



NOBLE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOV. RAUNER JOINS CELEBRATION OF NOBLE'S FIRST STEM-FOCUSED HIGH SCHOOL IN CHICAGO

ITW David Speer Academy offers students the opportunity to explore engineering

CHICAGO – Chicago students interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields will be primed for success in college and careers at [ITW David Speer Academy](#) – the newest school in the [Noble Network of Charter Schools](#). To celebrate the brand new campus, ITW David Speer Academy is having a grand opening event on Friday, April 17, which will be attended by Gov. Bruce Rauner.

“Nationwide, we are experiencing a workforce shortage in STEM fields. At Noble, we are dedicated to setting students up for success not only in college, but also in careers,” said Principal Thomas Mulder. “ITW David Speer Academy will proactively cultivate a culture of curiosity where students are provided hands-on experience in science and engineering labs as well as the opportunity to work with professionals in STEM fields they may choose to pursue in their future.”

The state-of-the-art school in Chicago’s northwest side is an entirely new construction. Welcoming its first class this school year, Speer Academy will grow to serve 900 students, boasting four engineering labs, an athletic field and a lecture hall. The school is named in memory of David B. Speer, the former Chairman and CEO of ITW.

“ITW David Speer Academy is a place where students will be exposed to and explore engineering,” said Barbara Speer, David’s wife. “I’m honored that my husband’s name is associated with a school that will prepare future innovators from Chicago.”

In addition to its financial investment, ITW will have an active ongoing role in providing STEM-focused enrichment and vocational experiences for Speer Academy students. Speer Academy also infuses the curriculum with the performing arts, social justice and cutting-edge technology to make sure every student has the opportunity to excel.

“When we opened the first Noble school over 15 years ago, we had a simple goal – to give Chicago students opportunities that will support them in life,” said Noble CEO and Superintendent Michael Milkie. “Thanks to the help of local leaders and the generous people at ITW, this school expands the options Noble gives Chicago students to ensure they have successful lives.”

WHO: Over 270 students will come together with Gov. Bruce Rauner, teachers, parents, administrators, partners, and elected officials to celebrate the opening of ITW David Speer Academy.

WHAT: Opportunity to tour Noble's first STEM-focused campus as well as interview elected leaders and students.

WHEN: Program starts at 2 p.m. Friday, April 17. Gov. Rauner is expected to speak at 3:15 p.m.

WHERE: [ITW David Speer Academy, 5321 W. Grand Ave., Chicago, IL 60639.](#)

About Noble

Noble (www.noblenetwork.org) is Chicago's largest and highest performing network of public high schools. Last year, Noble campuses were eight of the top 10 open enrollment public high schools in Chicago and more than 90 percent of graduates matriculated to college this year. Noble is a non-selective network serving more than 10,000 students throughout Chicago at 16 campuses. Noble campuses are located in some of Chicago's highest need communities and serve a student population that is 89 percent low-income and 98 percent minority. As a public non-selective high school, there are no testing requirements for enrollment at any of Noble's campuses.

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