



Press Clippings
February 2018
Web

Title: Philly Closes Schools, Courts for Eagles' Super Bowl Victory Parade

Author: NBC10 Staff

Link: <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Eagles-Super-Bowl-Parade-Closures-Philadelphia-Pennsylvania-Schools-Offices-472814013.html>

Date: February 6, 2018

There will be several closures in Philadelphia Thursday due to the Eagles Super Bowl Championship parade. The parade will begin at 11 a.m. Thursday at Broad Street and Pattison Avenue in South Philadelphia, city officials said.

Here are all of the closures for our area that have been reported so far. Did we miss one? Email us here.

What's Open (jump to What's Closed)

- African American Museum in Philadelphia
- Independence Hall
- Independence Visitor Center
- Liberty Bell Center
- National Constitution Center
- National Museum of American Jewish History
- One Liberty Observation Deck
- **Fly Eagles, Fly: Philadelphia Wins First-Ever Super Bowl**

Philadelphia Government

All government offices closed Thursday. Trash and recycling will NOT be picked up. As for the courts: If you are scheduled for jury duty Thursday, do not report for service; you will be rescheduled for a later date. All critical court services are expected to remain operational.

FDR Park

There will be no parking at South Philly park, normally popular for parking during sporting events, Thursday.

University of Pennsylvania

Classes and University-sponsored events will be canceled Thursday.

Drexel University

Classes and normal operations at Drexel University's University City and Center City campuses are suspended Thursday. Drexel's Queen Lane campus will remain open.

Temple University

All U.S. Temple University campuses, except Temple Harrisburg, will be closed Thursday and classes will be canceled.

The Community College of Philadelphia

The Community College of Philadelphia will close all locations on Thursday, with all events and classes scheduled at the Spring Garden Campus and the Northwest, Northeast, and West Regional centers being canceled. Normal classes and business operations will resume Friday. Classes scheduled for Thursday will be made up on April 26.

Peirce College

Peirce College in Philadelphia won't open its doors Thursday but will hold online classes through its Peirce Fit program.

University of the Arts

Classes canceled for school located along Broad Street. Hamilton Hall steps to be closed for a private event.

La Salle University

La Salle University day and evening classes will be canceled Thursday.

Rosemont College

All classes of the Undergraduate College and the Schools of Graduate and Professional Studies are canceled.

Saint Joseph's University

All day and evening classes at Saint Joseph's University will be cancelled. Online classes will continue as scheduled, and essential personnel are to report to work as directed by their supervisor.

Philadelphia Public Schools

All Philadelphia school district schools and administrative offices will be closed Thursday.

Philadelphia Archdiocese Schools

All Archdiocesan high schools and parochial elementary schools throughout the five-county Archdiocese of Philadelphia will be closed Thursday.

Upper Darby School District

All Upper Darby School District schools and offices will be closed Thursday.

Chester Upland School District

Chester Upland School District schools and offices will be closed Thursday.

New Jersey Schools

All Collingswood, Glassboro and Oaklyn district schools will be closed. Camden City schools also will be closed, though some schools will open to serve meals (click here for locations and times). In Florence Township, schools will be open.

Pennsylvania Schools

Southeast Delco and Chichester schools are closed.

Upper Merion and North Penn schools say that school will be in session and they encourage students to be in class, but they will excuse absences with a note.

The Social Security Office and Card Center

The Social Security Downtown Office and Card Center at 1500 JFK Blvd. will be closed, along with the South Philadelphia office at 3336 S. Broad St. The offices will reopen at 9 a.m. Friday.

Philadelphia Museum of Art

The Philadelphia Museum of Art, Ruth and Raymond G. Perelman Building and the Rodin Museum will be closed Thursday. All of the sites will reopen Friday with normal hours.

Kimmel Center

Closed Thursday.

The Barnes Foundation

The Barnes Foundation will be closed to the public Thursday. The Barnes will resume normal operating hours on Friday (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Eastern State Penitentiary

Closed Thursday. Regular tours resume at 10 a.m. Friday.

Philadelphia Zoo

Closed to the public Thursday. Will open normally Friday.

Academy of Natural Sciences

Closed Thursday.

Free Library of Philadelphia - All Branches

Closed for the parade. Regular schedule to resume Friday.

Rodin Museum

Closed for the parade Thursday.

Franklin Institute

Will be closed Thursday.

Mutter Museum

Closed Thursday.

Museum of the American Revolution

Closed Thursday.

Independence Seaport Museum

The museum and historic ships will be closed Thursday.

Please Touch Museum

Closed Thursday.

Science History Institute (formerly the Chemical Heritage Foundation)

Closed Thursday.

Philadelphia History Museum at the Atwater Kent

Closed Thursday.

Penn Museum

Closed Thursday.

City Hall Visitor Center and Tours

Closed Thursday.

Philadelphia City Council Meeting

The regular stated meeting of Philadelphia City Council scheduled for Thursday has been canceled.

Title: Mayor launches workforce development strategy

Author: Ayana Jones Tribune Staff Writer

Link: http://www.phillytrib.com/mayor-launches-workforce-development-strategy/article_749ba0fb-4466-52a1-9630-12fb46643bd6.html

Date: February 7, 2018

A new workforce development strategy has been designed to arm Philadelphia residents with the skills to be competitive in the job market.

Mayor Jim Kenney unveiled the new Fueling Philadelphia's Talent Engine strategy during his annual address to the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia. The strategy focuses on three goals including preparing Philadelphia residents with the skills employers need; addressing barriers that prevent people from accessing meaningful opportunities and ensuring the city's workforce system is more coordinated and effective.

The effort comes as Philadelphia continues to be the poorest of America's large cities with a poverty rate of 25 percent.

"It is clear we need to rethink education and training so that our institutions are able to provide students and job seekers with relevant, employer-driven experiences to compete in a knowledge economy," Kenney said as addressed more than 1,700 members of the Greater Philadelphia business community during a luncheon held Tuesday at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown.

"Fueling Philadelphia's Talent Engine calls for more intentional coordination and collaboration across education, job training and other supportive services to drive economic growth with equity."

Kenney said at the center of Fueling Philadelphia's Talent Engine is a shift in focus from short-term job training and placement to long-term career planning and advancement.

"It calls on us to work together across institutions to build a true career pathway system — one that ensures workforce education and training are informed by the needs of business," he continued.

"Philadelphians of every age will be guided to think beyond their next job, and to focus on the education, credentialing and other supports they'll need to achieve longer-term career goals."

Through the strategy, city officials will work with business leaders to establish or expand industry partnerships in seven opportunity industries including health care,

retail and hospitality, early childhood education, technology services, business and financial services, construction and infrastructure and manufacturing and logistics.

The plan calls for \$13 million to be invested annually in workforce education and training to prepare residents for middle-skill jobs.

John Fry, chamber chairman and president of Drexel University said the effort will create pathways to employment for residents who for too long have gone without the training, support and opportunities needed to realize their full potential.

“This is a moment to forge an inclusive path to prosperity that prepares all residents not just for a job – but for a career and in doing so the city can fuel the long term economic growth and community vitality that benefits everyone,” Fry stated.

The collaborative strategy was created by the Workforce Strategy Steering Committee — a cross sector of group of leaders representing all elements of the workforce system.

“Fueling Philadelphia’s Talent Engine will have a significant short-term impact, as well as long-lasting results,” said Uva Coles, Peirce College vice president of Institutional Advancement and Strategic Partnerships, who is part of the committee.

“By providing Philadelphians with the tools they need to secure long-term, life-sustaining jobs leading to career paths, their children will be set up for their own success and will have strong role models to look to as they shape their own futures. Being intentional about this kind of two-generational impact is also embedded in Peirce’s fabric. Our multi-generational approach focuses on long-term solutions to issues like employment and poverty.”

Coles said this spring, Peirce will launch a customized training program supported by a grant from the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey that will equip participants with the skills they need to attain front-line customer service roles in non-clinical healthcare.

Later this year, the city will launch the Office of Workforce Development, creating a centralized team to work on the Steering Committee and other workforce partners on accomplishing the goals outlined in the strategy. This office will assist employers in meeting the talent needs of their businesses and design a new pilot program titled City as Model Employers focused on preparing individuals for middle skill positions currently difficult for city departments to fill.

Title: What you need to know about the Eagles' Super Bowl parade

Author: PhillyVoice Staff

Link: <http://www.phillyvoice.com/what-you-need-know-about-eagles-super-bowl-parade/>

Date: February 8, 2018

Well, the game is over, and out Philadelphia Eagles are Super Bowl champions.

And other than the years of bragging ahead about our team winning one of the most exciting football games of all time, there's that little matter of an official celebration.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

All Philadelphia public and archdiocesan schools will be closed Thursday, as will all archdiocesan schools in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties. The Upper Darby School District also will be closed.

A number of Philadelphia-area colleges will give students the day off on Thursday to attend the historical gathering, including Drexel University, Temple University, Cabrini University, the Community College of Philadelphia, Peirce College, the University of Pennsylvania, Rosemont College, St. Joseph's University and LaSalle University.

Title: Member Perspective: Uva Coles

Author: Uva Coles; Guest Commentator for The Chamber of Commerce Greater Philadelphia

Link: <https://chamberphl.com/2018/02/member-perspective-uva-coles/>

Date: February 9, 2018

Guest Commentator: Uva Coles, Vice President, Institutional Advancement & Strategic Partnerships

How can employers leverage their resources for community involvement in distressed neighborhoods? How does this improve Philadelphia's economic and civic life?

The conversation is changing. Just a few years ago, I found myself in meeting after meeting discussing Philadelphia's economic disconnects and determining who should be held responsible for bridging the divide. Today, the dialogue is more focused on our respective accountability in narrowing our most pressing socioeconomic divides. We are shifting from engaging in conversation about these issues to engaging in the development of solutions. The pivot in our dialogue is less choice, more necessity.

We know the numbers. Philadelphia's poverty rate hovers at 26%. In 2017, our unemployment rate was 5.6 % (while the national rate was 4.1%), and the numbers are disproportionately more disturbing when we introduce race and socioeconomic factors. For some time, I worried as these numbers were tossed around from one sector's lap to another's as issues for "them" to solve. Today, I am encouraged by the seismic shift, a departure from a wagging finger about "their" problem hurting "us" to conversations about how the city's issues are "ours" to both own and address.

At the core of these discussions, distressed neighborhoods have risen as both our issue and our solution. They are the backdrop of Philadelphia's thriving economy, reminders of who we are leaving behind — the under-credentialed, the under- or unemployed, our immigrants, our returning citizens, our disconnected youth, our communities of color, and our poor. They are also our most untapped talent.

Employers who understand the strength of strategic community involvement are taking notice and leveraging their resources for the betterment of our most vulnerable individuals and distressed communities. In my work as a higher education administrator focused on building collaborative, cross-sector partnerships, I have observed a few salient best practices utilized by employers.

1. They invest in the communities that invest in their businesses. Paying taxes to support a community's economic growth matters. But investing with intention —

into school systems, sustainability efforts, and initiatives that address health disparities — is also impactful.

2. They promote skills-based volunteering. Encouraging employees to volunteer episodically can be a value-add to a distressed community. But galvanizing a well-educated and trained workforce around a corporate social responsibility strategy that hones in on a community's most pressing needs lifts volunteering from helpful to transformative.
3. They tap into the non-traditional workforce. Those most overlooked by traditional recruitment efforts—the under-credentialed or underemployed, opportunity youth, immigrants and returning citizens—can be the very talent employers need. Sometimes, a few adjustments in recruitment processes and criteria can unveil a relatively untapped workforce-ready pipeline.
4. Partner with innovative colleges and universities. Peirce College, for instance, understands the importance of alignment between employers and our institutions' graduates. We confer degrees, certainly, but we also partner with employers to build more expedient, customized stackable credentials and trainings that more precisely address employer needs.
5. They give community leaders a seat and voice at the table. Just as employers prioritize understanding the needs of their stakeholders and create mechanisms to ascertain them, they consider the members of the distressed communities where they are based key stakeholders. Building strategies to address neighborhood issues must be done in partnership, not isolation.

Recently, the City's Commerce Department and the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, among others, have focused on the intersection of economic and civic life. The City's Workforce Development Strategy, launched earlier this week, and the Chamber's Roadmap for Growth, launched in 2016 are indicative of Philadelphia's business community's changing dialogue. In both cases, they have determined that prioritizing the needs of our most vulnerable citizens and our distressed neighborhoods is not somebody else's issue to solve. It is ours. The pivot is less choice, more necessity, for Philadelphia to enjoy a more robust and inclusive economic prosperity.

We may have miles ahead of us but, again, the conversation is changing.

Peirce College is a member of the Chamber's Roadmap for Growth Action Team, a group of business, civic and community leaders committed to the development and execution of a pro-growth, pro-jobs agenda to lift and improve Philadelphia's economic and civic life.

Title: At launch of city's new workforce strategy, a panelist stresses importance of hope

Author: Jane M. Von Bergen

Link: <http://thenotebook.org/articles/2018/02/15/city-s-new-workforce-strategy-comes-down-to-a-single-word-hope>

Date: February 15, 2018

Part pep rally, part meet the players, Thursday's breakfast launch of Philadelphia's new workforce strategy brought together 300 workplace experts, counselors, leaders, executives from every workforce development agency in the city, and Mayor Kenney.

And true to form, speaker after speaker, more than a dozen in all, used all the workforce words — *bridge curriculum, stackable credentials, career ladders, apprenticeships, interns, diversity, racial inequity, employment, employer-driven, path out of poverty, skills, soft skills, strategies, talent, pipelines.*

But it took a single mother of three, a victim of domestic abuse who became pregnant at age 17, to use perhaps the most important word: *hope.*

"When I was trying to figure out my life, I needed hope," said Joyce Bacon, a panelist and personal coach, responding to a question about what helped her the most as she struggled out of poverty into a career in program management at the West Philadelphia Skills Initiative. "That's what [everyone] needs. They need hope."

Kenney's workforce initiative, titled "Fueling Philadelphia's Talent Engine: A Citywide Workforce Strategy," aims to lift people such as Bacon, 40, and speaker Aaron Kirkland, 29, a former drug dealer who now is a city civil service worker in green stormwater management for the Water Department, out of poverty through sustainable careers.

But that is not its only goal. It also intends to lift the city's overall educational and economic attainment, positioning it to be more competitive in a global market.

"It's unacceptable for any Philadelphian to be working a full-time job and still living in poverty," Kenney said. Also unacceptable? The city's 25.7 percent poverty rate, with 12.3 percent living in deep poverty, which is defined as 50 percent of the federal poverty rate.

"It's embarrassing. It's disgraceful. We can do better," Kenney said.

Kenney told the group at Community College of Philadelphia that the program "is not a plan for city government," but instead a partnership involving employers, workforce experts, and educators. "When we do this right, the result will be outstanding."

The plan aims to align the efforts of educators and workforce training experts more closely with business needs, with the first focus on reading, writing, numeracy, and digital literacy so that more Philadelphia residents can earn higher, family-sustaining wages.

To start, Philadelphia students need to be better prepared for college and careers, and workforce strategies need to be tailored to assist each challenged group, such as young people disconnected from work and school, the formerly incarcerated, and immigrants.

The plan also asks partners to concentrate their efforts in seven key industry sectors, all projected to either grow or to scale back slowly in the next decade: health care; retail and hospitality; business and financial services; manufacturing and logistics; construction and infrastructure; technology; and early childhood education.

Within these sectors, the idea is to build middle-skill jobs that require an associate's degree or more intense post-high school training, through an apprenticeship or some other long-term on-the-job learning.

City Commerce Director Harold T. Epps told the group he'd like to see the city's job count grow from 714,891 payroll positions to 800,000 by 2026.

That will take patience and committed effort, the speakers said.

"For many students, it's not going to be a quick fix, and we have to recognize that," said Cheryl Feldman, executive director of District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund. "The first training is only the first step. We need to have the commitment to support people beyond that."

The idea, she and others said, is not to push someone into any low-skill job, but to use the first job as a way to build toward the second and third jobs on a career ladder, from, for example, nurse's aide to registered nurse with a bachelor's degree.

"The first job can be a learning opportunity, but it can't be the only one," said H. Patrick Clancy, president and chief executive of Philadelphia Works Inc., the quasi-public agency that serves as a funnel for state and federal workforce dollars coming into Philadelphia.

Key to success is a clear line of communication with employers, said Patrick Callihan, executive director of Tech Impact, which has moved people from jobs earning \$24,000 a year to tech jobs earning \$65,000 a year in a few months.

"It has to start with the employers," Callihan said. "We get the employers to the table and we're going to put the training programs at the table and we're going to connect them."

Philadelphia School Superintendent William Hite said the District needs to be sure children learn to read as quickly as possible. “Once we do that, how do we then use this reading ability [for students] to learn the skills, the strategies, the traits and the behaviors” that translate into careers? he asked.

Hite said that it’s well-known among educators that the best way to prepare students for college is to have them do college-level work before they get to campus. It’s the same for the work world.

“To be successful at work, they have to those experiences prior to moving into the workforce.”

It’s important, he said, to increase graduation rates, but it’s also important for the School District to be “part and parcel of the workforce strategy for the city of Philadelphia,” and that involves “exposure to experiences” and making sure that lessons in math, reading and science are put into the context of what is needed in the work world.

The potential is there, said Chekemma Fulmore-Townsend, president and chief executive of Philadelphia Youth Network. “Young people can do amazing things,” she said, but right now there aren’t enough resources to teach them what they need at the required scale.

And, she said, it’s important to be “candid and honest” about issues of equity, code-switching, and game-playing in the world of work.

Also speaking at the event were Michael DiBerardinis, managing director of the City of Philadelphia; Uva Coles, vice president of institutional advancement at Peirce College; and John Colborn, the chief operating officer at JEVS Human Services.

The stakes are high, said Daniel Fitzpatrick, president of Citizens Bank in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. “We’re in a global battle for talent,” he said, and need to become more inclusive to win it.

“It’s an untapped resource from a global perspective and we’re weakening ourselves” if more people are not reached, Fitzpatrick said.

Those people are people like Aaron Kirkland, the first speaker at Thursday’s event. Kirkland said the combination of skill-building, technical knowledge, and mentoring gave him hope to change his life.

“Had I not had the opportunity to learn these things and had I not had people working with me to help me out, I don’t know where I’d be today,” Kirkland said.

And people like Bacon.

At first, she said, she just wanted a job, any job. “You’re in survival mode,” she said. But workforce training programs helped her see her talents and abilities and showed her a path to professionalism.

“I was missing the confidence to walk through the door and say, ‘Yes, I want the job, but you also need me,’” she said.

Bacon said that many people in Philadelphia are like her — underdogs who just want the know-how, the confidence, and the hope.

For her, and for them, she said, “you just have to crack open the door of opportunity a little bit.”

Title: Stakeholders discuss new workforce development strategy

Author: Ayana Jones Tribune Staff Writer

Link: http://www.phillytrib.com/news/stakeholders-discuss-new-workforce-development-strategy/article_65de4f25-58e8-5e8c-ae64-f7725efb759a.html

Date: February 16, 2018

Philadelphia workforce stakeholders, employers and government leaders came together for a summit to discuss the city's new workforce development strategy — Fueling Philadelphia's Talent Engine.

The two-hour summit took place at the Community College of Philadelphia, one of the major partners involved in developing the strategy.

The collaborative effort focuses on three goals — preparing Philadelphia residents with the skills employers need; addressing barriers that prevent people from accessing meaningful opportunities; and ensuring the city's workforce system is more coordinated and effective.

“The goals, recommendations and metrics of Fueling Philadelphia's Talent Engine provide guidance for the city as well as employers, higher education institutions, workforce intermediaries, nonprofits and other entities to drive a common workforce agenda,” said Mayor Jim Kenney as he addressed summit attendees.

The strategy was created by the Workforce Strategy Steering Committee — which is co-chaired by Commerce Director Harold T. Epps and Managing Director Michael DiBerardinis.

“As we set out to develop this strategy, what we wanted to acknowledge is that we know Philadelphia needs to do a better job of listening to employers in understanding the skills they need from employees,” Kenney stated.

“We also know that we must make sure our education and training systems must be prepared to help Philadelphia residents develop these skills. We owe it to our residents and our employers. “

He noted Philadelphia's poverty level of 25 percent is due to a large percentage of people who are not prepared for the jobs that are available.

Summit speakers covered a variety of topics related to workforce development, including an overview of the citywide strategy, the need to address a growing skills gap, shared commitments across the city's major institutions, and action steps that individuals and organizations can take to support the plan.

“Community College of Philadelphia is excited to join the city, the School District of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Works Inc., the Philadelphia Youth Network and others to implement the recommendations of the workforce strategy,” said Donald Guy General, president of CCP.

“As partners align programs and collaborate on career pathways, we provide a crucial bridge from poverty, which can lead to meaningful work and jobs that pay family-sustaining wages.”

During the summit, Epps spoke about Philadelphia’s success in adding 40,000 jobs to the rolls during last two years. Last year the city had an average number of 714,891 jobs.

Cheryl Feldman, executive director, District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund, spoke about the jobs and skills mismatch that is impacting the city’s workforce.

“I would say that we have a big disconnect between the jobs and the folks that need those jobs. The problem is the skills mismatch — that the skills need to be built,” Feldman said.

What that in mind, she said a multi-employer approach is needed to help develop the skill sets to meet employer needs.

Feldman highlighted how the District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund is working with educators at CCP on the Early Childhood Education Teachers Apprenticeship program, which places day care workers on long-term career pathways.

H. Patrick Clancy, president and CEO of Philadelphia Works Inc., which invests in employment and training solutions, spoke about addressing the challenge of literacy.

“We also have to realize that literacy is a huge challenge that we have to tackle. We have to hit it straight on,” he said.

“What we are trying to do is make sure that all of our programs that are helping individuals get the new skills that they need have a literacy bridge so that if they are at a lower achievement level, they can still on ramp.”

Other speakers included DiBerardinis; William Hite, superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia; Sheila Ireland, deputy director of Workforce Diversity and Inclusion for Rebuild, City of Philadelphia; Chekemma Fulmore-Townsend, president and CEO of Philadelphia Youth Network; Dan Fitzpatrick, president of Citizens Bank Mid-Atlantic; Uva Coles, vice president of institutional advancement and strategic partnerships at Peirce College; John Colborn, chief operating officer of JEVS Human Services; Patrick Callihan, executive director of Tech Impact; Joyce Bacon, owner of Joyce Bacon Coaching and Consulting; and Aaron Kirkland, PowerCorpsPHL alumnus.

Title: New Light on the History of Correspondence Schools

Author: Robert L. Hampel

Link: <http://muse.jhu.edu/article/686445>

Date: February 17, 2018

What we now call distance education began long before computers linked students and teachers. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, hundreds of private companies, public universities, and enterprising individuals sold instruction by mail. Nearly any subject could be pursued, but vocational training was the best seller. The company that dominated the field, enrolling nearly 100,000 new students annually in the early twentieth century, was in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where its massive headquarters was known as the Big Red Schoolhouse. By comparison, the largest proprietary school in Philadelphia, Peirce College, never enrolled more than 2,000 students until World War I.

The International Correspondence Schools (ICS) found its historian in 1996, when James Watkinson published an article in this journal.² He described the practical slant of the organization's textbooks, analyzed its enticing ads, profiled students from two cities, and concluded that ICS was a reputable vendor of the technical know-how that could help such ambitious adults as Arthur Godfrey, Eddie Rickenbacker, Walter Chrysler, Dwight Eisenhower's father, and the inventor of Scotch Tape get ahead.

Watkinson's valuable article said little about ICS after the 1920s; his paper traced the rise of a behemoth rather than its later life. In addition, he relied on published sources because the ICS archives were so meager—no correspondence to and from ICS staff, no annual reports to shareholders, no legal records, and no letters from students.³ The few primary sources Watkinson missed—ICS advertisements in the National Museum of American History, the autobiography of an ICS advertising manager, the notes of an Italian immigrant who took carpentry and masonry—reinforce what he found elsewhere.

Two boxes in the William Warren Scranton Papers at the Special Collections Library of Pennsylvania State University shed light on ICS from the early 1950s to the mid-1970s.⁵ William Scranton's father was on the Board of Directors when thirty-two-year-old Scranton Jr. joined the company in 1949 as its vice president for legal affairs. Although the younger Scranton left in 1954, he rejoined the Board of Directors after his service in Congress, a term as governor of Pennsylvania, and an unsuccessful run for the Republican presidential nomination in 1964. Scranton's papers illuminate the financial ups and downs of ICS and reveal the risks of rapid expansion. From the annual reports, correspondence with ICS officers, press releases, and handwritten notes, historians can trace the lures and the perils of becoming a conglomerate.

In the 1940s and 1950s, ICS rebounded slowly but steadily from the sharp loss of students during the Depression. The GI Bill briefly pushed enrollments to 115,018 in 1947, but that was the only time when ICS equaled the peaks of 1900 to 1925. The company recruited around 70,000 new students each year in the 1950s; a profitable book publishing division grew more rapidly. By the early 1960s, the annual revenue of approximately twenty million was triple the comparable figure from the early 1940s, with the stock price doing much better: from a low of one dollar in 1942, it rose to ten dollars by the early 1950s and continued to climb throughout the decade. The annual profits grew faster than the annual sales in the 1950s, and in a strong market the shares did well.

The Scranton files reveal that ICS went on an acquisition binge in the 1960s, when for-profit education and publishing firms entered what investors today call a bubble. The market for schooling in many different forms seemed limitless, and stock prices skyrocketed. The company had seven suitors in 1961, but it wanted to buy rather than sell. By the end of the decade, InText (as it renamed itself) owned three vocational schools, a book distributor, an audiovisual company, a training program for overseas corporations, and five niche publishers. Annual sales began to surge in 1963, and the \$22,349,000 in that year soared to \$52,255,000 ten years later. But profits peaked in 1967, declined for the next three years, and became losses in the early 1970s. Some of the acquisitions were...

Title: Philadelphia Stakeholders discuss implementation and impact of new workforce development strategy

Author: Philadelphia Sun Staff

Link: <http://www.philasun.com/local/philadelphia-stakeholders-discuss-implementation-impact-new-workforce-development-strategy-2/>

Date: February 21, 2018

Mayor Jim Kenney joined a number of Philadelphia leaders on Thursday, Feb. 15 for an event highlighting the city's new workforce development strategy. Fueling Philadelphia's Talent Engine is a citywide plan aimed at addressing employers' needs and preparing residents for careers in family-sustaining jobs. The strategy, which was announced on February 6 at the Mayor's annual address to the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, will help guide both the public and private sectors to ensure every Philadelphia resident can build the skills needed to compete in the workforce.

"Our new citywide workforce development strategy - Fueling Philadelphia's Talent Engine - is the product of an unprecedented level of collaboration between Philadelphia's public and private sectors," Mayor Kenney said. "The release of this plan will serve as a launching point for the bold steps that need to be taken to align education and workforce systems to the talent needs of business."

Philadelphia Mayor James Kenney assembled workforce stakeholders, employers and government leaders for a two-hour summit on Thursday to discuss the implementation and potential impact of the city's new workforce development strategy - Fueling Philadelphia's Talent Engine. The event, held at Community College of Philadelphia, brought together educators, trainers and employers to discuss career pathways and ways to align job training with employment needs.

The two-hour summit of local workforce stakeholders, employers and government leaders took place at the Community College of Philadelphia - one of the major partners involved in developing Fueling Philadelphia's Talent Engine. Speakers covered a variety of topics related to workforce development, including an overview of the citywide strategy, the need to address a growing skills gap, shared commitments across the city's major institutions, and action steps that individuals and organizations can take to support the plan.

"Community College of Philadelphia is excited to join the City, the School District of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Works, Inc., the Philadelphia Youth Network, and others to implement the recommendations of the workforce strategy," said Dr. Donald (Guy) Generals, President of Community College of Philadelphia. "As partners align programs and collaborate on career pathways, we provide a crucial bridge from poverty, which can lead to meaningful work and jobs that pay family-sustaining wages."

Program participants at today's event included: Mayor Kenney; Dr. General, President, Community College of Philadelphia; Dr. William Hite, Superintendent, School District of Philadelphia; Michael DiBerardinis, Managing Director, City of Philadelphia; Harold T. Epps, Commerce Director, City of Philadelphia; Sheila Ireland, Deputy Director of Workforce Diversity & Inclusion for Rebuild, City of Philadelphia; Patrick Clancy, President & CEO, Philadelphia Works Inc.; Chekemma Fulmore-Townsend, President & CEO, Philadelphia Youth Network; Dan Fitzpatrick, President, Citizens Banks Mid-Atlantic; Uva Coles, Vice President of Institutional Advancement & Strategic Partnerships, Peirce College; John Colborn, Chief Operating Officer, JEVS Human Services; Cheryl Feldman, Executive Director, District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund; Patrick Callihan, Executive Director, Tech Impact; Joyce Bacon, Owner, Joyce Bacon Coaching & Consulting; and Aaron Kirkland, PowerCorpsPHL Alumnus.

Fueling Philadelphia's Talent Engine and accompanying materials can be viewed online at phila.gov/workforce.

Title: 5 ways employers can shrink Philly's economic divide

Author: Uva Coles (*reposting from the Chamber of Commerce Greater Philadelphia's blog*)

Link: <https://generocity.org/philly/2018/02/21/uva-coles-peirce-college-chamber-commerce-economic-development-jobs/>

Date: February 21, 2018

"Today, I am encouraged by the seismic shift, a departure from a wagging finger about 'their' problem hurting 'us' to conversations about how the city's issues are 'ours' to both own and address," writes Peirce College's Uva Coles.

How can employers leverage their resources for community involvement in distressed neighborhoods? How does this improve Philadelphia's economic and civic life?

The conversation is changing. Just a few years ago, I found myself in meeting after meeting discussing Philadelphia's economic disconnects and determining who should be held responsible for bridging the divide.

Today, the dialogue is more focused on our respective accountability in narrowing our most pressing socioeconomic divides. We are shifting from engaging in conversation about these issues to engaging in the development of solutions. The pivot in our dialogue is less choice, more necessity.

We know the numbers. Philadelphia's poverty rate hovers at 26 percent. At the end of 2017, our unemployment rate was 5.6 percent (while the national rate was 4.1 percent), and the numbers are disproportionately more disturbing when we introduce race and socioeconomics.

For some time, I worried as these numbers were tossed around from one sector's lap to another's as issues for "them" to solve. Today, I am encouraged by the seismic shift, a departure from a wagging finger about "their" problem hurting "us" to conversations about how the city's issues are "ours" to both own and address.

At the core of these discussions, distressed neighborhoods have risen as both **our** issue and **our** solution. They are the backdrop of Philadelphia's thriving economy, reminders of who we are leaving behind — the under-credentialed, the under- or unemployed, our immigrants, our returning citizens, our disconnected youth, our communities of color and our poor. They are also our most untapped talent.

From our Partners

Employers who understand the strength of strategic community involvement are taking notice and leveraging their resources for the betterment of our most vulnerable individuals and distressed communities.

In my work as a higher education administrator focused on building collaborative, cross-sector partnerships, I have observed a few salient best practices used by employers.

1. **They invest in the communities that invest in their businesses** — Paying taxes to support a community's economic growth matters. But investing with intention — into school systems, sustainability efforts and initiatives that address health disparities — is also impactful.
2. **They promote skills-based volunteering** — Encouraging employees to volunteer episodically can be a value-add to a distressed community. But galvanizing a well-educated and trained workforce around a corporate social responsibility strategy that hones in on a community's most pressing needs lifts volunteering from helpful to transformative.
3. **They tap into the nontraditional workforce** — Those most overlooked by traditional recruitment efforts can be the very talent employers need. Sometimes, a few adjustments in recruitment processes and criteria can unveil a relatively untapped workforce-ready pipeline.
4. **Partner with innovative colleges and universities** — **Peirce College**, for instance, understands the importance of alignment between employers and our institutions' graduates. We confer degrees, certainly, but we also partner with employers to build more expedient, customized stackable credentials and trainings that more precisely address employer needs.
5. **They give community leaders a seat and voice at the table** — Just as employers prioritize understanding the needs of their stakeholders and create mechanisms to ascertain them, they consider the members of the distressed communities where they are based key stakeholders. Building strategies to address neighborhood issues must be done in partnership, not isolation.

Recently, the city's **Department of Commerce** and the **Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia**, among others, have focused on the intersection of economic and civic life. The city's new **Workforce Development Strategy** and the Chamber's **Roadmap for Growth**, launched in 2016, are indicative of Philadelphia's business community's changing dialogue.

In both cases, they have determined that prioritizing the needs of our most vulnerable citizens and our distressed neighborhoods is not somebody else's issue to solve. It is ours. The pivot is less choice, more necessity, for Philadelphia to enjoy a more robust and inclusive economic prosperity.

We may have miles ahead of us but, again, the conversation is changing.

This piece originally ran on Feb. 15 for The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia. Peirce College is a member of the Chamber's Roadmap for Growth Action Team, a group of business, civic and community leaders committed to the development and execution of a pro-growth, pro-jobs agenda to lift and improve Philadelphia's economic and civic life.

Title: Peirce College taps New Jersey college administrator as new president

Author: Sue Snyder

Link: <http://www.philly.com/philly/business/peirce-college-new-president-mary-ellen-caro-thomas-edison-state-university-philadelphia-new-jersey-20180227.html>

Date: February 28, 2018

Peirce College, which largely serves adult learners in Philadelphia, has tapped a New Jersey college administrator as its new president.

Mary Ellen Caro, 64, currently serves as vice president of enrollment management and learner services at Thomas Edison State University in Trenton, N.J., which also largely serves adults.

Caro, who has been at Edison since 2004 after a 25-year career in business, will replace James J. Mergioti, who is retiring after nine years at the helm. She is the first female president in Peirce's 153-year history. She starts April 16.

"Peirce College is an integral piece of the puzzle for workforce development and adult degree attainment in Philadelphia," Caro said. "I look forward to building on this 153-year legacy, and I am excited for the opportunity to collaborate with new partners throughout the region to benefit working adults, businesses, and the regional economy."

Edison has more than 17,000 students, compared with nearly 2,200 at Peirce. But Edison offers largely online learning, while Peirce offers a mix. The average age of students at Edison is 35, very similar to Peirce's 34.

"The thing that excites me also about Peirce is that it is in a vibrant city, Philadelphia," and all the opportunity for partnerships that provides, she said.

Caro, a native of Dunellen, N.J., who grew up in Somerset County, recently relocated to Doylestown. She got her bachelor's degree in mathematics and sociology from the College of St. Elizabeth, has a master's in management from Stanford University, a master's in applied statistics from Rutgers University, and a doctorate in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania.

She worked at AT&T in various executive positions before being hired by Edison.

Peirce, which is private, did not release Caro's salary.

Title: Thomas Edison State vice president tapped as Peirce CEO

Author: David Hutter

Link: <http://www.njbiz.com/article/20180228/NJBIZ01/180229839/thomas-edison-state-vice-president-tapped-as-peirce-ceo>

Date: February 28, 2018

Dr. Mary Ellen Caro, vice president of Enrollment Management and Learner Services at **Thomas Edison State University** in Trenton, has been named president and CEO of **Peirce College** in Philadelphia, effective April 16.

Caro becomes the first woman to hold the position in Peirce's 153-year history. She succeeds James Mergiotti, who announced his retirement from last year after serving as president and CEO since 2009.

Title: A woman will lead Peirce College for the first time

Author: Michelle Caffrey

Link: <https://www.bizjournals.com/philadelphia/news/2018/02/28/peirce-college-mary-caro-president-ceo.html>

Date: February 28, 2018

Peirce College will be led by a woman for the first time in the Center City school's 153-year history.

The college, which focuses on educating working adults and non-traditional students, announced Wednesday that Mary Ellen Caro will serve as its next president and CEO following the **retirement of current President James Mergiotti this April.**

“Peirce College is an integral piece of the puzzle for **workforce development** and adult degree attainment in Philadelphia,” Caro said in a statement. “I look forward to building on this 153-year legacy and I am excited for the opportunity to collaborate with new partners throughout the region to benefit working adults, businesses and the regional economy.”

Caro comes to the college from Thomas Edison State University in Trenton, also known for its focus on working adult students, where she was vice president of enrollment management and learner services after serving in numerous administrative positions since 2004. Prior to her career in academia, Caro spent 25 years as an executive at AT&T.

In a statement, board of trustees chair Barbara Prutzman said Caro is “uniquely equipped to lead the college into the future, as Peirce continues to serve the evolving needs of non-traditional students and the region’s employers,” she said, pointing to her blended background in business and education. “She is deeply qualified to build upon Peirce’s legacy of academic innovation and to further develop connections in the Philadelphia business community that meet the needs of our students, the city, and the region.”

Mergiotti announced his retirement plans about a year ago, saying that after nine years leading the college, he felt it was time for him and his wife Debbie to move into their “third act” in life and dedicate more time to the anti-poverty organizations with which they work. Initially he said he’d depart in June of this year but Caro will start in her position on April 16. A spokesman for the school said Mergiotti has always been willing to shift that date for the right person, and he plans to work closely with Caro until April.

During his time at Peirce, Mergiotti expanded the college's focus on growing fields like business, health care and information technology. Over the past decade, it's added

programs in accounting, criminal justice, health care administration, legal studies and more. In 2013, Peirce rolled out its first master's degree program, Organizational Leadership and Management, and debuted its Healthcare Administration graduate program last year.

Under Mergiotti's leadership Peirce also ramped up a focus on **workforce development** by establishing the Office of Institutional Advancement and Strategic Partnerships so it can work with the region's major employers and industries to craft the school's offering and provide an education-to-work talent pipeline. Its investment portfolio doubled and net assets rose 23 percent during Mergiotti's tenure.

In a statement, Mergiotti said he expects that progress to continue under Caro as her "expertise and vision will provide the perfect ingredients to expand on the great work of the Peirce community."

"I am very enthusiastic about the college's future under her direction and delighted that an executive of her caliber will be joining the leadership ranks in our region."

Title: Dr. Mary Ellen Caro Named First Woman President and CEO of Peirce College

Author: PR Newswire

Link: <https://supportforstepdads.com/pr-newswire/?rkey=20180228PH23486&filter=5933>

Date: February 28, 2018

Dr. Mary Ellen Caro, an experienced higher education leader and business executive with extensive knowledge in cross-sector partnerships, workforce development, and the needs of working adult students, has been unanimously elected by the Board of Trustees as Peirce College's eighth president.

On April 16, 2018, Caro will succeed James J. Mergiotti, who announced his retirement from the College last year after serving as its President and CEO since 2009. Caro becomes the first woman to hold the position in Peirce's 153-year history.

"In Dr. Caro, we found someone uniquely equipped to lead the College into the future, as Peirce continues to serve the evolving needs of non-traditional students and the region's employers," said Barbara A. Prutzman, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "Her many accomplishments, as both an educator and business professional, have prepared Dr. Caro for the challenge of guiding the College through the changing higher education landscape. She is deeply qualified to build upon Peirce's legacy of academic innovation and to further develop connections in the Philadelphia business community that meet the needs of our students, the city, and the region."

Caro is currently Vice President of Enrollment Management and Learner Services at Thomas Edison State University in Trenton, N.J. An institution of more than 17,000 students, Thomas Edison, like Peirce, is focused on serving adult learners. Caro is responsible for a wide range of functions, including student affairs; strategic corporate and military partnerships; marketing; and enrollment management. She previously held other leadership positions at Thomas Edison, including Executive Vice Provost, Associate Provost and founding Dean of the School of Business and Management.

Caro joined Thomas Edison in 2004 after a 25-year career at AT&T, where she progressed through several executive positions, culminating as Vice President in AT&T Business Services managing a global portfolio of more than \$1 billion with Fortune 100 clients.

"Peirce College is an integral piece of the puzzle for workforce development and adult degree attainment in Philadelphia," Caro said. "I look forward to building on this 153-year legacy and I am excited for the opportunity to collaborate with new partners throughout the region to benefit working adults, businesses and the regional economy."

Caro completed her doctorate in Higher Education Management at the University of Pennsylvania, focusing her dissertation on partnerships between business and higher education. In addition, she earned a Master of Science in Management from Stanford University, where she was an AT&T Sloan Fellow; a Master of Science in Applied Statistics from Rutgers University; and a Bachelor of Arts from the College of Saint Elizabeth, where she majored in Mathematics and Sociology.

Recently, the City of Philadelphia, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, and the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey have strengthened their focus on building a more equitable economic ecosystem through cross-sector workforce development programs and skills-focused education partnerships. Peirce College has been a key participant in these regional conversations and initiatives and Caro's focus on partnership development is well-aligned with Peirce's critical role in this space.

"Dr. Caro's expertise and vision will provide the perfect ingredients to expand on the great work of the Peirce community," Mergiotti said. "I am very enthusiastic about the College's future under her direction and delighted that an executive of her caliber will be joining the leadership ranks in our region."

About Peirce College

Founded in 1865, Peirce College has been providing working adults with affordable education, flexible classes, and personalized support for more than 150 years. Peirce offers bachelor and associate degree programs in the areas of Business, Healthcare, Information Technology, and Legal Studies, and Master of Science degrees in Healthcare Administration and Organizational Leadership & Management, all designed to meet modern workforce demands. Located in the heart of Philadelphia, Peirce is a non-profit institution that specializes in serving the unique needs of working adults through both online and on campus education. In 2015, Peirce took life-friendly learning and degree attainment to the next level with the creation of Peirce Fit[®], a revolutionary learning format that allows students to choose each week whether to attend class in person or online. Through competency-based education in Peirce's IT program, students may also choose a faster, more affordable path to a degree. Peirce College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market St. Philadelphia, PA 19104 (267-284-5000). Additionally, select programs are accredited by The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs, the American Bar Association and the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education.

Title: Dr. Mary Ellen Caro Named First Woman President and CEO of Peirce College

Author: citybizlist

Link: <http://citybizlist.com/article/468198/dr-mary-ellen-caro-named-first-woman-president-and-ceo-of-peirce-college>

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