



# Mastery Schools Shout-Out!



## Two Mastery Students Win Highly-Competitive QuestBridge Scholarships

Two Mastery seniors, currently dually-enrolled at The Community College of Philadelphia through The Sage Financial/David M. Cohn Early College Partnership program, have won highly-competitive scholarships from QuestBridge. The national scholarship organization helps students from low-income schools connect to some of the best universities in the country. Only five percent of students who apply qualify for scholarships. This year that includes **TWO** Mastery students! Congratulations Ahkeel Timothy from Mastery Charter Shoemaker and Devia Terry from Mastery Charter Pickett! Mastery's QuestBridge finalists have been matched with Columbia University and Stanford University, respectively.

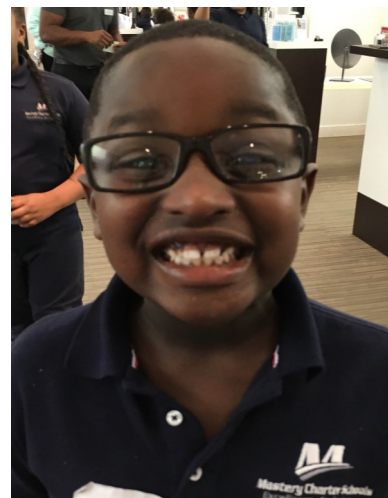
On December 13th, 25 students from Smedley Elementary visited the LensCrafters in King of Prussia for full eye exams and new glasses.

Students were treated to lunch and learning activities as they prepared for their exams. LensCrafters employee, Kim Garbe reached out to the school to participate in LensCrafters' *One Day* - a day of giving back to the community. The employees were excited to have the students join them and set-up a mini "frame shop" in the store, complete with a frame stylist to help find their perfect glasses! The doctors at LensCrafters also donated their time to perform the exams. LensCrafters hopes to continue this partnership with Mastery in the future and welcome even more students into their store.

Several of the students were in desperate need for glasses that fit their prescription. On the bus ride back home, one student was amazed at all the sights he could now see!

Thank you, LensCrafters!

## Seeing Clearly at Smedley!



## Mastery Principal Honored by U.S. Department of Education and Youth Mentoring Partnership

Sharif El-Mekki, principal at Mastery Shoemaker Campus, was recently recognized as a national education leader and spoke in Poitiers, France with a delegation about what schools can do to address the needs of immigrant and refugee students. He was also honored at the Youth Mentor Partnership's Dinner in January for his leadership efforts.

## Thomas Campus Students Compete in MLK Day Competition

Two Mastery Charter Thomas Campus students competed as finalists in the first annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratory Scholarship Competition held by the *Thomas and Woods Foundation*. Kiechelle Lewis (second from right) and Symone Johnson (third from right) wrote speeches as part of the application requirement and, after being selected, received one-on-one public speaking training to prepare for the competition. The results are in: Kiechelle placed fourth and Symone placed fifth! The competition was open to all Philadelphia students in grades 9-12. Judges for the event included Rep. Jason Dawkins, Rep. Morgan Cephus, Rep. Isabella Fitzgerald, Thomas and Wood Foundation Board Chairman Cutis Blessing, and Ryan Boyer of Local 393.



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