



UCHICAGO Charter School

CARTER G. WOODSON CAMPUS
DONOGHUE CAMPUS
NORTH KENWOOD/OAKLAND CAMPUS
WOODLAWN CAMPUS


2010-2011



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

UEI

URBAN
EDUCATION
INSTITUTE



The University of Chicago Charter School is a public school on the South Side of Chicago operated by the University of Chicago Urban Education Institute.

North Kenwood/Oakland, founded in 1998, educates children from prekindergarten to grade five. Donoghue was created in 2005 and also serves children from prekindergarten to grade five. Carter G. Woodson, launched in 2008, provides schooling to children from grade six through eight. Woodlawn was established in 2006 and educates students from grade six to grade 12. Together, the four University of Chicago Charter School campuses offer children a prekindergarten through grade 12 pathway to college.

Who We Are

The University of Chicago Charter School provides students with rigorous instruction and comprehensive academic and social supports to accelerate learning, develop college readiness, and cultivate self-responsibility and leadership. Our campuses provide extensive instructional time, including a longer academic day and an extended day, week and year. We take a research-based approach to instruction, engaging students in ambitious intellectual work. Students undertake research projects in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences, beginning in elementary school and culminating with thesis projects in the senior year. Each campus envelops students in a culture of high academic achievement, with explicit attention to issues of race, class, culture, and gender that affect urban schooling.

The school uses diagnostic assessments to gauge student progress towards learning standards, using the results to fine-tune instruction, introduce interventions, and target academic and social supports. Intensive professional development, supports, and incentives are in place for teachers and school leaders. An advanced technological infrastructure supports teaching and learning. Parent centers and parent leadership are integral to our school culture. Above all, our teachers, staff, and leaders are dedicated, knowledgeable and skillful educators who teach, support, and inspire our students to achieve at high levels.

Highlights

Academic Achievement

In 2011, NKO students outperformed students in the state of Illinois by meeting or exceeding standards in Reading and Math. 3rd graders at NKO outperformed their colleagues by 24 percent in Reading, while 3rd grade students at Donoghue outperformed students by 16 percent in Math.

City, State, and International Recognition

UCW had its first student chosen to receive the Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship in 2011. Carter G. Woodson students competed at the state level in an annual history competition.

Large Impact

The University of Chicago Charter School continues to increase educational opportunities for children. In 2010-11, the four campuses enrolled 1650 students.

College Prep

425 students in grades 6 through 12 visited 25 colleges in 9 states as a part of UCW's First Annual College Week. Schools included in the tours were Syracuse, Oberlin, Michigan State, Notre Dame and Tuskegee.

Preparing for the Future

Each of our campuses integrate technology into the school day to prepare our young people for an ever changing world starting in pre-kindergarten. 6th to 8th grade students at CGW and 7th to 12th grade students at UCW participated in a one to one laptop program.

Partnership Spotlight

The Kerstens Support UEI's Work to Improve College Completion Rates



Learning that only 8 of 100 Chicago Public Schools students graduate from college by the time they are 25 was a sobering moment for Steve and Priscilla Kersten who believe that "education is our only hope for equalizing the disparities between the haves and the have-nots of our society." This statistic, based on 2006 research from the University of Chicago Urban Education Institute (UEI), was part of the reason why the couple decided to support the work of the organization and its charter school.

"We cannot accept that [statistic]," said the Kerstens. "It isn't enough just to get students through high school and admitted to college. We must try to assure that these students (the vast majority of whom are first generation college bound) are equipped to succeed in college."

"The proof is there. Ninety-five percent of Woodlawn campus graduates are college bound."

The desire to improve college graduation rates for low-income, minority students in Chicago Public Schools inspired Steve and Priscilla to support UEI's 6to16 program in the University of Chicago Charter School, at the Carter G. Woodson and Woodlawn campuses. 6to16 is a college-readiness curriculum, a set of online

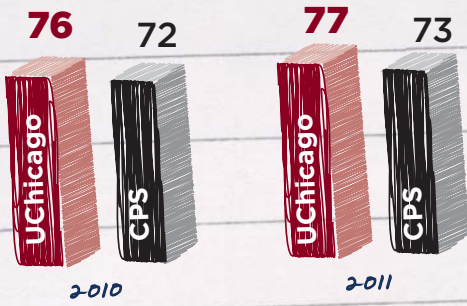
learning experiences, and a web-based social network that build student beliefs, knowledge, and skills to successfully complete high school and college. 6to16 spans sixth grade to "16th grade" (college graduation), providing students with college readiness skills and supports through middle school, high school, and the four years of college.

Priscilla and Steve Kersten believe that their investment in 6to16 at the charter school is bearing fruit. "The proof is there. Ninety-five percent of Woodlawn campus graduates are college bound—85% of whom are from low income families."

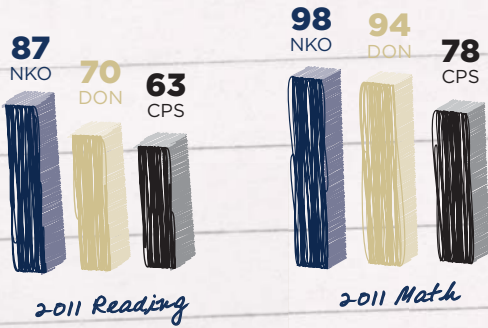
The Kerstens are committed to continuing their support for UEI, given its position in the field of urban education and its success. "As long as UEI remains one of the thought leaders and practitioners in the field of urban education and continues to make progress on the complex set of issues in improving education for the urban poor, we will be there to support the work."

Success We Can Count

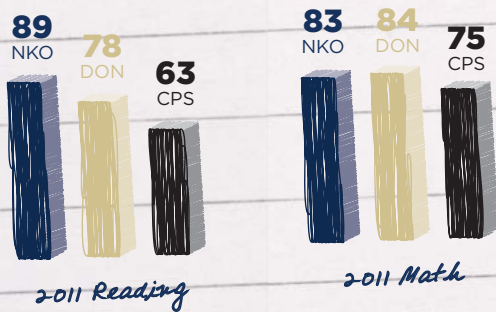
All Grades
(Reading/Math/science)



3rd Grade



5th Grade



100%

of CGW eighth graders chose the high schools they now attend.

Among high schools selected:

- ✓ WHITNEY YOUNG
- ✓ KING COLLEGE PREP
- ✓ URBAN PREP
- ✓ THE WOODLAWN CAMPUS
- THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CHARTER SCHOOL



Shaiesha Moore has
The Tools for
Success

Shaiesha Moore is a member of the second graduating class of the University of Chicago Charter School Woodlawn Campus. 57 students earned their high school diplomas on June 8, 2011 with 95 percent accepted to colleges and universities, including Carleton College, Tufts University and the University of Illinois. Scholarship awards totaled more than \$735,000.

As Shaiesha Moore ponders her future at Georgetown University, she is filled with trepidation. She wonders if she will be too homesick. She has never lived apart from her mother and sisters. She questions if she will be able to rise to the challenges of such a rigorous university. She earned a 4.0 GPA at the University of Chicago Charter School Woodlawn Campus (UCW), but college is different, right?

Shaiesha shares many of the same worries that every high school graduate faces when entering college. What she doesn't yet realize is that she has all the tools necessary to stop worrying.

From Kindergarten until 9th grade, Shaiesha transferred from school to school from year to year as her family moved around Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. When she entered UCW her freshman year of high school, she decided to put down roots. This was a place where she wanted to grow academically and socially for the next four years because she believes "UCW is a place where education is engaging." Her family supportive of the decision, Shaiesha, for the first 2 years of high school, got up at 4 a.m. to catch the Metra in order to get to UCW on time. And considering her exhaustive list of extracurriculars, she often didn't walk through her door until 7:30 at night. That left dinner and homework before she could even think about sleep. Shaiesha was determined.

Though Shaiesha spent two years putting in 15 hours days (not counting homework), she's convinced that she was not a true student until her junior year. She says, "I did enough to get that 'B', but I could have gotten 'A's with the right amount of effort." She credits her grandmother for her wake up call. When Shaiesha's grandmother became ill, she asked Shaiesha via a notepad about her dreams for the future. Shaiesha responded with a level of detail and passion that surprised even her. Grandma was incapable of speech, but tears welled in her eyes and she smiled with pride. When her Grand-



“Every teacher I’ve had at UCW has significantly impacted my life.”

mother passed that evening, Shaiesha took it as a sign to work harder and go further. Shaiesha was inspired.

Shaiesha's teachers at UCW recognized the change in her. "My teachers could tell that I was more serious than I had ever been. They rallied around me and did everything they could to help me excel. I was offered extra credit and tutoring in areas in which I struggled," she says. "Every teacher I've had at UCW since I was a freshman has significantly impacted my life." Shaiesha was supported.

To list all of Shaiesha's accomplishments would be difficult. Her tenure at UCW has been extraordinary. She graduated on June 8 as class valedictorian, delivering a speech that moved her and the audience to tears. She earned a 4.0 GPA in AP classes while juggling multiple extracurriculars including playing the lead in *Romeo and Juliet* at the Court

Theater High School performance (where she won best actress the year prior) and serving as President of her senior class. During her four years, she participated in soccer, dance, track and the school newspaper, to name a few activities. She created her own community organization with friends called Value Sisterly Love (VSL), the purpose of which is to promote abstinence and provide community service throughout Woodlawn. Shaiesha is a mentee for the Companies That Care: AIM High program and is a stand out on the UCW Great Debaters team, something of which she is particularly proud. "I enjoy debating because it's not simply arguing back and forth. Instead it's making analytical arguments, based on claims that are being supported with accredited evidence. The skills I learned from debate, I intend to use in college." Shaiesha has already been asked to join the Georgetown's Mock Trial and Philodemic Debate Society next year. Shaiesha is passionate.

One of only 1000 scholars in the country, Shaiesha recently discovered she has been awarded a prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship (GMS). This scholarship will cover the cost of her post-secondary education, including a Master's Degree and PhD should she choose to pursue them. The GMS supports a select number of exemplary minority students who may face financial barriers when striving to reach their highest potential. These students must demonstrate superior qualities in the areas of academics, leadership, character, community service, and extracurricular pursuits. When asked to describe in one word how she feels about receiving the award, she replies, "Liberated." Not having to pay for her education, Shaiesha says, "A burden is lifted from my shoulders. I no longer question how I will be able to survive in college. It gives me a sense of freedom. By not taking out any loans I become free from debt. I become free from relying on others to finance me through college, and most importantly, I have freed my family from financial burden. The Gates Scholarship will be the key to unlock many more doors in my future." Shaiesha is liberated.

Determined. Inspired. Supported. Passionate. Liberated. Shaiesha Moore is well equipped to realize every dream. She is her own key.



*The University of Chicago
Charter School consists of four
campuses with a single mission:*

**To prepare students
for college and success
when they get there**



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