



## **High School Students Earning Credits toward their College Degree**

Six students from the 2018 senior class at **MaST Community Charter School (MaST)** are embarking on the next big chapter of their lives. Not only is it the last year of high school, it is also their last year at **Community College of Philadelphia**. These students will soon become the first cohort to graduate under a special dual enrollment program created through a partnership between MaST and the College in 2015, known as MC<sup>2</sup>.

They are on track to earn both an associate degree and a high school diploma in May 2018. "Colleges like unique. When we apply to four-year colleges, they'll see we took the harder path and it helps us stand out," said Savannah Zazulak.

As sophomores, MaST high school students entered a dual enrollment program, taking a combination of college level courses, along with their own high school courses. If they complete their final year successfully, they will have earned 60 college credits and an Associate in Arts Degree in Business, along with their diploma.

"It's an exciting year for these students. Our dual enrollment programs provide an accelerated career track for Philadelphia youth from all walks and stages of life," said Dr. Donald Guy Generals, president of the College. "The regional workforce benefits as the city increases the college-going rate."

This summer, the College embarked on a monumental new partnership with the School District of Philadelphia to launch the city's first and only **Middle College High School**. Ninth grade students are half way through the first year of the Parkway Center City Middle College, where they have the opportunity to earn an associate degree from Community College of Philadelphia while earning a high school diploma.

Advance at College's dual enrollment partnership with **Mastery Charter School** is now in its sixth year. We celebrated another graduating class of students last spring, many having earned up to 30 credits while in high

school, and some securing full scholarships to some of the nation's most prestigious colleges and universities.

Our summer **Advance College Experience (ACE)** program enrolled 357 high school students in 2017, with 82 percent of those students earning a "C" or higher in their college courses, the highest number of enrollments and the highest percentage of students earning credits in the history of ACE.

Dual enrollment programs offer many benefits for the students. Community College Research Center at Columbia University conducted studies in Florida, New York City and California and found that dual enrollment participation is positively related to a range of college outcomes, including college enrollment and persistence, greater credit accumulation and higher college GPA.