

RIDER EQUITY BUZZ

THE EQUITY OFFICE NEWSLETTER

Dec 2020



WELCH ELEM IS “UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS NATIONAL BANNER RECIPIENT”

For the second time in as many months a CRSD school has received the honor of being recognized as a Unified Champion School. Maj. George S. Welch Elementary was recently recognized as a Unified Champion Schools National Banner recipient. Welch is one of three Delaware schools receiving the honor and one of 155 schools nationally recognized. Welch Elementary will have a banner on display from Special Olympics North America to signify this accomplishment.

“The staff and students of Welch Elementary do all that they can to provide an inclusive environment for all. It is an honor to be recognized for our efforts and an accomplishment we are very proud of.”

- Jason Payne, Principal



THE EQUITY CORNER

Education is about developing relationships! Relationships between the educators and the students; the educators and the parents of students; and students and the subject matter.

Students need to be able to see themselves in the people that educate them.

Educators need to understand the “students” are the “why!” It is necessary to understand that each student represents a unique set of circumstances and experiences.

Diverse educators benefit “ALL” students, not just minority students. Our students will one day compete in a global marketplace for jobs and leisure. Diverse learning environments will aid in the process of acclimating to a diverse society.

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Associated Press, [Feb. 22,] 1956. New York World-Telegram & Sun Collection. Prints & Photographs Division

Sitting For Change Rosa Parks' Arrest Spurs Action

On December 1, 1955, during a typical evening rush hour in Montgomery, Alabama, a 42-year-old woman took a seat on the bus on her way home from the Montgomery Fair department store where she worked as a seamstress. Before she reached her destination, she quietly set off a social revolution when the bus driver instructed her to move back, and she refused.

In police custody, Mrs. Parks was booked, fingerprinted, and briefly incarcerated. For openly challenging the racial laws of her city, she remained at great physical risk while held by the police, and her family was terrified for her. For a quiet act of defiance that resonated throughout the world, Rosa Parks is known and revered as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement." [Learn more](#)

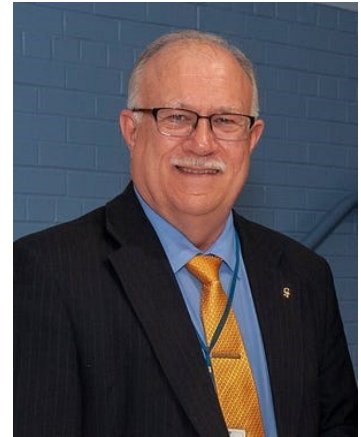
McBride Breaks Gender Barrier

The election of Sara McBride to the Delaware General Assembly in Delaware's Senate District 1 was groundbreaking as she will become the first openly transgender state senator in the country when sworn in. Sara McBride joins several other transgender legislators around the country but will be the first transgender state senator.

In a statement to the Associated Press McBride said "It is my hope that a young LGBTQ kid here in Delaware or really anywhere in this country can look at the results and know that our democracy is big enough for them, too."

Other Delaware firsts for the LGBTQ+ community during the recent election included Marie Pinkney who identifies as queer and is the first openly queer woman elected to the legislature and Eric Morrison became the first openly gay man elected to the General Assembly. [Learn more](#)

Superintendent of the Year



Caesar Rodney's own, Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald was recently named the 2020-2021 Delaware Superintendent of the Year by the Delaware Association of School Administrators. The award makes Dr. Fitzgerald eligible for recognition by the National Superintendent of the Year Program.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Fitzgerald on this award. [Learn more](#)



AP Photo/Jason Minto

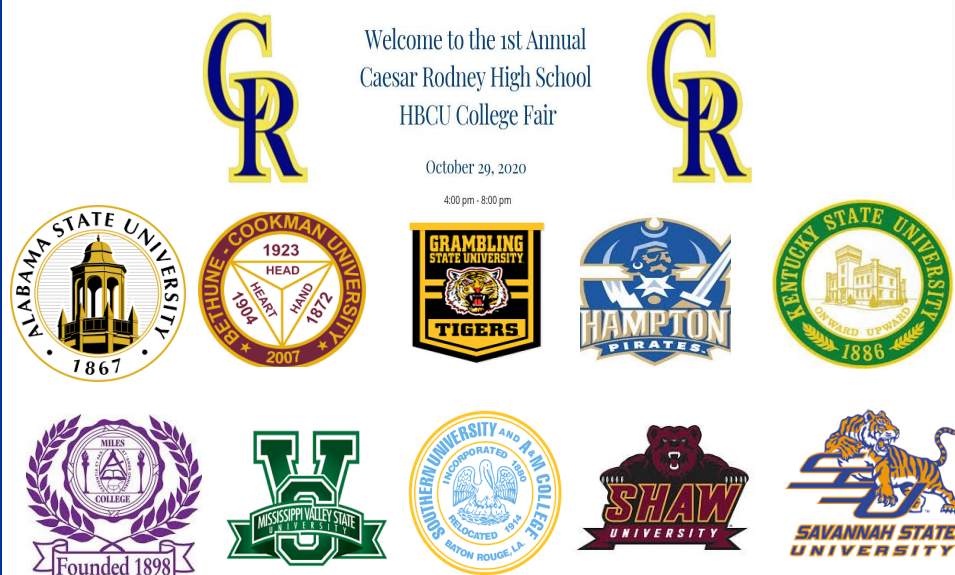
Historically Black Colleges & Universities

Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) were established to serve the educational needs of black Americans. Prior to the time of their establishment, and for many years afterwards, blacks were generally denied admission to traditionally white institutions. As a result, HBCUs became the principle means for providing postsecondary education to black Americans.

Prior to the Civil War, there was no structured higher education system for black students. Public policy and certain statutory provisions prohibited the education of blacks in various parts of the nation. The Institute for Colored Youth, the first higher education institution for blacks, was founded in Cheyney, Pennsylvania, in 1837. It was followed by two other black institutions--Lincoln University, in Pennsylvania (1854), and Wilberforce University, in Ohio (1856). [Learn More](#)

Though designed to serve African American students, HBCUs were the only institutions in America that were constitutionally bound to serve "all" students regardless of color, race, or creed prior to the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas Supreme Court decision in '54.

CRHS HBCU College Fair



CRHS HOSTS VIRTUAL HBCU FAIR

On October 29, 2020 the faculty of Caesar Rodney High School conducted their inaugural [Historically Black Colleges and Universities \(HBCU\) Fair](#). The fair was held virtually with more than 60 colleges participating, with local, regional, and national representation. Among the participating institutions participating were: Delaware State University (Dover, DE); Bethune Cookman College (Tallahassee, FL); Alcorn State University (Lorman, MS); Hampton University (Hampton, VA); Grambling State University (Grambling, LA); Morris College (Sumpter, SC); and Coppin State University.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities were founded to meet the educational needs of African American students during the American Pre-Civil Rights Era. Though designed to serve African American students, HBCUs were the only institutions in America that were constitutionally bound to serve "all" students regardless of color, race, or creed prior to the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas Supreme Court decision in '54.

CR High School Assistant Principal Kristin Hannah estimated there were between 70-80 student participants at the event. "The event was well received. Based on feedback, next year, we are going to try to make the sessions longer, incorporate 2-year HBCU's and hopefully do some in-person visits if possible" said Ms. Hannah.

LOOKING AHEAD

January 9: National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day was founded in 2015 as a way to thank officers across the country for all the daily sacrifices they make for the communities they serve and protect, and to spread encouragement and respect to these dedicated men and women. [Learn more](#)

January 20: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. The birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated on the third Monday in January. . [Learn more](#)

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January 25: Lunar New Year, Also known as the Spring Festival or Chinese New Year. [Learn more](#)

Contact Us

Give me a call for more information about equity and diversity items and ideas.

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