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Mayor

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Press Release

Mayor Gary R. McCarthy joins Schenectady City School District Superintendent Larry Spring to announce May HOMES Open House

SCHENECTADY – Since its inception, the Home Ownership Made Easy in Schenectady (HOMES) program has worked with its partners to highlight the great values and opportunities that exist in Schenectady. The Schenectady City School District was among the founding partners and its schools offer a myriad of programs and opportunities that are often overlooked, including many of which match or exceed its suburban counterparts.

“From the beginning, HOMES has been showcasing the many great things about Schenectady; the values, the opportunities, and the often overlooked assets. The Schenectady City School District is subject to some misperceptions, but the unmistakable progress we have seen here should give us all hope for the future of our community,” said Mayor Gary McCarthy. “These young adults possess a talent and enthusiasm that should make us all proud.”

“The Schenectady City School District is proud to partner with Mayor McCarthy and the City of Schenectady HOMES initiative. The quality of a school district is an important consideration of any potential home buyer. We are pleased to showcase the array of educational and extracurricular opportunities and programs that are available to all students in Schenectady. Our school district is one of the many reasons why any family with children should consider purchasing a home and living in Schenectady,” said Schenectady City School District Superintendent Larry Spring.

The Schenectady City School District has nearly 10,000 students who speak twenty-seven different languages including Spanish, Pashto, and Farsi. The outstanding teaching staff includes the 2012 New York State Teacher of the Year and sixty-two National Board Certified Teachers, more than any other district in the State outside of New York City.

More

The high school offers hundreds of courses and programs including the International Baccalaureate Program (the only local school to offer this program), Smart Scholars, JROTC, Robotics and certification programs such as CISCO Networking, A+ Certification, IT Essential and more. The School District also offers more than thirty University in the High School courses where students earn college credits while still in high school.

One of the many great things about Schenectady is its great connection to the arts. Nowhere is that connection more powerful than at SCSD's thriving music and theater programs. The District was recently recognized as one of the best communities for Music Education in the nation by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation and Bill Ziskin, a longtime teacher at Schenectady High School and Director of the Blue Roses Theatre Company at the John Sayles School of Fine Arts, was nominated by former students and colleagues for a Tony Award in a new category, the Excellence in Theatre Education Award. With a national award-winning Fine Arts Program and the Sayles School of Fine Arts with a Black Box Theatre, dance studio, video production studio, media arts lab, piano lab, music studio, art studios, and art gallery, the Schenectady School District is a leader in arts education.

Aleda Kirstein, who is a junior at Schenectady High School, and took first place for an opinion piece she wrote about the school in the *Daily Gazette's* "The Student Gazette" competition, also spoke about her unique perspective as a student in the High School.

The event also highlighted the addition of a new HOMES partner, CM Fox Real Estate.

"Gaining a quality education from such a richly diverse school as Schenectady High helped me tremendously in building future relationships within the real estate profession, and allows me to give potential Schenectady homebuyers a first-hand account of the great programs and educational opportunities available to students," said Elizabeth Macaulay with new HOMES partner CM Fox Real Estate. Macaulay is a Schenectady High School graduate and a founding member of the Schenectady Millennial Council and excited to be involved in the dramatic redevelopment of Schenectady.

HOMES started out with 9 partners (Key Bank, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Blake, the Schenectady City School District, the Gazette, NBT Bank, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Legere Restorations, SRG Architects and Open Stage Media) and continues to bring in additional partners (CM Fox Real Estate, NBT Bank, Greater Capital District Association of Realtors, CDTA, Prospect Lending, Coldwell Banker, SONYMA, Trustco, The Home Depot, Creating Why Media, Capital District Community Loan Fund, NYSHCR, Schenectady County Habitat for Humanity, Community Land Trust of Schenectady, Better Neighborhoods Inc, Homestead Funding, and M&T Bank).

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