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Vision 2015 Thanks JPMorgan Chase for Investment in Vision Network

Funding will support executive leadership training

Calling it "an inspiring commitment to Delaware's children," Paul A. Herdman, President and CEO of the Rodel Foundation of Delaware, gratefully accepted on behalf of Vision 2015 a youth education grant from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation. The \$180,000 contribution will help fund executive leadership training for the newly launched Vision Network of districts and charter schools, with support targeted to the Kuumba Academy Charter School in Wilmington. Directing funds in this way is an opportunity for the JPMorgan Chase Foundation to reach students in Wilmington with the greatest need, one of its specific criteria for grant-making.

"JPMorgan Chase is proud to invest in such an exciting and innovative project, which aligns tightly with our goals to build capacity within public schools and help underserved students prepare for and gain access to college," said Helen M. Stewart, Vice President and Community Relations Manager at JPMorgan Chase. "The Vision Network will accelerate student performance and help build a bright future for all Delaware children. We hope to be one of many more partners, both public and private, that rise to meet this challenge."

The Vision Network is a public-private initiative that will implement recommendations of Vision 2015, with the goal of building a statewide system of world-class schools. Four public school districts—each with two participating schools—plus Kuumba Academy and MOT Charter School were recently announced as the initial participants in the Vision Network.

"The leadership that JPMorgan Chase has demonstrated in public education is exceptional," said Dr. Sondra Shippen, Head of School for Kuumba Academy. "Kuumba is very proud to be a part of the Vision Network. The training we are receiving is leading-edge, and we are grateful that companies such as JPMorgan Chase are committed to investing in such proven professional development programs."

JPMorgan Chase joins the full membership of the Delaware Business Roundtable, The Wallace Foundation, the Delaware Department of Education, the University of Delaware, and the Rodel Foundation in supporting the Vision Network of schools and districts.

Leadership teams from participating Vision Network districts and charter schools have begun intensive year-long training to be provided by the Delaware Academy for School Leadership at the University of Delaware and Focus on Results, the consulting firm that has coached exemplary public school systems in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and Boston, Massachusetts. Training is research-based and provides coaching for educators as they rigorously employ student achievement data to drive instructional decisions and provide supports based on individual student's needs.

More information on the Vision Network can be found at www.vision2015delaware.org/vision/network/main.

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Vision 2015 is a collaborative effort by education, government, business and civic leaders throughout Delaware to provide a world-class public education to each and every student in Delaware. A broad-based, 28-person Steering Committee led the development of Vision 2015. Current efforts are directed by the Vision 2015 Implementation Team, a subgroup of the Steering Committee, which includes: Chair Marvin N. Schoenhals, Chairman, WSFS Bank; H. Raye Jones Avery, director of the Christina Cultural Arts Center; Dr. Kevin Carson, Superintendent, Woodbridge School District; Cynthia DiPinto, WolfBlock Public Strategies; Paul A. Herdman, President and CEO, Rodel Foundation of Delaware; Daniel Rich, Provost, University of Delaware; John H. Taylor, Jr., Executive Director, Delaware Public Policy Institute, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce; Howard Weinberg, Executive Director, Delaware State Education Association; and Valerie A. Woodruff, Delaware Secretary of Education.