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PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT JOINS MAYOR AND POLICE CHIEF TO ANNOUNCE NEW PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Programs aimed at drug prevention, police career exploration

PATERSON – Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer, Mayor Andre Sayegh, and Police Chief Troy Oswald gathered at the New Roberto Clemente School to announce pilot programs of two new initiatives aimed at keeping young people off drugs and inspiring them to consider careers in police work.

“These programs offer excellent drug prevention education, and expose our young people to police work, but what I like are the ancillary benefits,” said Paterson Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer. “They open a young person’s eyes to look beyond the present and see the possibilities of his or her own future. And they build positive relationships between our police and our young people in neighborhoods throughout our city.”

“Strengthening partnerships is as the core of our work here in Paterson,” noted Mayor Andre Sayegh. “We as leaders need to demonstrate collaboration and these programs are the perfect examples of the school district and police department coming together for the benefit of our young people. Programs like these which develop life skills and highlight potential career paths in law enforcement have been dormant for too long, and we’re excited to bring them back.”

“We are thrilled to partner with the School District on the LEAD and the Paterson Police Explorers program, both of which will address the scourge of drugs while positively engaging our teens about the impact of police in their own community,” said Police Chief Troy Oswald. “We want more youth from Paterson to join the police force and become leaders in our community, and we expect these programs to lead to that outcome.”

The Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) program is a kindergarten to 12th grade drug prevention education curriculum taught by specially-trained police officers in public schools. What makes it unique from other drug prevention programs is its use of student engagement strategies that have been proven to be pedagogically effective.

The LEAD pilot program will soon be launched at The New Roberto Clemente School, the Roberto Clemente School, Public School 12, the Urban Leadership Academy, and the Great Falls Academy. For more information about LEAD, click here: <https://leadrugs.org/curriculum/>

The Paterson Police Explorers program will provide to students ages 14 to 18 the opportunity to explore a career in police work. Working alongside Paterson police officers, they will learn the basics of working the scene of an accident, being part of an emergency response team, and life-saving skills like CPR.

The Paterson Police Explorers pilot program will soon be launched at schools to be named later.

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