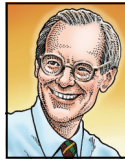


# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## Foundation boosts college-bound

Fifteen of the students who graduated from Pottstown High School last month have a head start on college, paid in part or in full by the Foundation for Pottstown Education.

The students earned college credits from the Montgomery County Community College at the same time



Commentary by  
Tom Hylton

they were juniors and seniors at Pottstown High School. Depending on students' financial need and their grade point average, the Foundation paid for either half or all of their tuition.

The credits are accepted by state colleges and many

private colleges.

Some students had already finished a full year of college (30 credits) by the time they received their diploma last month.

Operating out of a rent-free office in the Pottstown School District ad-

ministration building, the Foundation is otherwise self-sustaining.

The Class of 2020 earned a combined 255 credits at a cost of \$48,705. If these same classes were taken at the colleges and universities these students will attend, the credits would have cost \$388,980.

Not all students who enroll in both Pottstown High School and the Community College receive a subsidy.

Only those who are accepted in the Early College program, demonstrating financial need, a 90 percent or above grade point average at the high school, and a good attendance record qualify.

In the seven years the Foundation has offered the program, 69 students have had all or part of their dual enrollment college credits paid for at a total cost of nearly \$350,000.

The college tuition program is not the only way the Foundation enhances education in Pottstown. Earlier this month, the Foundation donated \$200,000 to the school district to buy Chromebooks.

College Cohort	Number Enrolled	Start date	Graduate PHS	Completed Early College program
Cohort I	9	Spring 2014	2015	9
Cohort II	11	Fall 2014	2016	11
Cohort III	14	2015	2017	11
Cohort IV	20	2016	2018	14
Cohort V	12	2017	2019	9
Cohort VI	15	2018	2020	15
Cohort VII	15	2019	2021	
Cohort VIII	14	2020	2022	
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>69</b>

Colleges/ universities attended by Foundation-funded graduates				
Albright	Emory	Montco CC	Temple	West Chester
Alfred	Florida Tech	Millersville	Temple- Japan	Widener
Alvernia	Gwynedd Mercy	Moravian	U San Diego	York
Cairn	Howard	New York	U of the Sciences	East Carolina
Cheney	Indiana of PA	Penn State	U of Virginia	Lynchburg
Dickinson	Lebanon Valley	P.S. Berks	Ursinus	Susquehanna
Drexel	Lycoming	Shenandoah	Utica	Villanova