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TWO NEUBAUER FELLOW-LED SCHOOLS RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD

PHILADELPHIA (September 26, 2019) – [The Philadelphia Academy of School Leaders](#) (School Leaders), an organization dedicated to developing high-impact educational leaders, proudly announces that the United States Department of Education has recognized **two Neubauer Fellow-led schools** – George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science (led by [Ted Domers](#), 2015 Neubauer Fellow) and Joseph J. Greenberg Elementary School (led by [Gina Hubbard](#), 2015 Neubauer Fellow) – as **2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools**.

Both Domers and Hubbard are part of the first cohort of School Leaders’ esteemed [Neubauer Fellowship in Educational Leadership](#). The program identifies high-potential principals and elevates their performance by developing skills vital to improving student outcomes. Now in its fifth year, the Neubauer Fellowship serves nearly one-third of Philadelphia’s principals – the critical mass needed to drive systemic change for Philadelphia’s schools and students. Over the past four years, **Neubauer Fellows led 7 of 9 Blue Ribbon Schools in Philadelphia**.

“In order to build a world-class education system, we must recognize and invest in excellent school leadership,” said Tracy Breslin, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Academy of School Leaders. “Ted and Gina both exemplify the leadership qualities needed to transform schools, drive student success, and create impact at scale. We are immensely proud of our Fellows and their students, faculty, and school communities for receiving this distinguished national honor.”

The [National Blue Ribbon Schools Program](#) honors public and private schools where students achieve high learning standards or make notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. This coveted award affirms the hard work of educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

Under Domers’ leadership, Carver Engineering and Science continues to advance with a focus on equity. One hundred percent of Carver E&S students are accepted to college, and their college graduation rate is above the national average. Over the past six years, the school nearly tripled the number of Advanced Placement (AP) course offerings and more than doubled the number of participating students. As principal, Domers increased programming beyond the original STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) emphasis – adding many courses and clubs, such as an award-winning student newspaper, SLAM Poetry team and Carver choir.

“The National Blue Ribbon, awarded to only 1% of schools in the country, is an important designation – and a recognition of our entire school community, said Ted Domers, principal of George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science and 2015 Neubauer Fellow. “With the support of the Neubauer Fellowship, I worked with our team to refine our school mission with a focus on equity and choice – and identified opportunities to move the mission forward in meaningful ways. We are committed to creating an environment that prepares our entire student body for college, the majority of whom aim to be the first in their family to obtain a post-secondary degree. The Fellowship has been an invaluable part of my leadership growth over the past few years, helping me to further advance Carver’s mission and impact student success.”

Hubbard, the principal of Joseph J. Greenberg since 2003, focuses on meeting the needs of the whole child and addressing barriers to learning. The arts are foundational at the school, with an annual student artwork showcase and musical. Literacy challenges encourage reading among students, while blended learning and small group instruction enhance the math program. Under Hubbard’s leadership, 90 percent of eighth graders scored “proficient” or “advanced” in science on the PSSA in the 2018-2019 school year.

“I am humbled and honored that Greenberg has earned the Blue Ribbon designation as it affirms our school's commitment to raise achievement levels for all students, no matter their background,” said Gina Hubbard, principal of Joseph J. Greenberg Elementary School and 2015 Neubauer Fellow. “No summit is reached without support from others, and I proudly share this award with the entire Greenberg community and our partners, including School Leaders. The Neubauer Fellowship has facilitated my growth as a leader through intensive professional development and interactions with business and school leaders across the region. The ideas and practices gleaned from my work with the Fellowship have undoubtedly increased student outcomes over the last four years.”

The School District of Philadelphia honored both schools for being among the top five-scoring schools on the District’s 2017-2018 School Progress Report (SPR), which measures student achievement, student progress, school climate, and, for high schools, college and career readiness.

On Thursday, each school community was recognized during celebrations which were attended by Dr. Shawn Bird, Chief of Schools; Mayor Jim Kenney; City Council President Darrell Clarke; Board of Education President Joyce Wilkerson; Board member Dr. Maria McColgan; and staff, students and family members. Both Carver and Greenberg schools are expected to be celebrated along with other National Blue Ribbon School honorees at a ceremony in Washington, DC later this year.

For more information about Philadelphia Academy of School Leaders and the Neubauer Fellowship, please visit phillyschoolleaders.org or follow the organization on [Twitter](#).

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About the Philadelphia Academy of School Leaders:

The Philadelphia Academy of School Leaders (School Leaders) is a nonprofit organization that develops, engages, and retains principals and system leaders who transform schools, dramatically improve student outcomes, and drive systemic change to prepare all Philadelphia students for college, career, and life. Recognizing that principals are the catalyst for change, School Leaders launched in 2015 to serve as a critical partner and cross-sector leadership development resource. School Leaders trains and supports principals and school system leaders across district, charter, and faith-based schools in Philadelphia. The organization's results-driven, evidence-based approach provides leaders with the necessary tools, skills, and networks to elevate their performance and improve school and student outcomes.

About the Neubauer Fellowship in Educational Leadership:

The Neubauer Fellowship in Educational Leadership, School Leaders' flagship program, is a transformative two-year leadership experience for principals with a proven track record of improving Philadelphia's district, charter, and faith-based schools. The program develops critical leadership skills needed to elevate school performance and student outcomes in their schools and across the city. Fellows receive best-in-class professional development, build deep relationships with a cohort of exceptional educators, and are treated like the important change agents they are. Local and national practitioners, authors, and researchers facilitate a curriculum that supports Fellows to produce measurable, meaningful results. The Fellowship is competitive and selective: the rigorous competency-based selection process includes an application, interviews, instructional analysis, data reviews, and school visits. The Fellowship currently reaches 108 Philadelphia principals and system leaders who directly serve over 60,000 students and indirectly impact thousands more.