other ethnic groups. Or maybe, just maybe, there's another reason.

The second explanation could be that today's low test scores are the result of yesterday's racist broken promise of a quality education that was supposed to have been delivered first with the