



Dear Friends and Supporters of Walter Payton College Prep:

Every year, Friends of Payton (FOP) raises funds for Walter Payton College Prep to support programs and services not funded by Chicago Public Schools but that are nevertheless critical to the educational experience of Payton students. **Our annual spring fundraising gala will be held Friday, March 9, 2018, at Moonlight Studios.** Funds raised by FOP help purchase textbooks and technology, underwrite SAT test prep and educational trips for students in need, sponsor teacher training and support interscholastic teams. FOP funds also pay for four teaching positions, which might otherwise be cut, causing class sizes to rise and certain accelerated courses to be discontinued.

In support of this year's gala, please consider donating an item or gift certificate to our fundraising auction. Corporate donations are also appreciated. FOP is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Your donation to Payton helps sustain excellence at a public school that consistently ranks among the top in Illinois and among the top 0.3% of public high schools in the country. Payton has twice received the National Blue Ribbon Award as an "Exemplary High Performing High School." Our students come from all across Chicago, creating a cultural and socioeconomic diversity that Payton counts as its greatest strength.

Our spring fundraising gala celebrates our school's diversity with the theme **Block Party, 200 Neighborhoods = One Payton Community**. Please consider contributing to our gala using the attached donor form. We welcome your questions – see our contact details below – and we greatly appreciate your support.

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