

MEDIA ADVISORY - September 12, 2017

**PATERSON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION AND PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
JOIN FORCES TO PARTICIPATE IN FIRST ANNUAL
“HEALTHY SCHOOLS NOW” STUDENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

Unique opportunity for Union and School District to transform students into exceptional leaders empowered to create solutions for healthier communities.

PATERSON — The Paterson Education Association (PEA) has joined forces with Paterson Public Schools and the Healthy Schools Now Coalition to provide an opportunity for Paterson sophomore and junior high school students to receive training in civic engagement and to develop leadership skills.

WHAT: Student Leadership Academy

The focus of this academy is to equip students with knowledge on how to be powerful advocates for school facility quality. Most importantly, the lessons will be transferable, so our high school students will be better prepared to advocate on issues such as social, economic, and environmental justice issues in the future. Over the course of one school year, under the tutelage of the “*Healthy Schools Now*” coalition, students in Paterson Public Schools will be provided eight (8) Saturday trainings culminating with a “*State House Day*”, and a graduation ceremony. Jerell Blakeley, Healthy Schools Now, commented, “The Healthy Schools Now” campaign of the New Jersey Work Environment Council is thrilled to partner with the NJEA and the Paterson Education Association to provide selected Paterson Public School students in-depth training to become advocates and leaders for school health, safety, and social justice issues.”

Program Requirements:

1. *Students must be a high school sophomore or junior.*
2. *Students must be in good academic and disciplinary standing.*
3. *2.75 GPA or higher.*
4. *Completion of an application process.*

WHO: Any interested high school sophomore or junior meeting the program requirements.

The application is available at <https://njwec.org/2017/09/hsn-student-leadership-academy/> and also attached.

Organizers:

John McEntee, President, Paterson Education Association

Eileen Shafer, Acting Superintendent, Paterson Public Schools

David Cozart, Assistant Superintendent of High Schools, Paterson Public Schools

Jerell Blakeley, “Healthy Schools Now” Organizer

Joy Spinelli, P.E.A. Recording Secretary/Healthy Schools Now Contact

WHEN: Applications are due September 22, 2017. Students should complete applications as a PDF and email to Jerell Blakeley at jblakeley@njwec.org. Students will meet on Saturdays once per month from October until April per the attached schedule.

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About The Paterson Education Association

The Paterson Education Association represents more than 3,100 educators serving the students of Paterson Public Schools and the Paterson, NJ, community. Learn more at <http://www.patersonea.org>. Paterson Public Schools employs approximately 5,000 District employees.

About Paterson Public Schools

Paterson Public Schools is the second largest school district in New Jersey with over 28,000 students from pre-k through grade 12. The district's mission is to prepare all children for college and career...together we can! For more information, visit www.paterson.k12.nj.us.

Contacts:

P.E.A. President Mr. John McEntee, Jr. (973)-881-9445 jmcentee.pea@gmail.com

Paterson Public Schools Assistant Superintendent, Mr. David Cozart (973) 321-0555 or dcozart@paterson.k12.nj.us

Media should contact Ms. Terry Corallo (973-321-2430 or tcorallo@paterson.k12.nj.us).