

Camden Community Charter Officially Launched with Community and Family Support

Mayor Redd, Council President Moran, Senator Norcross, and other Public Officials Hail New School's Potential



L – R: Assemblyman Angel Fuentes, Council President Frank Moran, Assemblyman Gilbert Wilson, Senator Donald Norcross, Board Members Marlene Frane and Peter Seltzer, Mayor Dana Redd, Board Chairman Ed George, CSMI CEO Vahan Gureghian, and CSMI General Counsel Danielle Gureghian, at the September 24th Ribbon Cutting for Camden Community Charter School

Camden, N.J. – September 24, 2013 – Camden Mayor Dana Redd led a host of community leaders in officially welcoming Camden Community Charter School to the community.

Mayor Redd expressed her thanks to Camden Community Charter School Board President Ed George, and to CSMI Founder Vahan Gureghian, for having the vision that will transform north Camden.

Senator Donald Norcross, speaking at the ceremony, commented that, “Today is about transformation. A short time ago this was nothing but vacant ground ... Now we have seen a transformation from that vacant lot to a safe haven for children.”

The campus now consists of a brand new, state of the art classroom building and a separate gym building, with plans for an additional classroom building as the school expands to as much as 900 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The facility is a safe, secure learning environment featuring the latest in security technology.

The school emphasizes a whole child approach that not only includes rigorous academics but developing the necessary skills to be engaged and successful citizens. The school is attacking

the digital divide – the widespread lack of access to the Internet and other digital technologies common to underprivileged communities.

As announced last spring, students will have free computers and their families free broadband Internet access. “I want every child that walks through our doors to know first, that if they work hard, this school will provide them with the skills they need to compete and succeed anywhere in the world,” said the school’s principal, Dr. Cheryl Smith.

Edmond George, President of the Board, Camden Community Charter School talked about the uniqueness of the business-minded approach of CSMI --the company that manages the school -- employing a philosophy of unburdening educators of administrative functions so they can focus on academics and giving the children what they need.

George also praised Vahan and Danielle Gureghian, without whom this school would not exist. “It’s not just their generosity, but their commitment and passion to our children, that is most remarkable and appreciated. I once asked Vahan why he takes these risks and Vahan said to me, ‘It’s a bigger risk not to.’”