

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Monday, April 30, 2018
1:10 p.m.

PRESENT:
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN AL TAUBENBERGER

RESOLUTIONS 171025 and 180050

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good
3 afternoon. Thank you all for being here.
4 We will call the Education Committee into
5 session with regard to Resolutions 171025
6 and 180050.

7 Councilman Taubenberger, who
8 introduced these resolutions, is joining
9 me, and we're going to start. And we're
10 very, very happy to be here, because
11 these are issues we need to talk about as
12 much as we can considering that it's
13 Campus Philly and Graduate! Philadelphia.
14 So we're very, very happy to have them
15 come and have them testify.

16 We'll ask the Clerk to read the
17 title of both resolutions.

18 THE CLERK: 171025, resolution
19 authorizing the Committee on Education to
20 hold hearings regarding Campus Philly and
21 their efforts towards fueling the
22 economic growth in Philadelphia and their
23 efforts towards increasing the retention
24 rates of college students; and

25 180050, resolution authorizing

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2 the Committee on Education to hold
3 hearings regarding Graduate!
4 Philadelphia, a non-profit that supports
5 adults who have some college credit and
6 no degree to go back to school to get
7 their diploma. The adults who return
8 back to school to start or finish their
9 college education have come to be known
10 as "Comebackers."

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay.
12 Thank you very much.

13 Panel 1, Heloise Jettison,
14 Senior Director, Department of Commerce;
15 Deborah Diamond, President, Campus
16 Philly; Barbara Mattleman, Executive
17 Director, Graduate! Philadelphia.

18 (Witnesses approached witness
19 table.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We're
21 going to call on the resolutions'
22 sponsor, Councilman Taubenberger, to make
23 an opening statement and then we will
24 call on you to begin in any order you
25 choose.

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2 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Madam
3 Chair, thank you very much.

4 I want to thank everyone that
5 is here today. I definitely want to
6 thank Councilwoman Blackwell for her
7 leadership on this issue, because I know
8 we work together on a number of things in
9 education and it is greatly appreciated
10 from this Council, but I also want to
11 thank you very much because I appreciate
12 your time and your busy schedule to share
13 your thoughts on what we ought to be
14 doing, because this is important work,
15 being able to retain college students who
16 come here. I mean, we have done it
17 pretty well. A couple of our political
18 leaders, elected officials have come from
19 other places. Former Mayor and former
20 Governor Ed Rendell from New York City,
21 went to University of Pennsylvania and
22 stayed. United States Senator Arlen
23 Specter came from Kansas to the
24 University of Pennsylvania and stayed.
25 And they're just a couple stories. There

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2 are many, many others, and I'm sure some
3 of them will come out today.

4 So having a discussion on this
5 point of view so what we can do to
6 improve and make this better, and every
7 once in a while Philadelphia is on the
8 cutting edge, and it seems in my
9 discussion with both Barbara and Deborah
10 is, I think we are getting folks to go
11 back to college. That is a yeoman's
12 task, and it can only help.

13 The more knowledge we all have
14 as individuals, the better people we can
15 be for not just for the City but for all
16 of humanity.

17 So I thank you, and thank you
18 for the opening comment that I could
19 make.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
21 you very much.

22 Good afternoon again, and
23 please begin your testimony in the order
24 you choose.

25 MS. JETTISON: Good afternoon,

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2 Councilwoman Blackwell, Councilman

3 Taubenberger, and members of the

4 Committee on Education. I am Heloise

5 Jettison and I'm the Senior Director for

6 Employer Engagement and Talent

7 Development in the Office of Workforce

8 Development in the Commerce Department.

9 I am here today to offer my testimony in

10 support of Campus Philly, Resolution No.

11 171025, regarding their efforts towards

12 fueling the economic growth in

13 Philadelphia and their efforts towards

14 increasing the retention of college

15 students and in support of Graduate!

16 Philadelphia, Resolution 180050,

17 regarding their efforts as a non-profit

18 that supports adults who have some

19 college credit and/or no degree to go

20 back to school to get their diploma and

21 for adults who return back to college to

22 start or finish their college education

23 and become known as "Comebackers."

24 The Department of Commerce

25 provides significant funding for Campus

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2 Philly and Graduate! Philadelphia
3 annually. This support is a testament to
4 the commitment the City has to these
5 organizations that are direct anecdotes
6 and pipelines towards the economic health
7 and the development of our city.

8 Campus Philly has provided
9 high-quality, innovative, and effective
10 activities for college students for the
11 past 14 years. The progressive success
12 of their activities have impacted the
13 experience of college students new to
14 Philadelphia and those native to
15 Philadelphia alike. The goals Campus
16 Philadelphia sets annually as an
17 organization includes engaging and
18 partnering with our college and
19 universities, corporate partners and,
20 most importantly, the communities in
21 Philadelphia. These partnerships and
22 their steadfast, relentless focus on the
23 college experience for our young people
24 is the reason why their organization has
25 thrived and continues to add talent to

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2 our region annually.

3 The Campus Philly platform and
4 mission support the fact that 67 percent
5 of current college students report that
6 they want to stay in the greater
7 Philadelphia area and that 4,815 college
8 students actively pursuing the over 900
9 internships and entry-level positions
10 posted on their website that is readily
11 available and accessible for all students
12 and free for the business community.

13 These two statistics alone, among the
14 many recorded, is why the Department of
15 Commerce is invested in their success and
16 continued presence.

17 In a time when the economic
18 health and welfare of our business
19 community is as important as the ability
20 to have a talent pool to source from,
21 Campus Philly has provided a way for
22 students who are educated here, stay,
23 thrive, and grow in Philadelphia. This
24 serves Philadelphia well as a whole and
25 makes the business community confident in

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2 what Philadelphia can offer in the form
3 of prepared college-educated talent.

4 Deborah Diamond and her team of
5 staff are incredibly sharp, thorough, and
6 in tune with the needs of college
7 students. They also have the added
8 credibility to attract and retain their
9 40 corporate partners and 34 college and
10 university partners while continuously
11 utilizing analytics and assessments of
12 their events to continue the positive
13 impact they have had to date.

14 Finally, Campus Philly as an
15 entity has gained recognition across the
16 state, and their formula for success with
17 college students is being sought after by
18 other cities that want the same
19 measurable results.

20 Graduate! Philadelphia is an
21 organization that is mission-focused on
22 helping adults who have some college
23 credit and no degree, they call them
24 Comebackers, go back to school to achieve
25 success academically, financially, and

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2 professionally by providing expert
3 support, counseling, and resources. The
4 most impressive and consistent feature of
5 Graduate is that they meet the
6 participant where they are and look at
7 the individual in a holistic manner from
8 a strength-based perspective. But it
9 involves advising our resident on how
10 they can get back into school and finish
11 their college education. Graduate has a
12 long and successful track record that
13 spans back to 2008 when advising services
14 for Comebackers was first offered, and
15 further back to 2005 when the concept of
16 supporting adults was created in response
17 to the thousands of Philadelphians who
18 had not achieved a degree and were
19 effectively barred from getting jobs that
20 paid family-sustaining wages.

21 Graduate has also been very
22 focused on the workforce and economic
23 development approach for residents that
24 are criminal justice involved and
25 veterans as it relates to ensuring they

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2 have the opportunity, skills, and
3 education that will match their
4 abilities, interests, and preparation
5 with those the business communities are
6 in need of. At the same time, they work
7 efficiently to provide the best path and
8 options to ensure that a two-year or
9 four-year degree is obtained with the
10 least amount of debt.

11 Graduate! Philadelphia as a
12 cohesive organization, led by Barbara
13 Mattleman, sets clear goals,
14 partnerships, and objectives that have
15 put them ahead in terms of working with
16 adults. They are present in all four of
17 the PA CareerLink Centers; conduct
18 monthly adult college fairs and two large
19 annual resource fairs; provide a
20 quarterly informative newsletter; and
21 engage in multiple community-based events
22 monthly to reach our residents from all
23 walks of life. They also work closely
24 with the faith-based community to extend
25 their reach to the over 80,000

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2 Philadelphians who have some credit and
3 no degree.

4 In addition to the systemic
5 efforts around engaging with employers
6 and providing college reengagement and
7 degree completion support to City
8 residents and employees, the direct
9 services provided to Comebackers is one
10 of the most notable qualities of
11 Graduate! Philadelphia. In Calendar Year
12 2017, their outreach activities included
13 11 Graduate! Philadelphia adult college
14 fairs, 13 Graduate! Philadelphia
15 workshops for Comebackers, 14 community
16 fairs, 60 CareerLink Center
17 presentations, and 54 presentations and
18 workshops.

19 In total, 15,912 adults
20 received information from Graduate!
21 Philadelphia services at these events,
22 which resulted in 2,190 individual
23 conversations and over 1,000 adults
24 registered with the organization.

25 In 2017 alone, there were 1,379

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2 Comebackers enrolled in college, 508
3 actually enrolled in 2017, and 515
4 Comebackers in the pre-enrolled stage.
5 Also, 212 Comebackers received college
6 degrees overall. The high-quality
7 one-on-one advising and their
8 accessibility are hallmarks of the
9 organization, and they are a solidly
10 consistent contributor to a skilled and
11 prepared talent pool in Philadelphia.

12 In closing, Campus Philly and
13 Graduate! Philadelphia are extremely
14 valuable resources for the citizens of
15 Philadelphia and college students that
16 move here to attend one of our
17 institutions of higher learning. The
18 impact that these organizations,
19 individually and collectively, have on
20 the economic and talent landscape is a
21 great asset for Philadelphia. They
22 continue to make great strides in their
23 work on behalf of our residents and for
24 the betterment of the City.

25 Thank you for allowing me to

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2 provide this testimony in support of
3 Campus Philly and Graduate! Philadelphia.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
5 you very much.

6 We would like to have each of
7 you testify before we ask any questions.
8 Thank you.

9 MS. DIAMOND: Thank you to
10 Chairwoman Blackwell and Councilman
11 Taubenberger for sponsoring this hearing
12 and to other members of the Education
13 Committee and City Council for your time
14 and attention, and thanks to Heloise
15 Jettison and the support of the Commerce
16 Department of the City of Philadelphia.
17 My name is Deborah Diamond and I am the
18 President of Campus Philly. I'm pleased
19 to have this opportunity to tell you
20 about Campus Philly's mission, our
21 service to students, and our impact.

22 Campus Philly was founded in
23 2004 as an independent non-profit, after
24 a number of years as an initiative that
25 produced an annual City welcome to

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2 college students called CollegeFest. I
3 have led the organization since 2010.
4 Our mission is to help college students
5 in the region fall in love with
6 Philadelphia and launch their lives and
7 careers here after they graduate. We
8 serve more than 27,000 students annually
9 in programs that bring them to our arts
10 and culture programs, our neighborhoods,
11 and our employers for internships and
12 jobs.

13 Campus Philly operates through
14 partnerships with the City, colleges and
15 universities, employers, and cultural and
16 civic organizations. You'll be hearing
17 from each of these constituencies in the
18 testimony that follows.

19 We partner with 34 colleges and
20 universities, including most of the
21 schools in the City of Philadelphia,
22 regional schools like Swarthmore, Lehigh,
23 and Ursinus, and out-of-state schools
24 like Rutgers Camden and the University of
25 Delaware. A list of all of our partner

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2 schools appears in the annual report that
3 each person has in their packet.

4 All 34 schools, whether they
5 are located in the City or outside of it,
6 see the gravitational pull of the City of
7 Philadelphia for their students. They
8 see the vibrancy, cultural opportunities,
9 diversity, and employment opportunities
10 the City offers, and they want their
11 students to share in that. We are the
12 vehicle for making that happen. For our
13 34 college and university partners, we
14 function as the off-campus student
15 activities and career service office for
16 the entire City of Philadelphia. When I
17 arrived at Campus Philly, there were 15
18 of these partners. That there are now 34
19 college and universities participating is
20 testament to the fact that Philadelphia
21 is the place young people want to be, and
22 Campus Philly makes that happen.

23 Our programs focus in three
24 areas: exploring Philadelphia,
25 developing students as leaders, and

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2 providing access to internships and jobs.
3 In each of these three areas, we see
4 strong and growing participation by
5 students from the City and the suburbs.

6 CollegeFest, our annual welcome
7 event for the region's college students,
8 sees more than 5,000 student attendees
9 and includes 14 free museums and free
10 Phlash transportation the first Saturday
11 after Labor Day each year.

12 Open Arts provide free access
13 to arts and culture and includes 5,511
14 student members and close to 1,000
15 attendees at our annual College Night
16 events.

17 Our annual student leadership
18 conference in collaboration with Temple
19 University saw 359 students this past
20 year for a day-long conference with
21 workshops to hone their leadership skills
22 and learn about off-campus leadership
23 opportunity.

24 Our Student Leaders Network
25 includes 441 students from 34 schools who

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2 volunteer and learn about neighborhood
3 engagement opportunities.

4 Our internship and jobs program
5 include five to six in-person events for
6 students, employers, and young
7 professionals, and they see close to
8 2,000 participants each year.

9 Finally, our free online job
10 and internship platform includes close to
11 5,000 student users and features around
12 1,000 internship and job opportunities at
13 any given time.

14 Our guiding principle in
15 creating these programs is what generates
16 attachment to Philadelphia and a path to
17 opportunity. Our research shows that
18 we've been effective in creating both for
19 students.

20 One-third of the students we
21 serve are first-generation students,
22 those who often lack the networks and
23 connections that students need to thrive
24 professionally. We create those
25 connections and networks for these

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2 students through our in-person networking
3 events with employers, our on-campus
4 workshops to hone networking and soft
5 skills, and even head shot services to
6 make sure that every student can present
7 him or herself professionally on LinkedIn
8 and other sites at no cost.

9 Employers say that they value
10 work experience even more than a high
11 grade point average or a specific major
12 when they're looking for employees.
13 Campus Philly's focus on internships
14 includes 4,895 students who use our
15 online platform to find internships and
16 approximately 1,000 internships posted at
17 any given time. About 15 percent of
18 students and employers match for an
19 internship through our platform. The
20 service is free for both employers and
21 students, and more than 60 percent of the
22 opportunities on the platform are paid.

23 Our research shows that 64
24 percent of college students stay in the
25 region after they graduate, much higher

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2 than the 42 percent of students
3 nationally who stay in their college
4 town.

5 Non-native college students,
6 those who came from outside the region,
7 now stay in much greater numbers, from 29
8 percent in 2004 to 51 percent in 2014.

9 Philadelphians between the ages
10 of 25 to 34 holding college degrees have
11 gone up 98 percent between 2005 and 2016,
12 making Philadelphia a better-educated
13 city.

14 We are committed to ensuring
15 that Philadelphia's growth in population
16 and prosperity continues in an equitable
17 and inclusive way. Our partners range
18 from four-year private schools to the
19 region's community colleges. Our
20 programs are one of the few places that
21 students from all types of institutions
22 meet and connect. Our goal is to ensure
23 that every student, from Philadelphia or
24 new to Philadelphia, living at home or
25 living on campus, first generation or

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2 not, has access to enrichment off campus,
3 employer networks, and job opportunity.

4 We look forward to working with each of
5 you to meet our goal and serve the
6 students of our city.

7 Thanks very much.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
9 you.

10 Ms. Mattleman.

11 MS. MATTLEMAN: Good afternoon.

12 I think you know by now my name is
13 Barbara Mattleman. I'm the Executive
14 Director of Graduate! Philadelphia.
15 Thank you so much to Councilwoman and
16 Education Chair Blackwell and Councilman
17 Al Taubenberger for introducing a
18 resolution in City Council today
19 recognizing the work of Graduate!
20 Philadelphia. I'm so happy to be here to
21 tell you about our services. I also want
22 to thank Heloise Jettison from the City's
23 Commerce Department, who is an amazing
24 support to us, and congratulate Deborah
25 Diamond and her team from Campus Philly,

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2 who also is one of our partners. So
3 we're all really happy to be here.

4 Graduate! Philadelphia is an
5 organization that works with Comebackers,
6 adults who have some college credit who
7 want to complete their degree. In
8 Philadelphia, there are 80,000 adults in
9 this position, and our goal is to help
10 anyone who wants to get their diploma.

11 Since we started offering
12 advising services in 2008, Graduate!
13 Philadelphia has helped over 7,600 adults
14 return to college, with 1,283 degrees
15 conferred. At present, we have 1,500
16 adults re-enrolled back in college and
17 another 553 in the pipeline.

18 Seventy-eight percent of the
19 Comebackers we serve are African American
20 and 74 percent are female. Eighty-three
21 percent are ages 19 to 55, and 80 percent
22 earn less than \$42,000. I want to
23 emphasize that, 80 percent earn less than
24 \$42,000, 45 percent earn less than
25 \$24,000.

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2 Our Comebackers are amazing.

3 They are motivated to return to complete
4 their degree, but they need some
5 preparatory work in order to be
6 successful and supports to make sure they
7 stay in school and complete their degree.
8 Our free one-on-one advising services are
9 provided to students from their first
10 inquiry all the way through degree
11 completion.

12 We lead a consortium of nine
13 regional colleges with proven success in
14 their adult-focused programming, such as
15 online learning, accelerated classes,
16 acceptance of prior credits, and
17 knowledge. These colleges partner in
18 providing services and tracking outcome
19 data. We are the only organization in
20 the region that solely focuses on
21 Comebackers.

22 Graduate! Philadelphia has
23 changed the public framing of adults
24 completing college from a narrative of
25 personal failure to one of talent

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2 potential. Helping adults complete
3 college and, relatedly, a new focus on
4 college retention and completion for
5 traditional college students is now on
6 economic development agendas throughout
7 the region. This is certainly the case
8 in Philadelphia.

9 According to the Lumina
10 Foundation study, by 2020 two-thirds of
11 all jobs will require a college
12 credential. Helping an adult complete a
13 two- or four-year college degree allows
14 them to find a better job in good and bad
15 economic times. And a major risk for
16 dropping out of high school is not having
17 an adult in the home with a college
18 degree. Therefore, every adult that we
19 help complete college helps the young
20 people in their lives complete high
21 school and college. So as you can see,
22 although we help adults complete college,
23 our work is really about helping
24 families.

25 Adults who have a college

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2 degree are happier, healthier, pay more
3 taxes, commit less crime, and require
4 less taxpayer assistance. Having a
5 degree directly correlates to employment.
6 In Philadelphia, which has one of the
7 highest poverty rates in the country,
8 this issue is even more important.

9 To accomplish our work, we
10 don't wait for Comebackers to come to us.
11 We go into the communities and find them.
12 Last year, as Heloise mentioned, we did
13 127 presentations and workshops, hosted
14 11 adult college fairs, and participated
15 in 14 community fairs. In total, we
16 reached out to 15,912 adults.

17 Our monthly adult college fairs
18 always include a presentation on how to
19 finance a college degree as well as a
20 presentation on career pathways. We know
21 it's not enough to just encourage adults
22 to go back to school. We need to help
23 them navigate their career pathway so
24 that when they do re-enroll, they're
25 taking classes in fields where they know

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2 what jobs will be available where they
3 can earn family-sustaining wages.

4 Graduate! Philadelphia offers
5 advising services at all of the
6 Philadelphia CareerLink offices for just
7 this reason. Adults go to CareerLink
8 Centers to get help finding a job, many
9 of which require a college degree.

10 Graduate's advisors can help them figure
11 out the best academic program and
12 learning module to fit their specific
13 needs so they can go back to school and
14 then be qualified to get a decent job.

15 In addition, over the past two years, we
16 have made it a priority to work with
17 veterans who can get their military
18 experience translated into college
19 credit, bringing them closer to getting a
20 college degree. We are also focusing on
21 supporting returning citizens, many of
22 whom have received college credit while
23 incarcerated and want to complete their
24 degree when they come home.

25 Last fall, we created a

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2 Faith-Based Advisory Council comprised of
3 the leadership of 15 churches in the
4 area. Together we have been meeting to
5 strategize on how to reach out to their
6 congregants who have some credit and no
7 degree. This May, in partnership with
8 our Advisory Council members, we'll be
9 hosting The Concert for Comebackers.
10 This gospel music extravaganza will be an
11 afternoon of music and education, with
12 the opportunities for Comebackers to talk
13 to our advisors as well as our college
14 partners about how they can go back to
15 school. Initial response to the concert
16 has been fantastic, and we are already
17 looking to make this an annual event.
18 Additionally, in the fall, we will be
19 bringing our college partners together
20 with our faith-based partners to see how
21 they can work together for the good of
22 all Philadelphians.

23 It is a great honor for
24 Graduate! Philadelphia to be recognized
25 for our work helping the thousands of

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2 Comebackers go back to school to complete
3 their degree. Special thanks to all of
4 the City Council members who have
5 included our office in their events and
6 have spread the word about our services.
7 We value your partnership and support and
8 look forward to working together in the
9 future.

10 Thanks so much.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
12 you very much for the excellent testimony
13 and the excellent programs that you have.

14 Councilman Taubenberger.

15 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Madam
16 Chair, thank you.

17 I have a couple of questions
18 for each of the participants.

19 Ms. Jettison, from the
20 standpoint of the Department of Commerce
21 and as you see it, what is the one thing
22 the City of Philadelphia could do to help
23 both organizations? Because I think what
24 we've seen here -- and it will come up
25 further -- we're doing pretty good. I

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2 mean, it's a great program, but we have
3 to make it better, because to say in the
4 sense of my philosophy, to be America's
5 largest poorest city, that ain't good.
6 That's not the place you want to be ever
7 or anywhere close to it.

8 So your thoughts on what we
9 could do, one thing on both programs,
10 what would you do, if it were totally --
11 you wave the magic wand.

12 MS. JETTISON: Well, of course
13 I would say more funding if I could wave
14 a magic wand, but I think beyond that, to
15 continue to help both programs brand and
16 market the opportunity so more and more
17 individuals know about their programs.
18 They do a great job, but there are
19 pockets of neighborhoods and smaller
20 communities that aren't able to access
21 even the CareerLink Centers to get
22 connected and some of the other
23 opportunities. The more we get it out
24 there to, again, those pockets of our
25 city that just don't hear the information

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2 in creative ways, whether it's social
3 media or a very unique corridor
4 information or different places to post
5 opportunities and make that connection, I
6 think that would just take this to the
7 next level.

8 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Ms.
9 Jettison, that is very, very good advice,
10 and I thank you.

11 Ms. Mattleman, if I could ask,
12 the City has made a commitment to
13 supporting returning citizens. How is
14 Graduate! Philadelphia working with that
15 population on a more specific? I like
16 the idea of a concert, don't get me
17 wrong, but...

18 MS. MATTLEMAN: Well, we can
19 have returning citizens at our concert as
20 well.

21 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER:
22 That's a good thing, but, I mean, I get
23 that. What else?

24 MS. MATTLEMAN: Yeah. Well, we
25 started looking at the number of

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2 returning citizens that get college
3 credit while incarcerated, and we saw
4 that it's a great number, but where do
5 they go when they come home. So we have
6 connected with a number of organizations,
7 including the federal Department of
8 Justice, and they say that if you are in
9 school, they can decrease your time on
10 parole. So that's been really important
11 for us to connect with.

12 We also have been working with
13 the Reentry Coalition through the City of
14 Philadelphia. There's a group of 50
15 organizations or more throughout the City
16 that work with returning citizens to find
17 ways to connect with them. Not so easy
18 to do, because what we're trying to focus
19 on now is connecting to people while they
20 are incarcerated so they can start making
21 plans once they get out. One of the
22 difficulties is that when you're
23 incarcerated, if you're taking a college
24 class, you don't have access to the
25 Internet. So we want to make sure that

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2 when someone comes home, that we talk to
3 them and meet them where they are,
4 where's their skill level, what do they
5 want to do, what kind of jobs can they
6 get. Because we don't have ban the box
7 in Philadelphia. You're not supposed to
8 ask a lot of these questions, but many
9 people do, and we want to make sure that
10 we're directing them toward career
11 pathways where they can get a job and
12 they are completing their education in a
13 pathway that is going to lead them to
14 something where they'll be successful.

15 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: You
16 had mentioned the concert, and I think
17 it's a great thing, and you're working
18 with the faith-based community. But what
19 additional things are you doing with the
20 faith-based community? Because I think
21 it's an opportunity where a lot of people
22 are going to, particularly those that
23 want to change their lives.

24 MS. MATTLEMAN: That's
25 absolutely right. And so we started

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2 working with the faith-based community
3 last year, because we kept talking to
4 people about the large numbers that go to
5 area churches and other faith-based
6 centers and we wanted to figure out a way
7 to reach them to tell them about our
8 services. Our services are free. We're
9 not a college. We're not a university.
10 We're a support. So we wanted to make
11 sure, as Heloise put it so nicely, we
12 want to make sure that we're reaching
13 people in their communities. So we want
14 to get the word spread as far as we can.
15 So we're doing the concert as a
16 first step to say if you are somebody who
17 is thinking about going back to school --
18 and others are welcome at the concert as
19 well. We've invited the Mayor's Office
20 of Adult Education to talk about GED
21 services. We've invited
22 PhillyGoes2College to talk to people who
23 maybe have no college credit who want to
24 start. So we're saying come to the
25 concert, have a fabulous time, our

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2 college partners will be there.

3 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: The
4 more you spread the word, the more people
5 know. So you can't spread it enough.

6 MS. MATTLEMAN: And we also
7 know that many of our church partners
8 work with people who have addiction
9 issues that are in recovery. They work
10 with returning citizens. So we came up
11 with the idea of holding a summit in the
12 fall where we're going to bring our
13 college partners together with our
14 faith-based partners to say what can we
15 do for you, what do you want from us.

16 One of the issues that we're
17 hearing a lot about nationally and
18 certainly in Philadelphia is people have
19 food insecurities. Many of the
20 faith-based organizations have food
21 pantries and that are open to anyone. So
22 we want to make sure that our college
23 partners know that they can have their
24 students go there. Also some that --

25 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER:

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2 That's a great thing.

3 MS. MATTLEMAN: Some of the
4 faith-based partners are connected to
5 daycare centers. We want to make sure --
6 that's a big barrier for adults going
7 back to school. So maybe they can
8 connect through them. So that's why we
9 want to bring them together, to do a real
10 partnership.

11 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Is
12 there anything you'd want to add in the
13 sense of this: How does Graduate!
14 Philadelphia work in connection to
15 workforce development that we haven't
16 touched on?

17 MS. MATTLEMAN: Well, I think
18 that, just to reiterate, we look at the
19 Commerce Department and the path that
20 they are taking to lead this city in
21 terms of workforce development. Because
22 they're focusing on returning citizens,
23 so are we. Because they're focusing on
24 career pathways, so are we. When they
25 have an event that they do just two weeks

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2 ago for a career exploration for kids in
3 middle and high school, we were there to
4 talk to the adults.

5 So I think it's really
6 important when we talk about workforce
7 development, that we've added a career
8 pathways workshop to every one of our
9 monthly fairs to say this is what you
10 should do when you go back to college.
11 If you're thinking about going in this
12 pathway for this job, take courses like
13 this so you're not taking classes that
14 you don't need. Obviously you can take
15 classes you're interested in, but you
16 should work toward the job that you want
17 to get at the end.

18 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank
19 you very much.

20 MS. MATTLEMAN: Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Ms.
22 Diamond, I have a couple questions for
23 you as well. For me as a City
24 Councilman, what is really -- I see the
25 success. The fact that you're even here,

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2 not here in this building but exist as an
3 organization, is of great success,
4 because I don't believe many cities have
5 anything like this. You can correct me
6 if I'm wrong on that. But what comes
7 next for Campus Philadelphia? And let me
8 ask the rest of the question at once. If
9 the number of residents with Bachelor of
10 Science degrees has doubled in
11 Philadelphia in the past ten years, where
12 is the next opportunity for Campus
13 Philly?

14 MS. DIAMOND: Yeah. I think we
15 see a couple of opportunities. One, when
16 you look at our core mission of
17 traditional-age college students, the
18 21-year-olds that we meet are really the
19 most mobile population in the world.
20 They can go anywhere. We see an
21 opportunity with graduate students in
22 Philadelphia. More schools are offering
23 graduate programs. Those programs are
24 growing, and that population of graduate
25 students, they've often experienced other

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2 cities. They're older. They often have
3 a partner or a spouse that they're with.
4 They might be looking more towards
5 settling down and choosing a place to
6 live, whereas these days 21-year-olds I
7 think do have a more sort of the world is
8 my oyster kind of mindset. And so we
9 would love to start building programs
10 specifically with graduate students in
11 mind. They're welcome at all of our
12 events, but I think the character of what
13 we present to graduate students would be
14 a little bit different than
15 undergraduate. So I see there is an
16 opportunity there. And in those areas as
17 well, the graduate programs that are
18 developing in our region are often more
19 closely tied to the industry needs of our
20 region. So from an undergraduate
21 perspective, you could major in anything
22 and then go anywhere in the world where
23 that background is required. Our
24 graduate programs, which are often
25 medical-oriented, education-oriented, now

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2 they're often data science-oriented,
3 they're more of those, those are growing
4 up in our universities because they see
5 industry demand. So I think there's more
6 opportunity there for matchmaking.

7 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: For
8 higher education leaders, does Campus
9 Philly distinguish Philadelphia as a
10 college town from other cities with a lot
11 of colleges and universities, and if so,
12 in what ways? And I guess one of the big
13 rivals we have, although I believe we
14 exceed them but I'm not certain, would be
15 Boston. Not only are we going to beat
16 them in basketball starting tonight, I
17 think I'd like to beat them in job
18 retention as well.

19 MS. DIAMOND: Yeah. I think it
20 started with the Patriots this winter and
21 I assume it will continue. Yeah.

22 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Oh,
23 it's going to continue.

24 MS. DIAMOND: Yeah. We have a
25 higher rate of college student retention

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2 than Boston does, and there are a variety
3 of reasons for that. And actually
4 Boston, because it's getting to be a more
5 expensive city to live in as well, is
6 facing talent concerns, whether they're
7 going to be losing talent to other
8 regions and other more affordable areas.

9 I think that Philadelphia has
10 the opportunity to distinguish itself in
11 a couple of ways nationally. We are
12 unusual in the number of higher education
13 institutions that we have. We're unusual
14 in the success that we've had retaining
15 those students and doubling the number of
16 young people with college degrees. At
17 the same time, as has been referenced, we
18 have the highest poverty rate of any
19 large city in the country. And so we are
20 at this tipping point where we're seeing
21 growth, but we also clearly have part of
22 our residents and our population that
23 needs to grow along with us, and we have
24 the opportunity to balance that and grow
25 that in an accessible, inclusive, and

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2 equitable way in Philadelphia so that
3 people aren't -- as we grow as a talent
4 city, people aren't placed out of
5 neighborhoods and housing. And I know
6 Council is focusing on all of these
7 issues, because we are at that pivotal
8 moment where our growth isn't yet
9 threatening the sustainability and sort
10 of the wonderful elements of our city and
11 its accessibility, but if we continue to
12 grow, we're going to have to anticipate
13 those changes and address them sooner
14 rather than later.

15 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Let
16 me also ask you, and this is a question
17 really for students, what would help more
18 students learn about Campus Philly so
19 they are as involved off campus as you've
20 been?

21 MS. DIAMOND: Well, there will
22 be some students who will be testifying
23 soon. Certainly we hear about the campus
24 bubble a lot, and we know that students
25 come in many different points of view and

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2 orientations, and some are very eager to
3 get off campus as soon as they arrive,
4 some it takes a while. They want to
5 become comfortable where they are and
6 then explore. And some realize their
7 senior year they better look up and --

8 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Well,
9 it's a great town.

10 MS. DIAMOND: Right. So it
11 comes at all different stages, and what
12 Campus Philly tries to do is to make sure
13 that no matter when that happens to a
14 student, we're there to meet them, which
15 isn't easy, right, because they're coming
16 in every four years and they're all at
17 different points in their readiness to
18 explore.

19 So we're on all social media
20 platforms that student are, and we have a
21 great engagement director who is creating
22 great content, a lot of creative things
23 that are coming out of the team, and we
24 do a lot of conversations, a lot of focus
25 groups, a lot of information-gathering

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2 with the students on the ground to
3 understand what they are, what they need,
4 and how to reach them.

5 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Is
6 there a way -- this is a really personal
7 question because it came from my own
8 expertise, and this is my final question.
9 Is there any way for Campus Philly to get
10 a list or stay in contact with those
11 Philadelphians that actually live in --
12 their parents live or they live or they
13 graduated from a Philadelphia public
14 school, now they're going off to UConn or
15 they're going off to Penn State
16 University or they're going to Pitt or
17 you name the college they're going, but
18 it's not in Philadelphia? Is there any
19 way to kind of stay in contact with them?
20 Once you've gotten your education -- for
21 example, myself, I went to Penn State
22 University. Maybe you ought to take a
23 look at coming back to Philly. Is there
24 any such --

25 MS. DIAMOND: Yeah. It's very

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2 interesting, because when I first came to
3 Campus Philly in 2008, that didn't happen
4 that often, and you can see it happening
5 more and more, that students who are from
6 here and have gone off to school are now
7 looking back to come back to

8 Philadelphia. And so the way we've seen
9 the outreach is not from local residents,
10 but from the schools themselves. So the
11 career service office at the University
12 of Pittsburgh, the career service office
13 at Hofstra University on Long Island have
14 both been in touch with Campus Philly,
15 because what they're seeing are students
16 who are coming into their career service
17 offices and saying, I want a job after I
18 graduate, but I don't want to stay in New
19 York, I don't want to stay in Pittsburgh,
20 I want to go back to Philadelphia. And
21 so they find us.

22 And so I think building more of
23 those relationships with career service
24 offices at schools that see a lot of --
25 we've done the same thing with Penn State

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2 University Park -- that see a lot of
3 Philadelphia residents attending school
4 there is another real opportunity for us.

5 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I
6 think it is. I'm not sure how you reach
7 out, how you do this, but somehow I think
8 it's a great opportunity as well.

9 I recently toured, because I
10 have a college-age student, with my son
11 and my wife at the University of UConn,
12 and part of the demonstration was, there
13 was a young fellow from Philadelphia who
14 was up there for the day, but he works in
15 Philadelphia, and he also asked the
16 University of UConn as part of their job
17 development to help him get a job in
18 Philadelphia. Well, they did it and he
19 now works in Philadelphia, but yet he
20 graduated from the University of UConn.

21 And the other thing is like a
22 personal experience. If I as a student
23 when I graduated Penn State University in
24 1975, if I -- I fell in love with the
25 town. I really did. And up at Penn

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2 State is entirely different. It's a very
3 rural community with a big city
4 atmosphere. I mean, you can be in
5 downtown State College and in ten minutes
6 you could be on the best trout creek in
7 the State of Pennsylvania. And that kind
8 of had interest for me, and it was great.
9 I will be very direct. If I would have
10 had a job waiting for me in Centre
11 County, I don't think I would have come
12 back. But I didn't and I had three job
13 opportunities in and around Philadelphia.
14 I took the one that was actually closest
15 to my house and had some personal rapport
16 with.

17 The fact is, it's a good thing
18 to reach out, because there are some
19 people that fall in love with a place,
20 but there's not enough room. I mean,
21 there just isn't. Penn State is a small
22 community with a giant college smack in
23 the middle, and opportunities may be
24 bigger now than they were then, but still
25 we should complete a little bit on all

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2 fronts and bring these people back, or at
3 least let them know they're welcome.
4 They may just want to come back.

5 MS. DIAMOND: We're seeing --
6 one thing we can track is on our
7 internship platform, we ask what school
8 you attend. And so the schools that are
9 listed are the schools in this area and
10 then there's just one blanket choice for
11 an out-of-region school, and we have seen
12 that number grow. So keeping track of
13 that and probably using those students as
14 vehicles for getting the word out on
15 their own campuses, it would be a good
16 idea.

17 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank
18 you all very, very much.

19 Madam Chair, thank you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
21 you.

22 Thank you very much. We
23 appreciate your testimony, and we'll move
24 on. Thank you.

25 Dr. Valerie Smith, President,

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2 Swarthmore College; Ian Sladen, Co-Op

3 Director, Drexel University; Judy Gay,

4 Chief of Staff, Community College of

5 Philadelphia.

6 Thank you all for being here.

7 (Witnesses approached witness
8 table.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good
10 afternoon.

11 (Good afternoon.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
13 you. Feel free to introduce yourself and
14 begin your testimony. Dr. Valerie Smith.

15 DR. SMITH: Thank you, and good
16 afternoon.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good
18 afternoon.

19 DR. SMITH: Thank you to
20 Education Committee Chairwoman Blackwell
21 and Councilman Taubenberger for
22 sponsoring this hearing. My name is
23 Valerie Smith and I'm the President of
24 Swarthmore College, and since September
25 2017, I have also served as a member of

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2 the Campus Philly Board of Directors.

3 I'm delighted to have the
4 opportunity to share my perspective as
5 the leader of a college in the greater
6 Philadelphia area on the value that
7 Campus Philly brings to our community and
8 to our students.

9 Swarthmore is located just half
10 an hour outside Center City, but for many
11 students, the very idea of that trip can
12 feel overwhelming. Close to 90 percent
13 of our students come from outside the
14 Philadelphia region, and navigating
15 SEPTA, learning Philadelphia's
16 neighborhoods, and even figuring out what
17 they can do in the City often prevent
18 students from venturing into the City.

19 At the same time, we know one
20 of Swarthmore's greatest assets is its
21 location just outside the fifth largest
22 city in the country, in a region with
23 thousands of other college students, and
24 we make a point of emphasizing that asset
25 in our admissions materials.

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2 Campus Philly has helped
3 Swarthmore bridge the divide that our
4 location can sometimes pose for our
5 students. Patrick Sherlock and Debora
6 Charmelus from Campus Philly attended a
7 recent entrepreneurial event on campus
8 that we call SWAT Tank and spoke to
9 students interested in entrepreneurship
10 about how to connect to relevant
11 organizations in the City, organizations
12 like Philly Startup Leaders and the
13 City's Start-up PHL program.

14 When Campus Philly isn't coming
15 to our campus, they help our students
16 explore off-campus. Swarthmore has a
17 lottery for students to receive free
18 SEPTA tickets each week. These tickets
19 go quickly, but students don't always
20 know what to do once they get downtown.
21 Once again, we turned to Campus Philly
22 for help and received a sampling of
23 activities and itineraries specifically
24 for Swarthmore students who win the
25 lottery SEPTA tickets. If students'

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2 first experiences exploring Philadelphia
3 are positive, they'll return again and
4 again on their own.

5 Finally, Swarthmore is part of
6 a consortium with Haverford and Bryn Mawr
7 Colleges. Our three institutions are
8 exploring the possibility of creating a
9 semester experience for our students in
10 the City of Philadelphia. Our goal for
11 this program would be for the City to be
12 the students' laboratory, classroom, and
13 residence, allowing them to explore urban
14 issues through real-world experiences and
15 academic study. Campus Philly has been
16 helpful in consulting with us in
17 determining the scope and structure of
18 this program. Once the program is
19 launched, Campus Philly is positioned
20 even better than our own on-campus staff
21 to provide students an orientation to the
22 City.

23 As these three examples
24 suggest, and as my participation on the
25 Board has taught me as well, we are lucky

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2 to have an organization like Campus
3 Philly. I have taught at UCLA in Los
4 Angeles and at Princeton University
5 located between Philadelphia and New
6 York, and in neither of those cases did I
7 have an organization like Campus Philly
8 to help bridge the gaps between campus
9 and the City. As we prepare students to
10 make a difference in the world and to use
11 their education to change the world, I
12 believe we're obligated as higher
13 education leaders to connect them to, not
14 isolate them from, that larger world.
15 Campus Philly helps us do that in ways
16 that are significant for our students and
17 for the City as well.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. SLADEN: Council President
20 Clarke, Chairwoman Blackwell, Councilman
21 Taubenberger, and other distinguished
22 members of City Council, my name is Ian
23 Sladen. I'm the Vice President of
24 Cooperative Education and Career
25 Development at Drexel University. It's

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2 my pleasure to testify today regarding
3 Drexel's collaboration with Campus Philly
4 to extend opportunities to Drexel
5 students and ensure that Drexel is an
6 integral part of Philadelphia's larger
7 business and economic ecosystem.

8 As you probably know, Drexel is
9 known regionally and nationally for our
10 cooperative education model, where
11 students attend college for a total of
12 five years, integrating three six-month
13 full-time work experiences into their
14 undergraduate education. Students also
15 have the opportunity to do a four-year
16 program with one six-month cooperative
17 education experience. These co-op
18 experiences are managed through the
19 Steinbright Career Development Center
20 that I oversee. The Center was named for
21 Drexel alumnus Harold D. Steinbright who
22 graduated with a degree in chemical
23 engineering from Drexel in 1919 and built
24 a successful career at the American
25 Chemical Paint Company in Ambler,

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2 Pennsylvania.

3 Harold Steinbright's story from
4 student to local professional to local
5 philanthropist exemplifies the value of
6 the Drexel co-op to the City of
7 Philadelphia. Each year, over 2,700
8 Drexel students work for Philadelphia
9 companies. They get paid to practice and
10 learn real-world skills, adding to their
11 education and to the Philadelphia
12 workforce at the same time.

13 Drexel's philosophy about
14 education aligns with Campus Philly's
15 mission, and that is one reason we
16 partner with Campus Philly and find the
17 partnership so very valuable.

18 Like Campus Philly, Drexel
19 believes that professional experiences in
20 college as co-ops or internships help
21 students make the best decisions about
22 their academic and professional futures.
23 Sometimes students learn from a co-op
24 what they do not want to do after
25 college.

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2 Campus Philly and Drexel both
3 focus on professional development for
4 college students, helping them develop
5 soft skills needed in the workplace, like
6 communicating with others, teamwork,
7 critical thinking, basic office
8 etiquette, and culture. Drexel provides
9 this guidance through our required Co-Op
10 101 course and individual career
11 counseling. Campus Philly provides this
12 guidance during multiple career events
13 throughout the year.

14 Finally, Drexel understands
15 that we can help drive the Philadelphia
16 economy by linking higher education with
17 practical work experience. Each year, 48
18 percent of co-op students receive a job
19 offer from a former co-op employer upon
20 graduation, and last year 2,721, or 48
21 percent, of all Drexel co-op positions
22 were based in Philadelphia. Similarly,
23 Campus Philly research shows that
24 students with internships in Philadelphia
25 are more likely to stay here after they

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2 graduate.

3 Thank you for your time.

4 MS. GAY: Good afternoon, and
5 thank you, Councilwoman and Chairwoman
6 Blackwell and Councilman Taubenberger for
7 sponsoring this hearing. My name is
8 Judith Gay, and I have the privilege of
9 serving as the Vice President for
10 Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff
11 at Community College of Philadelphia. I
12 offer this testimony on behalf of
13 Dr. Donald Guy Generals, President of
14 Community College of Philadelphia, who is
15 unable to be here today. He also serves
16 on Campus Philly's Board of Directors.
17 Dr. Generals is out of the state, and
18 that's the reason he's not here.

19 Before I go on to talk a little
20 bit about Campus Philly, I do want to
21 acknowledge my colleague Barbara
22 Mattleman at Graduate! Philadelphia.
23 They are a very strong partner of
24 Community College of Philadelphia. We
25 get a number of Comebackers coming to

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2 Community College of Philadelphia. So I
3 do want to recognize her also.

4 As you know, as the City's
5 college and an open admissions
6 institution, Community College of
7 Philadelphia serves the most diverse
8 student population of any higher
9 education institution in the region. Our
10 students come with varied goals and from
11 different backgrounds. They come to the
12 College to start their four-year degrees
13 and transfer to some of the most
14 competitive schools in the country, and
15 they also come to obtain post-secondary
16 credentials so they can enter the
17 workforce directly. Students take
18 classes on our main campus, online, and
19 at our Northeast, Northwest, and West
20 Philadelphia regional centers, right in
21 their own backyards. Given the diverse
22 backgrounds, needs, and goals of our
23 student population, Community College of
24 Philadelphia values partnerships that
25 bring diverse experiences to our

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2 students. Campus Philly delivers for us
3 on that.

4 More than 100 Community College
5 of Philadelphia students participate in
6 Campus Philly's free arts and culture
7 program, Open Arts, and 380 students have
8 been active this year alone in Campus
9 Philly's internship and career events.
10 Participating in these programs allows
11 Community College of Philadelphia to
12 offer experiences to our students that
13 enhance what we do as an institution.
14 Dynamic partnerships strengthen learning
15 opportunities for students and help us
16 prepare students to become critical
17 thinkers and innovators.

18 In addition to the experiences
19 Campus Philly provides to our students,
20 the organization has also been a force
21 for transforming college-going in
22 Philadelphia. For many years, despite
23 having such a high concentration of
24 higher education institutions,
25 Philadelphia did not have a reputation as

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2 a higher education town. Now we are
3 known for our educational institutions.
4 Community College of Philadelphia is even
5 gaining an international presence. When
6 students from India came to visit
7 Pennsylvania as part of their college
8 tour, they made Community College of
9 Philadelphia part of their visit, and
10 Campus Philly offered a powerful
11 presentation for us and these prospective
12 students about what it was like to attend
13 college in Philadelphia and in
14 Pennsylvania.

15 Community College of
16 Philadelphia is a great equalizer in our
17 city. Through our PROMISE scholarships,
18 the college is free for many students,
19 and for others it's the most affordable
20 way to advance their education and
21 prepare themselves for an increasingly
22 complex workforce. Because we share in
23 the Campus Philly partnership, our
24 students experience the City together
25 with students from around the world who

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2 have come to study in the region. They
3 attend Open Arts college nights at the
4 Barnes with their peers from Penn,
5 Temple, Swarthmore, and Drexel. They
6 meet employers at Campus Philly career
7 events. As Community College of
8 Philadelphia works to increase equity in
9 our city, Campus Philly helps us achieve
10 that mission by extending the same
11 opportunities to our students that
12 benefit every other college student in
13 the City.

14 Our community college peers in
15 other cities see Philadelphia as a model,
16 not just for what we're doing at our
17 institution, but for the level of
18 collaboration and integration we have
19 achieved as a city and region. From our
20 15 dual admissions agreements with
21 four-year institutions to being one of 34
22 schools that are part of the Campus
23 Philly program, Philadelphia stands out
24 as a city that is doing higher education
25 right.

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2 Thank you for your time and
3 attention.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
5 you very much. Very important testimony,
6 all of it.

7 Councilman Taubenberger.

8 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: A
9 couple comments and -- a couple comments,
10 maybe a question in there.

11 Ms. Gay, thank you very much
12 for your testimony, and if you could
13 relay to Dr. Generals how from this
14 Councilman -- and I think I speak for
15 many of our colleagues -- the fine work
16 you're doing. I know it works. You're
17 the entry level for many people to go on
18 to higher education. In fact, I know a
19 very bright young man who could go to
20 anywhere probably in the United States.
21 He's chosen Community to start his
22 college education so he can kind of find
23 himself. So you can take a course here
24 and there and see what works and what
25 doesn't work. And just the fact that you

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2 exist as a college is so helpful to this
3 community. So I want you to relay that.

4 MS. GAY: Thank you. I
5 definitely will do that.

6 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: And,
7 Mr. Sladen, the co-op at Drexel does
8 work, and that's a great opportunity to
9 get people in the workforce. I can
10 personally attest. My Legislative
11 Assistant was an intern. Now he has a
12 part-time position. His name is Aaron
13 Dimick. And he will, upon graduation,
14 get a job in this institution of City
15 Council. And that is also saying that he
16 has very little academic background.
17 He's a geology major, but he's happened
18 to work for a guy who has an agricultural
19 background and has an agronomy major. So
20 together with adding him to my staff,
21 we're going to make some things grow.

22 But you'll be surprised how
23 people get positions, and I want to
24 actually now talk to Dr. Smith. In fact,
25 maybe the roles should be reversed. I

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2 should be giving testimony. But,
3 Dr. Smith, I want to thank you for being
4 here. What I really liked in your
5 testimony was that beings you're a half
6 an hour outside of Philadelphia and
7 you're working with other colleges in the
8 area, Bryn Mawr and Haverford, that
9 you're having some classrooms in
10 Philadelphia. I hope that happens, and
11 if we can be of help, we want to be,
12 because getting young people into the
13 City is so helpful. Because some people,
14 it's unfortunate, are afraid to come to
15 big cities for a lot of reasons, and
16 that's not correct. Cities have some of
17 the greatest things that they can offer
18 in many ways in museums and other
19 institutions and other universities and,
20 as a collaboration, can work out even
21 better. And I will even say to my case
22 in point to you. You and I just chatted
23 for the first time ever, Dr. Smith, and
24 we have a friend in common. Actually he
25 works for you, and he's the Director of

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2 Grounds. His name is Chuck Henkel.

3 But let me be also -- and this
4 came to me while I was in the hearing.

5 Had I taken the position in Centre
6 County -- I wasn't offered one, so I
7 didn't even bother with it. I came back
8 here really excited. I had my Bachelor
9 of Science in agronomy. And those that
10 don't know what agronomy is, it's soil
11 science and field crop management, and
12 one of the field crops is turf grass.
13 And Friends Hospital hired me. Because
14 why? They have 100 acres of lawns and
15 also at the time had the largest
16 collection of azaleas anywhere in North
17 America in Philadelphia.

18 Many people do not know that
19 that sort of thing exists, and we ought
20 to tell our own story in many ways. And
21 in comes a young fella, newly graduated
22 from Temple, except his degree work was
23 in film and TV production, couldn't find
24 a job. I said, Chuck, I'll hire you in a
25 second. I was there for nearly four

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2 years. Not only did he stay there for
3 four years, he stayed there for an
4 additional eight or nine years further
5 than that, and all the while learning
6 other things in agriculture. Had I not
7 been there personally, Swarthmore College
8 would have probably somebody else running
9 the program as Grounds Director, and I
10 don't think he'd be as good.

11 That kind of stuff comes from
12 people, and the more we can attract and
13 create that kind of synergy in the City
14 of Philadelphia, the greater of a city we
15 will be. We need to collaborate. We
16 need to talk to one another. And I just
17 want to ask you if there's one thing,
18 very quickly, because we're short on
19 time -- there's never enough time. Time
20 is very difficult thing. If there's one
21 thing Campus Philly or Graduate!
22 Philadelphia could do, what would that be
23 for us to make this even a better
24 program? Because I like where we're at.
25 You can start, or if you don't have a

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2 comment, you don't have to.

3 DR. SMITH: Thank you so much.

4 I completely agree with what you said
5 about the reluctance that many students
6 on campuses outside the City have to
7 coming in to explore, and we have tried
8 to introduce a number of initiatives to
9 encourage that.

10 We have also been trying to
11 attract an increasingly diverse student
12 population, especially students from
13 widely different socioeconomic
14 backgrounds, and they and some students
15 have said that they can't afford the
16 SEPTA ticket. So my office and the
17 dean's office have created a lottery
18 where we pay for the tickets, but the
19 demand is outstripping the need. So if
20 anybody has ideas about how we can work
21 with SEPTA for help with that, that would
22 be fantastic.

23 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Well,
24 I think it's a great idea. I'm going to
25 tell you something. This is what I just

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2 picked out, because my son has really
3 decided to go to UConn. So now I know
4 these people intimately. I was hoping it
5 would be a little closer, but you have to
6 let children do what they feel is the
7 right thing, climb every mountain, a song
8 out of The Sound of Music and all this.

9 But what they do, and it sparked my
10 attention -- I'm going to get to the
11 bottom of this, though, because along
12 with my son comes me, who is paying the
13 bill, but the question, and this is not
14 for you, but I'm going to find out. The
15 University of UConn gives each of its
16 students complete pass, Councilwoman, in
17 the State of Connecticut to go wherever
18 they want on a regular basis from their
19 state transportation system. I'm going
20 to find out who is paying that bill.

21 That's an interesting way, because I
22 think of keeping people. The more
23 familiar you are with an area, the more
24 likely you may want to stay. I wanted to
25 stay at Penn State. I'll make no bones

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2 about it. Why? I really liked the whole
3 scene. Downtown you were in a great city
4 atmosphere. Ten minutes away I could go
5 fishing for trout, which was very
6 important to me, and I wanted to stay,
7 but there were no jobs. I came back, and
8 it all worked out in this case for
9 Mr. Henkel.

10 So we need to find ways, and
11 I'd like to know -- I like your idea of
12 having that lottery, but maybe we can do
13 a little better or make the lottery
14 larger. So I want to work with you.

15 DR. SMITH: Thank you.
16 Fantastic. Thank you.

17 MS. GAY: I'll just echo the
18 comments about marketing, making sure --
19 that the Commerce Department made, making
20 sure that every student knows about the
21 great resources that are available here
22 to them in Philadelphia.

23 And I also want to say,
24 Community College of Philadelphia is
25 different from my colleagues'

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2 institutions, because virtually all of
3 the students are from Philadelphia. They
4 intend to stay in Philadelphia. And
5 sometimes we forget. And they're
6 working, usually have families. So they
7 don't have a lot of free time, but
8 certainly letting them know that these
9 opportunities exist and how important it
10 is to do the internships and make the
11 connections, to network with other
12 students from other institutions is very
13 important. So just getting the word out
14 I think will make a big difference in
15 terms of Community College of
16 Philadelphia.

17 I'd like to see more than 380
18 students showing up for the internship
19 fairs. We have 1,885 students graduating
20 this year. We have a lot of students at
21 Community College of Philadelphia. So
22 these are great resources for us, and we
23 need to make sure that students are aware
24 of it.

25 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank

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2 you very much.

3 MR. SLADEN: At the risk of
4 sounding redundant, I would certainly say
5 getting the word out there about the
6 importance of experiential education and
7 Philadelphia's impact on that. Drexel
8 considers the City of Philadelphia to be
9 a living laboratory where our students
10 work and learn, not just in cooperative
11 education experiences, by taking
12 advantage of a lot of the cultural and
13 historical opportunities that are here in
14 the City, but to promote the importance
15 of experiential education I think is very
16 beneficial. I've spoken to that in my
17 remarks. And it also -- experiential
18 education also improves the quality of
19 the universities here in Philadelphia,
20 because we take massive amounts of data.
21 For instance, at Drexel, we take massive
22 amounts of data that come from our
23 employers and from our students
24 completing cooperative education
25 experiences and feed that directly back

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2 into the curriculum, so that the
3 curriculum is relative and market driven.

4 And I can only assume that other
5 universities here in the City are
6 attempting to do the same thing.

7 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank
8 you very much.

9 Madam Chair, thank you.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
11 you very much.

12 Dr. Smith and certainly Judy
13 Gay, I hear you all are excellent all the
14 time. Thank you for being here.

15 I know a whole lot of people at
16 Drexel, but it's nice to know you too,
17 Mr. Sladen.

18 Thank you all for your
19 excellent testimony.

20 DR. SMITH: Thank you.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
22 you.

23 Yue Xiang, Bryant Washington,
24 and Deepika Satyadev.

25 (Witnesses approached witness

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2 table.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL:
4 Welcome. Thank you for coming.

5 MS. XIANG: Education Committee
6 Chairwoman Blackwell, Chair Councilman
7 Taubenberger, and other distinguished
8 members of City Council, thank you for
9 the opportunity to share my Philadelphia
10 story today. My name is Yue Xiang and I
11 am originally from Guangzhou, a large
12 city in Southern China. After attending
13 a boarding school in North Carolina for
14 two years, I came to the Philadelphia
15 area to study at Haverford College and
16 graduated in 2017 with a major in math
17 and a minor in statistics.

18 My original decision to come to
19 this region was mostly driven by my
20 interest in attending Haverford College.
21 I visited the school overnight in my
22 senior year of high school, and it felt
23 like the right place for me. I wanted to
24 attend college in a place where social
25 justice, caring about others and the

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2 world, and being pushed and challenged
3 would all be part of my college
4 experience. I also liked the fact that
5 Philadelphia was 20 minutes away from
6 Haverford via regional rail. At the
7 time, I knew that I would like to be
8 close to an urban environment, but I had
9 no idea how Philadelphia would become
10 home to me in the coming years.

11 I started to go off campus and
12 got more involved in events and causes in
13 the City starting my sophomore year. My
14 first Campus Philly event was a Corporate
15 Advisory meeting when we discussed how
16 recent college graduates make decisions
17 about what cities to head to after their
18 graduations. I thoroughly enjoyed the
19 thoughtful discussions and engaging
20 activities. Moreover, I loved meeting
21 local business leaders and fellow
22 students. Naturally, I attended many
23 other Campus Philly events since. Campus
24 Philly events were always unusual because
25 they brought very diverse panelists and

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2 attendants from various fields. I also
3 came to know Deborah Diamond and Cory
4 Dulaney personally. When I had some
5 ideas to share about Philadelphia, they
6 met with me one on one and took in my
7 views. I've stayed in touch with them
8 since graduating and know that I can turn
9 to them if I want an introduction, advice
10 or have an idea to share with them. It
11 shows how unique Philadelphia is that a
12 college student can make these deep
13 connections with City organizations and
14 leaders.

15 There were many reasons I chose
16 to stay in Philadelphia after I
17 graduated. First, I have a lot of
18 connections from my summer internships in
19 Philadelphia, and all that network and
20 mentorship have prepared me to take on
21 the job search process. I currently work
22 as a data scientist at a Philadelphia
23 company called BrainDo, a consulting firm
24 that helps businesses and organizations
25 better understand their online customers.

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2 I met one of the co-founders, Jenny Du,
3 at an event by the National Association
4 of Asian American Professionals and later
5 interviewed and received an offer.

6 Second, I was drawn to stay in
7 the City because Philadelphia has a very
8 diverse population and neighborhoods.

9 Philadelphia has a lot of grassroots
10 movements happening. I care a lot about
11 social justice issues regarding urban
12 planning, housing, and minorities, and I
13 felt like Philadelphia has a lot of
14 opportunities for me to explore those
15 passions.

16 The City has opened its arms to
17 me. The people in this city have opened
18 their arms to me. They have lifted me up
19 and helped me grow both personally and
20 professionally. I am grateful for the
21 Haverford community, Campus Philly
22 community, National Association of Asian
23 American Professionals Philadelphia
24 Chapter, PCDC, and many more
25 organizations in Philadelphia for always

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2 giving me room and space to take risk and
3 try new things. I cannot thank
4 Philadelphia enough for caring about its
5 college students and making them feel
6 loved and heard.

7 Thank you.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
9 you.

10 MR. WASHINGTON: My name is
11 Bryant Washington. I'm a student at
12 Temple University and I'll be graduating
13 in May of 2018. I want to thank
14 Education Committee Chairwoman Blackwell
15 and Councilman Taubenberger for
16 presenting us with this opportunity to
17 share our experience with Campus Philly.

18 I attended George Washington
19 High School in Northeast Philadelphia and
20 began college at Arcadia University. I
21 wanted to grow academically and
22 professionally more than I felt I could
23 at Arcadia and transferred to Temple
24 University's Fox School of Business. One
25 advantage of attending college in this

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2 region is that with so many options, you
3 can stay in Philadelphia and find the
4 best education for you, no matter where
5 you are on your academic or professional
6 journey. At Temple, I've had the
7 opportunity to conduct research with
8 faculty and have the opportunity to
9 produce a public piece of scholarship
10 with Professor Kevin Fandl this semester.

11 I learned of Campus Philly
12 through CollegeFest, an event that brings
13 out thousands of students in early
14 September to welcome us all back to
15 school. I thought it was an awesome
16 event. Although I didn't know much about
17 Campus Philly at this time, I thought it
18 was great that the City brought together
19 such a diverse group of college students
20 to welcome them. There were friends
21 there from Arcadia, Temple, Penn,
22 University of the Sciences, and probably
23 more schools than I could count.

24 I started following Campus
25 Philly through their newsletter and

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2 attending some networking events they
3 produced. The events were always unusual
4 because they fostered an authentic
5 interaction between recruiters and
6 professionals. I had a chance to have a
7 real conversation with people and not
8 just hand over my resume. As a result of
9 my experience with Campus Philly events,
10 I began to work with them as well.
11 During the summer of 2017, I helped
12 organize Campus Philly's Meet Philly Tour
13 where we headed to 34 different college
14 campuses to welcome students to the
15 region and tell them about Philadelphia.
16 Being a part of the Meet Philly Tour was
17 a way for me to help other students feel
18 as included in the larger Philadelphia
19 community as I felt.

20 During my time at Temple, I
21 heard a number of students talk about
22 their internships at Vanguard. They
23 always had good things to say about them.
24 I also had seen Vanguard at Campus
25 Philly's events, including CollegeFest,

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2 and knew that they were a partner of
3 Campus Philly's as well, as this gave me
4 a good feeling that this would be a good
5 company to work for. I attended
6 Vanguard's EXPLORE Day at their campus in
7 Malvern and I felt immediately
8 comfortable. They talked about diversity
9 and inclusion during the day and it was
10 authentic. They walked the walk in
11 addition to talking the talk, and I've
12 accepted a full-time position at Vanguard
13 after I graduate.

14 My journey over the last few
15 years could have happened only in
16 Philadelphia. Accepted at one college,
17 with the opportunity to transfer to
18 another university in the same city that
19 fit my interests, then getting involved
20 with an off-campus organization that made
21 me feel like a member of a wider city
22 community, and finally getting a
23 full-time position at the headquarters of
24 one of the largest financial institutions
25 in the world. More students need to know

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2 about the kinds of opportunities I've
3 benefited from, and that's why I feel so
4 strongly about Campus Philly's mission
5 and future.

6 Thank you for your time and
7 consideration.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
9 you.

10 MS. SATYADEV: Hello. My name
11 is Deepika Satyadev and I'm a student at
12 Drexel University, graduating in 2019.
13 Thank you, Education Committee Chairwoman
14 Blackwell and Councilman Taubenberger and
15 all the distinguished members of City
16 Council for providing me with the
17 opportunity to speak about Campus Philly.

18 Though I only moved to Philly
19 in 2014 to attend Drexel University, I
20 was familiar with the City since I was a
21 small child. That's because at least one
22 member of my extended family in India has
23 been attending school in Philadelphia for
24 the last 15 years. For my family from
25 Bangalore, India, Philadelphia is known

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2 as the City of Education, and we always
3 look at schools here before looking
4 anywhere else.

5 I chose Drexel for both its
6 city location and its co-op program. I
7 consider myself a city girl and like
8 being in the middle of things. At
9 Drexel, I can look out the classroom
10 window to see the hub of business across
11 the street and across the river. And the
12 co-op program that Drexel offers has
13 allowed me to experience different
14 real-world environments and apply what
15 I've learned in the classroom. I am a
16 marketing and business analytics major,
17 and my current co-op is with Bentley
18 Systems, a Campus Philly partner company.
19 Bentley Systems develops computer
20 programs for engineers building
21 infrastructure. I am on a product
22 marketing team at Bentley, learning what
23 business-to-business marketing is all
24 about.

25 Prior to Bentley, I was an

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2 intern at the Museum of American Jewish
3 History. That opportunity provided a
4 completely different way to apply my
5 marketing background and learn about the
6 non-profit and arts and culture worlds in
7 Philadelphia. I met Deborah Diamond,
8 Campus Philly's President, at that
9 internship because of Campus Philly's
10 help in promoting the Museum to college
11 students. Since then, I have attended
12 Campus Philly events, used their
13 internship platform, and read their
14 student newsletters to find things to do
15 in the City.

16 People frequently ask me what I
17 think about Philadelphia, and I tell them
18 that I know for a sure fact that this is
19 a city I could see myself spending my
20 life in. My favorite thing about
21 Philadelphia is that there are so many
22 different types of Philly. Each person
23 has their own version. You can come to
24 University City and see the future of
25 tomorrow all around, walk down a few

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2 blocks to Center City and see some of the
3 most hard-working people you've ever met,
4 and cross City Hall into Old City and we
5 find some of the most honest and real
6 people ever. There is something for
7 everyone. Even those who feel like they
8 don't usually fit into groups find
9 themselves at home in Philly.

10 I chose a school in the middle
11 of the City and one that I knew would
12 have internship experiences built in.
13 For many students, what I receive just
14 from going to Drexel is primarily
15 available to them through Campus Philly.
16 But even for me, Campus Philly has added
17 to the college experience. As an intern
18 at the Jewish Museum, I got to work with
19 Campus Philly's Open Art program and help
20 more students experience that unique
21 museum. I continue to learn about new
22 events and share those events with my
23 friends from the Campus Philly biweekly
24 newsletter. I am grateful there is a
25 Campus Philly to help me and other

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2 students benefit from all the City has to
3 offer.

4 Thank you for your time.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
6 you. Very important and very interesting
7 and exciting testimony.

8 Councilman Taubenberger.

9 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank
10 you.

11 Just a comment. I want to
12 congratulate all of you on the beginning
13 of careers that seem to be on the
14 trajectory up, and I think that's
15 important that you've all added something
16 to this and a perspective that is very
17 valuable for us as City Council people.

18 And to Mr. Washington, because
19 he is a graduating class of 2018,
20 congratulations on your graduation and,
21 more importantly, congratulations on
22 obtaining a job, because that's
23 important. I know it personally. So
24 congratulations.

25 MR. WASHINGTON: Thank you.

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2 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Madam
3 Chair, thank you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
5 you all very, very much.

6 Jeanie Heffernan, Bernita
7 Harrod, Al Flowers.

8 (Witnesses approached witness
9 table.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We've
11 had excellent testimony and we're very
12 grateful for each and every speaker.
13 You've all been excellent.

14 Jeanie Heffernan.

15 MS. HEFFERNAN: Yes. Good
16 afternoon, Madam Chairwoman Blackwell.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good
18 afternoon.

19 MS. HEFFERNAN: As well as City
20 Councilmember Taubenberger. My name is
21 Jeanie Heffernan and I'm the Senior Vice
22 President and Chief Human Resources
23 Officer at Independence Blue Cross. I am
24 also a member of the Advisory Board for
25 Graduate! Philadelphia.

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2 I am delighted to be here today
3 to talk about Graduate! Philadelphia and
4 how the partnership between our two
5 organizations has benefited so many of
6 our associates over the past seven years.

7 Education is very important to
8 Blue Cross, and we believe that helping
9 our associates helps us. Since 2011,
10 Graduate! Philadelphia has been
11 supporting Independence Blue Cross
12 associates who have some college credit
13 go back to school and complete their
14 degrees. Through individual advising
15 sessions, college fairs, and
16 presentations on college-related topics,
17 hundreds of our associates have returned
18 to college with our financial assistance
19 and received their diploma. Working with
20 Graduate! Philadelphia has benefited our
21 organization as well as our associates in
22 so many ways.

23 First, our associates have been
24 given the information and the guidance
25 they need to return to school. Adults,

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2 just like our own youth who go to college
3 right from high school, need all the help
4 and support they can get, the
5 encouragement, and support, as well as
6 the guidance on the financial -- how to
7 finance their education, as well as how
8 to pick their major, how to juggle their
9 life, their family, their school. No
10 easy task. Graduate! Philadelphia's
11 College Success Advisors are there to
12 help them every step of the way through
13 their degree completion. By having
14 someone so invested in their success,
15 they in turn are much more likely to
16 complete their degree, and they do.

17 As an employer, the benefits
18 for us have been immeasurable. First, as
19 you know, providing financial assistance
20 to our associates while also providing
21 support through Graduate! Philadelphia
22 means so much to our employees. It shows
23 them that Blue Cross doesn't just provide
24 needed funds, but we also believe in
25 investing in our associates by providing

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2 them the guidance and support.

3 Additionally, with a more
4 educated employee pool, we are more
5 likely to promote from within when we
6 have the opportunities within our
7 organization, and by providing services
8 such as those through Graduate!
9 Philadelphia, our employees feel valued,
10 and this certainly contributes to lower
11 rates of turnover.

12 So as you can see, our
13 partnership is very important with
14 Graduate and Blue Cross.

15 Thank you so much for the time
16 today to recognize them and the great
17 work that they do.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
19 you, Madam Senior Vice President at
20 Independence Blue Cross. Thank you.

21 MS. HEFFERNAN: You're very
22 welcome.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL:
24 Bernita.

25 MS. HARROD: Good afternoon,

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2 City Council President Clarke and members
3 of City Council. My name is Bernita
4 Harrod and I'm a Comebacker. Thank you
5 for this opportunity to tell you about
6 myself and my journey toward finishing my
7 college degree.

8 At present, I have four
9 remaining courses left to finish my
10 Bachelor of Arts degree from Thomas
11 Edison --

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Pull
13 your mic a little closer. Thank you.

14 MS. HARROD: -- from Thomas
15 Edison State University. The end goal is
16 so near, and I will be graduating this
17 fall.

18 I ask myself every day, why is
19 it so important for me to complete my
20 degree? I need to complete my degree for
21 several reasons. One, to show my
22 daughter that she should finish what she
23 starts and it is worth it. My daughter
24 is 25 years old, recently graduated and
25 completed her Associate's degree from Art

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2 Institute. She will begin working
3 towards her Bachelor's degree at
4 Philadelphia University/Jefferson
5 University this fall. I want to show my
6 daughter that with hard work, she too can
7 complete her degree.

8 Two, to receive a Bachelor's
9 degree in social science so I can pursue
10 my dream career in social work or social
11 services.

12 Three, my goal is to become a
13 youth counselor or life coach. I want to
14 work with junior high and middle
15 school-age students. At this age, so
16 many youth need guidance and support on
17 school issues and personal life
18 situations. I want to be a mentor to
19 these young people to help them make good
20 life choices that will help them on the
21 right path for high school and college.

22 I previously attended Community
23 College of Philadelphia in my early 20's,
24 but did not graduate. So I enrolled
25 again in 2009 to try to finish what I

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2 started. While attending Community
3 College, I was notified that my financial
4 aid was exhausted. This did not deter
5 me, but made me more determined to get my
6 degree. While working at Independence
7 Blue Cross, I noticed that Graduate!
8 Philadelphia was offering different
9 classes for adults that were going back
10 to school. They reintroduced me to the
11 academic process and how it would be
12 beneficial for me to go back to school.
13 During an appointment with one of their
14 advisors, they told me how I could
15 continue my education online, and I am
16 now waiting patiently for that day when I
17 will graduate from Thomas Edison State
18 University.

19 I realized several years ago
20 that the career I want to pursue cannot
21 be achieved without receiving my Bachelor
22 of Arts degree. Having this degree will
23 give me the opportunity to make all my
24 hopes and dreams come true and at the
25 same time help others pursue their

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2 ambitions. When I receive my degree, it
3 will be for the betterment of the
4 community.

5 Remember, you are never too old
6 to pursue your passion and realize your
7 dreams. I am considered to be over the
8 hill by the accepted standards. However,
9 I know that as long as I can dream it, I
10 can achieve it.

11 Thank you to Graduate!
12 Philadelphia personnel for providing me
13 with the proper resources and guidance so
14 I could start my career and journey to
15 continue my education. I am now on track
16 to graduate in September 2018.

17 Thank you for this opportunity
18 to share my story with all of you today.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
20 you for caring about kids, and you are
21 definitely not over the hill.

22 MS. HEFFERNAN: No way. She
23 looks fabulous.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
25 you.

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2 MR. FLOWERS: Good afternoon,
3 members of Philadelphia City Council. My
4 name is Al Flowers. I am a proud
5 resident of this city and I grew up in
6 North Philadelphia. I initially started
7 my college matriculation in 1972 at
8 Southern University in Baton Rouge,
9 Louisiana. However, my educational
10 dreams and goals ended abruptly due to an
11 ill-advised act of insanity that resulted
12 in an extended stay of incarceration.

13 In 2007 during my incarceration
14 at FCI Fairton in New Jersey, I enrolled
15 in college courses at Cumberland
16 Community College in preparation for my
17 pending release in 2009. In 2006, I was
18 reading an article in the Philadelphia
19 Daily News about Graduate! Philadelphia
20 and their efforts to assist individuals
21 to return to college to finish their
22 degrees. I saved the article, because
23 that was always a goal to complete my
24 college degree and I always knew that I
25 would go back to school.

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2 As a returning citizen in 2009,
3 I went to Graduate! Philadelphia's
4 office, which at that time was in the
5 Gallery on Market Street, and started to
6 the process to continue my education. In
7 January 2010, I enrolled in Community
8 College of Philadelphia and obtained an
9 Associate's degree in paralegal studies
10 in May 2012. I received my Bachelor's
11 degree in information technology at
12 Philadelphia University, now called
13 Jefferson University, in January 2014. I
14 received my Master's degree in legal
15 studies in December 2017 from Drexel
16 University.

17 Graduate! Philadelphia
18 initially guided me in the process of
19 securing financial aid, college selection
20 and, most important, realizing the
21 importance of education to a viable and
22 enriching lifestyle. With the completion
23 of my college degree, I have been able to
24 pursue employment that would not
25 otherwise have been applicable to me. At

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2 present, I am an employment
3 specialist/paralegal at Connection
4 Training Services, a non-profit in
5 Philadelphia where I mainly serve
6 ex-offenders and the underserved
7 population in Philadelphia. I strive to
8 give my clientele the platform to achieve
9 their educational goals such as by
10 amplifying Graduate! Philadelphia's free
11 advising services and have helped several
12 people move forward. I hope that they
13 will look at me as a role model and
14 understand that they too can achieve
15 their dreams.

16 I want to thank you for this
17 chance to tell my story and especially to
18 thank Graduate! Philadelphia for
19 supporting me through school.

20 Thank you.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We're
22 very, very proud of you. That's a
23 wonderful story. God bless you.

24 Thank you all for your
25 testimony.

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2 Councilman Taubenberger.

3 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Yes.

4 Just real quick, a comment, and I do have
5 a question for Mr. Flowers. But I want
6 to thank you all for participating, for
7 giving us your life story, for giving us
8 your emotion and letting us know what
9 motivates you, and congratulations on
10 continuing your education.

11 Mr. Flowers, you walked the
12 walk and you've been there. You are
13 someone who is returned. And I am a big
14 believer in Philadelphia being the city
15 of the second chance, because in many
16 ways, this country was based on people
17 that came here for that second chance,
18 for a lot of reasons. And what is the
19 one thing that Campus Philly and
20 Graduate! Philadelphia could do,
21 particularly Graduate! Philadelphia, to
22 help those that were formerly
23 incarcerated? What is something we could
24 do to get them back and get education and
25 continuing their education?

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2 And unfortunately I'll speak my
3 mind here. Being incarcerated puts you
4 in contact with some real hardened
5 criminals and they have an education
6 system of their own, and that's not the
7 one where we want to have our people take
8 the path. We want them to come to these
9 colleges and learn and be productive
10 members of society, because getting a job
11 means everything, and I'm convinced of
12 it.

13 Your thoughts on what I just
14 said as far as what could we do to make
15 it better.

16 MR. FLOWERS: Well, first of
17 all, I would like to say that probably
18 sometimes we might think about that
19 people coming out of prison are mainly --
20 some may be illiterate or that type of
21 education that you were just referring
22 to, but that's hardly the case in a lot
23 of instances. You have a lot of guys
24 that have been there that have had some
25 type of college degrees or college

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2 education or some people that for
3 whatever reason they pursued a different
4 goal, and that's the percentage that
5 sometimes gets underserved and gets
6 unnoticed. And once you get out here,
7 they're kind of left with very little to
8 achieve or go at, because most of the
9 programs are geared towards the people
10 that you were just referring to that had
11 a different type of education and was
12 coming out now to try to get an education
13 to start out initially.

14 So I would probably say one of
15 the things that would probably have to be
16 done, myself included because I use
17 myself as an example with my clientele,
18 is that you have to promote it. Somebody
19 that's walked the walk, see, they'll
20 listen to that. I have no problem -- I
21 have a great success record. I'm not
22 trying to brag about that, but I'm very
23 proud of my success record.

24 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: You
25 should be.

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2 MR. FLOWERS: They see me and
3 then they'll talk to me. Because if I
4 never tell anybody I've been
5 incarcerated, I don't think you would
6 have probably even recognized that or
7 anybody else.

8 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER:
9 Wouldn't have known that.

10 MR. FLOWERS: And so that's
11 part of the process, and I show them.
12 Because sometimes I have to put them in
13 their place, because they'll think that
14 I'm just wearing this suit and don't know
15 anything about the other side. Then when
16 I put them in their place and I show them
17 what can be done, that brings that on.

18 So I would probably say
19 somebody -- like I said, I'll use myself
20 as an example -- would have to be someone
21 also unique. You need more people like
22 me to come into the force and work that
23 system with that people, go wherever we
24 have to go, do whatever we have to do,
25 because they'll listen to me, because I

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2 can work both sides and they'll see you

3 can talk --

4 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: You
5 can speak with authority.

6 MR. FLOWERS: You can see it,
7 and then they'll understand it, that I
8 know something when I start telling them
9 about certain things and they don't
10 understand. Well, he doesn't just have a
11 college degree, he's been on both sides,
12 and it actually works.

13 So I'd probably say that you'd
14 have to recruit people similar to me and
15 put them out there. You know, have them
16 doing this or have them -- so they can
17 actually see the results of it, because
18 they don't see the results and they don't
19 know where to go and how to go to it. So
20 I'd probably say that would be a good way
21 to do.

22 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Mr.
23 Flowers, thank you very much.
24 Congratulations on your journey as well.

25 Thank you, panel.

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2 Madam Chair, thank you.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
4 you very much.

5 Mr. Flowers, can my assistant
6 get your number?

7 MR. FLOWERS: Yes.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
9 you.

10 Thank you all very much.

11 Our final panel, so if there's
12 someone who would like to speak outside
13 of this panel, Roxanne is back there and
14 she'll take your name. Otherwise, Uva
15 Coles, Stephen Robertson, and Charity
16 Hughes are our last speakers. Thank you
17 very much.

18 (Witnesses approached witness
19 table.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Uva
21 Coles, Vice President, Institutional
22 Advancement and Strategic Partnerships
23 from Peirce College; Stephen Robertson,
24 Comebacker, College Access Advocate, Hub
25 for Humanity; and Charity Hughes,

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2 Graduate! Philadelphia Advisory Board

3 Chair and President, Pathfinder

4 Leadership Group, LLC. Thank you.

5 MS. COLES: Thank you, and good
6 afternoon, Madam Chairwoman Blackwell and
7 Councilman Taubenberger. It is wonderful
8 to be with you. My name again is Uva

9 Coles and I'm Vice President of

10 Institutional Advancement and Strategic

11 Partnerships at Peirce College. I am

12 thankful for the opportunity to talk to

13 you today about so much of what you've

14 heard, the work that Graduate!

15 Philadelphia has done, but also in

16 collaboration with Peirce College and the

17 important relationship as our

18 organizations strive, with steadfast

19 commitment, to support thousands of

20 adults in a city and region who are

21 attempting to attain their college

22 degree.

23 As many of you likely know,

24 Peirce College is a Center City-based

25 higher education institution with a

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2 153-year-old legacy of serving diverse,
3 working adults seeking not just a college
4 degree but also a career pathway to
5 life-sustaining wages in today's
6 competitive workforce. Today we are
7 proud to offer employer-informed and
8 industrial-relevant associate's,
9 bachelor's, master's degree programs in
10 business, non-clinical healthcare,
11 information technology, and legal
12 studies. As an education and workforce
13 provider, Peirce both confers degrees and
14 also builds customized training solutions
15 for employers. Moreover, we believe that
16 education is an intentional lever toward
17 socioeconomic mobility.

18 We partner with local
19 stakeholders to offer each student a
20 pathway to degree completion, relevant
21 workforce skills, and supports that
22 promote stability within and beyond
23 classroom walls. Through a pragmatic,
24 employer-informed curriculum that drives
25 technical and power skills development,

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2 which is really critical in this day and
3 age, Peirce is able to provide talent
4 pipelines that are well educated, well
5 rounded, and seasoned with invaluable
6 life experiences. We support students
7 holistically, giving them the support
8 they need to finish their degree and
9 onboard onto the workforce.

10 Further, what differentiates us
11 from others isn't just what we do as an
12 academic institution. It's really how we
13 do it. At Peirce, we are committed to
14 creating an inclusive educational
15 environment that caters to the evolving
16 demands and life priorities of our
17 diverse adult learners, many of which you
18 heard earlier today.

19 Peirce College was one of the
20 founding partners with Graduate!
21 Philadelphia back in 2005 when the idea
22 of a non-profit that would support
23 Comebackers first came together.
24 Thirteen years later, our partnership
25 continues to flourish.

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2 Graduate! Philadelphia

3 Comebackers who attend Peirce come to us
4 enthusiastic about and well prepared for
5 the journey to a college degree. We see
6 ourselves as a continuum with Graduate's
7 College Success Advisors working hand in
8 hand with Peirce's advisors to make sure
9 Comebackers are given a seamless path
10 toward selecting majors that fit their
11 needs, navigating career pathways, and
12 overcoming the barriers that led to their
13 stopping out in the first place. These
14 challenges aren't easy for any student to
15 navigate, yet alone an adult who might
16 have work and family responsibilities
17 overlaying their school commitments.

18 So why is our relationship,
19 this idea of building a continuum, so
20 important? I can tell you that as a
21 first-generation college student and a
22 former adult learner earlier in my
23 career, I can personally attest to many
24 of the barriers our Comebackers face.
25 Numerous students stop out of college for

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2 reasons that have less to do with
3 academics, with grit, with a desire to
4 learn and to succeed and more to do, as
5 we all know and heard earlier, with life
6 challenges, the things that often happen
7 outside of the classroom that can
8 sometimes feel insurmountable. Financial
9 constraints often play a major role in
10 students' ability to persist, but it's
11 larger than that.

12 When you're a high school
13 student getting ready to go to college,
14 you often have supports around you to
15 help you, your school counselor and your
16 parents, teachers, and mentors, people
17 who see the potential in you and see
18 college as a progressive next step.
19 Adult learners do not always benefit from
20 this kind of support system. There is an
21 implicit expectation that they have all
22 the tools needed to figure out the maze
23 that is on-ramping onto the college
24 experience.

25 If you're here today -- and I

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2 know we lost a few people a little bit
3 earlier, but I think any of them, any who
4 were here earlier and those who still
5 remain, you're either a Comebacker or in
6 some way have touched or have supported
7 children or partners who are Comebackers.
8 You know that age is not a determinant of
9 success. Age, as we know, is an
10 indicator of how long you have lived, but
11 not how you have lived, what you have
12 experienced, what tools you have secured
13 or have been afforded. Age, as we know,
14 does not determine success. Grit,
15 determination, opportunity, and the right
16 supports do at any age.

17 Our adults, like any other
18 learners, need help and guidance in order
19 to complete necessary paperwork, make
20 decisions about classes and majors, and
21 deal with other issues that will impact
22 their re-enrollment. Graduate's advisors
23 prime the pump. They prepare Comebackers
24 to re-enroll, and once they're ready to
25 take that leap, they do a soft handoff to

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2 Peirce's advisors for enrollment
3 counseling. Graduate's advisors maintain
4 their relationship with Comebackers all
5 the way through to graduation to ensure
6 they have the best chance of successfully
7 completing their degree and helping them
8 troubleshoot issues along the way. So in
9 essence, Graduate's team locks arms with
10 Peirce College's in the spirit of
11 partnership and shared vision. We're
12 proud of our partnership, and we look
13 forward to continuing to work
14 collaboratively for many years to come.

15 In closing, I'm grateful to the
16 members of City Council for acknowledging
17 the important work of Graduate!
18 Philadelphia. Barbara Mattleman and her
19 team have done all the work they've done
20 to help Philadelphians to go back to
21 school so they may finish the college
22 degree they started so long ago. You
23 too, members of City Council, are a part
24 of our ecosystem of partnership and our
25 education continuum. For this and for

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2 your endless support of education, we
3 from Peirce College thank you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
5 you very much. Thank you.

6 MR. ROBERTSON: Good afternoon.
7 My name is Stephen Robertson. Thank you,
8 City Councilwoman Blackwell and City
9 Council at-large Taubenberger for
10 allowing me to testify today in support
11 of Graduate! Philadelphia.

12 Growing up, I envisioned my
13 future in a place that would be
14 everything great. Somewhere along the
15 way the twists and turns of life turned
16 it upside down and kind of all around.
17 My story includes failing out of college,
18 joining the workforce, losing that
19 comfortable job, becoming housing
20 insecure, attempting to go back to
21 school, and working several hourly jobs
22 while trying to maintain at least a 3.0
23 GPA. Somehow I knew that despite any
24 trial or tribulation, I could still
25 achieve what I had envisioned long ago.

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2 My story of coming back to college isn't
3 more special than anyone else's. I had
4 to choose to be resilient in the face of
5 adversity and fearless in my adventure of
6 doing something new.

7 There is an African proverb
8 that says, Alone you may go fast, but
9 together you will go far, and that
10 symbolizes my successful journey to
11 reentry into higher education. I sought
12 support from Graduate! Philadelphia where
13 I was afforded a reliable resource
14 towards executing my dreams, which means
15 I didn't have to strive for that academic
16 step towards my envisioned future by
17 myself. Graduate! Philadelphia supported
18 me by helping with my application and the
19 financial aid process. They showed me
20 the way, and the rest is history. The
21 rest is what you and I have seen happen
22 time and time again for every single
23 human that comes through their door. I
24 couldn't have done it without their help.

25 So today because of my decision

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2 to become a Comebacker, the support of
3 Graduate! Philadelphia, my mentors,
4 family and friends, I've been afforded
5 the opportunity to impact more lives as
6 it pertains to college access. Not only
7 did I graduate from Philadelphia
8 University, now called Jefferson
9 University, I founded a non-profit
10 organization 501(c)(3) called Hub for
11 Humanity. It is my life's work to help
12 those living on the margin, both youth
13 and adults, to access and achieve their
14 purpose. Most importantly, I am a
15 successful black male educator, which
16 would not have been possible had it not
17 been for the Comebacker experience.

18 Thank you for allowing me to
19 share my Comebacker story, and thank you
20 to Graduate! Philadelphia for their
21 support of me and other adults who want
22 to complete their college education.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
24 you. We're very proud of you as well.

25 DR. HUGHES: Good afternoon,

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2 Madam Chairwoman Blackwell and Councilman
3 Taubenberger. I have to say that I too
4 am a Penn State graduate. So I just
5 wanted to put that in there as well.

6 My name is Dr. Charity
7 Hughes --

8 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: It
9 was a good choice.

10 DR. HUGHES: Exactly.

11 -- Advisory Board Chair of
12 Graduate! Philadelphia, and I'm delighted
13 to be here today to talk about an
14 organization that is near and dear to my
15 heart.

16 I am a human resources
17 consultant and a college educator with
18 over 15 years of human resource
19 experience. I know the critical
20 importance of workforce development and
21 securing a strong employee talent base to
22 drive organizational success. I am also
23 the past President of the Philadelphia
24 Chapter of the Society of Human Resource
25 Management. It was in this capacity that

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2 I learned about the wonderful
3 organization I want to discuss today.

4 I joined the Advisory Board of
5 Graduate! Philadelphia in 2016 after
6 learning about their important mission to
7 help Comebackers who have some college
8 credit go back to school to complete
9 their degree. As an educator, I know
10 what it takes to persevere through
11 college from observing my students over
12 the past years. It's takes time, money,
13 commitment and, most of all, grit. Time
14 is obvious, as going to class and
15 completing the work requires a
16 significant amount of dedication, both in
17 and out of the classroom, but for
18 Comebackers, many of whom have a job and
19 a family, it's not so easy to find time,
20 let alone quiet time, to get the work
21 done. Our Comebackers learn that time
22 management is key to their success.

23 As for money, college is
24 expensive. I also have a son about to go
25 to college. Whether you attend Community

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2 College or a private institution, receive
3 grants and scholarships or receive
4 tuition reimbursement from your employer,
5 you still have to pay a significant
6 amount of money to go to school.

7 Comebackers understand that although
8 finishing their degree is expensive, in
9 the long run it's one of the best
10 investments they can make and well worth
11 the cost.

12 Going back to school takes
13 commitment, commitment to your class
14 work, your family, and sometimes an
15 employer, but it also takes commitment to
16 yourself to keep working toward your
17 degree despite everything else going on
18 in your life. I challenge you to find a
19 more committed group of adults than our
20 Comebackers.

21 Lastly, getting a degree takes
22 grit. The definition of the word "grit"
23 is courage and resolve, strength of
24 character. Graduate! Philadelphia's
25 Comebackers show us the real meaning of

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2 the word "grit." They strive to stay on
3 course so they can go back and finish
4 what they started years ago. I applaud
5 their tenacity. They are true heroes.

6 Like so many of us, I know many
7 people who started their degree and just
8 didn't know where to turn to get the help
9 they needed to re-enroll back in college.
10 Had I known about their work earlier, I
11 could have referred many Comebackers
12 their way. I am grateful that I can do
13 so now and that I get to work with an
14 organization that helps people succeed
15 and move forward in their lives.

16 Thank you for honoring
17 Graduate! Philadelphia. They deserve to
18 be recognized for their accomplishments
19 over the past ten years.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
21 you very much.

22 Councilman Taubenberger.

23 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I
24 just want to thank the panel. In fact,
25 all the people who were here, but

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2 particularly this panel to give of their
3 personal stories, because personal
4 stories is what makes this. We're all
5 individuals. We're all unique in many
6 ways. We have advantages and in many
7 cases disadvantages, and to talk about
8 all of that is important for everyone to
9 know. So I thank you. And it's one of
10 these things when we talk about
11 promotion, it's been brought up, but if
12 we who know the story intimately don't
13 tell that story, well, shame on us,
14 because we got to tell the story. No one
15 else is going to toot your own horn. You
16 got to toot it yourself, and there's
17 nothing wrong with that.

18 So in that case, I want to
19 thank you for spending the afternoon with
20 us. And if anybody wants to give me
21 their business card, I'd be happy to give
22 you mine and we can continue on this,
23 because what we can learn
24 collaboratively -- I like that proverb.
25 I just wrote that down. Alone you can go

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2 fast, but together we can go further.

3 That's important. I wish more people

4 would live by that. Thank you.

5 Madam Chair, thank you very

6 much.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank

8 you very much.

9 Is there anyone else who would

10 like to testify?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: So

13 we'll ask our two leaders of these

14 programs to come forward for a minute.

15 We're about done. And we thank you.

16 (Witnesses approached witness

17 table.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Do you

19 ladies engage at high school level with

20 some schools?

21 MS. MATTLEMAN: Graduate!

22 Philadelphia does when there are adults

23 that are accompanying their students to

24 high school events, because we work with

25 adults that have some credits. So we

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2 talk to them about how they can go back
3 and be role models for their children.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: So we
5 can call you for forums with high school
6 students as well?

7 MS. MATTLEMAN: You can.

8 MS. DIAMOND: And we
9 participate into the Step Into College
10 program that Councilwoman Blondell
11 Reynolds Brown puts on each year as well
12 as accompanying PhillyGoes2College, which
13 is now at the Philadelphia Education
14 Fund, when they have events with college
15 students, and our message to those
16 students is to make sure that they get an
17 internship while they're in college.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And
19 did you say about 51 percent of these
20 kids are staying now?

21 MS. DIAMOND: Fifty-one percent
22 of students who come from outside the
23 region. Overall it's 64 percent of
24 students staying after they graduate.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: That's

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2 wonderful.

3 Councilman Taubenberger.

4 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Just
5 a quick question on that statistic. Is
6 that in the region or in the City?

7 MS. DIAMOND: That's in the
8 region.

9 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: It
10 helps in many ways. Unless you're a
11 political or geographic expert, you
12 wouldn't know you're in the City or not
13 in the City in most areas in the
14 five-county area. I mean, you just don't
15 know. It all kind of blends together,
16 and we need to work hard together. I
17 still like that African proverb. Alone
18 we can go fast, and he's right, but
19 together, and that includes the five
20 counties, we can go even further. And I
21 think we're, what I hear, in many ways
22 we're leading the nation, but we have to
23 continue that pace. Let them come to us
24 and ask us our expertise, because I think
25 once in a while, Philadelphia gets it

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2 right and we do it right. So you're
3 proof of that, both of you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: That's
5 right.

6 Do you help with tutoring? I
7 mean, for kids. Somebody even talked
8 about how they had kind of done badly and
9 wanted to come back to get back in
10 school. So you help in that regard?

11 MS. MATTLEMAN: So for our
12 Comebackers who work with us, we
13 sometimes offer math or writing
14 refreshers, because we know that many
15 adults are afraid of math and they might
16 need some help when they are going back
17 into school, but if they need specific
18 tutoring, we tell them to talk to their
19 schools. Every college has free tutoring
20 services available on campus. We direct
21 them to that.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
23 you.

24 And Mr. Flowers I wanted to
25 ask. I deal with a lot of returning

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2 citizens. I deal with a group called One
3 Click, and I wondered if I could ask you
4 to speak with that group. I think they
5 meet every other week.

6 (Mr. Flowers speaking without
7 microphone.)

8 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER:
9 Please come to the mic so you're part of
10 the record here.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
12 you, ladies.

13 (Witness approached witness
14 table.)

15 MR. FLOWERS: Yes. I'm
16 familiar with the organization. Actually
17 I was a former gang member myself, and I
18 have talked with several of the guys
19 there. I just haven't had a chance to
20 make it to one of their meetings, but if
21 you let me know, I will definitely be
22 there.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
24 you.

25 MR. FLOWERS: Because most of

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2 them know me from back in those days, you
3 know.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: That's
5 great. Well, with your number, I'll make
6 sure I put you back with them, and thank
7 you.

8 MR. FLOWERS: Thank you.

9 MS. MATTLEMAN: We can also
10 help connect you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
12 you. Thank you. Thank you very much.
13 Thank you all.

14 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I
15 just want to thank you all and
16 particularly the two ladies there right
17 in front of me, because you're the
18 genesis of all this. And I think we have
19 to go on with renewed vigor and tell the
20 story, and I'll do my part as well. I'm
21 going to find out how University of
22 Connecticut gets that bus pass and who is
23 paying for that, because that's how you
24 learn. You learn from other things, and
25 when someone says they're paying for a

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2 bus pass, I want to know how that works.

3 MS. DIAMOND: I should just
4 make a note, Pittsburgh does the same
5 thing for its students. Public
6 transportation in Pittsburgh is free with
7 a swipe of your student ID.

8 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: And
9 that is, what, University of Pittsburgh?

10 MS. DIAMOND: I think it's any
11 school in Pittsburgh, but it's certainly
12 the University of Pittsburgh. So they've
13 figured out how to do it as well. Campus
14 Philly has talked to SEPTA. We'd love
15 your help on moving it forward.

16 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: You
17 got it, because I think the more people
18 know about the area, the more apt they
19 are to want to try to stay. We have a
20 lot of things going on in this town. If
21 it weren't for the fact that I knew where
22 to catch trout in Pennsylvania in Centre
23 County, I wouldn't have been so crazy
24 about staying, but, I mean, I like the
25 whole view, the whole atmosphere. In the

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2 end, though, I came home, and I think
3 there was a reason why I came home and I
4 think I've been a help to some people.
5 But I still like trout fishing and I
6 found a couple places in Philadelphia,
7 and actually Philadelphia County you can
8 catch trout, one of which I don't have to
9 walk far from my home. Walk. It's an
10 interesting conundrum.

11 MS. MATTLEMAN: It's an amazing
12 place.

13 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: It is
14 an amazing place. It really is. Well,
15 thank you.

16 MS. MATTLEMAN: Thank you very
17 much.

18 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: And
19 we'll continue to collaborate and work
20 together.

21 MS. MATTLEMAN: Thank you both
22 for all you do.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL:
24 Listen, you made our jobs easy. And it's
25 been a wonderful afternoon.

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2 We want to thank everybody who
3 testified.

4 And so we will now recess this
5 hearing subject to the call of the Chair.

6 Thank you all, and God bless
7 you all.

8 (Thank you.)

9 (Committee on Education
10 concluded at 3:05 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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