



NOBLE NETWORK OF CHARTER SCHOOLS
ANNUAL REPORT 2006



The Noble Network of Charter Schools, through the campuses of Noble Street Charter School, prepares Chicago's youth to function successfully in society by requiring and facilitating educational excellence, civic responsibility and respect for the community, the environment and people from all walks of life.





The Noble Network of Charter Schools’ vision is to provide a superior education to its students, and to achieve positive change in Chicago education by:

- Ensuring the availability of high-quality school choice to high school students in Chicago, and
- Impacting traditional urban public education more broadly by opening additional Noble Street Charter School campuses and supporting the replication efforts of others.

The Noble Network will enact this vision by building high-quality schools that provide choice to underserved Chicago families in order to:

- Increase the academic performance of Chicago’s diverse students,
- Catalyze change in Chicago public education, and
- Share successful practices with other educators and administrators in Chicago and cities across the country.

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Daniel W. Vittum, Jr.

Dear Friends,

This Annual Report acknowledges the first full year of existence of the Noble Network of Charter Schools, and summarizes remarkable achievements that constitute the Network's progress toward its goal of opening six new high school campuses by 2008. I hope you will join me in recognizing the hard work and commitment of the Network administration and faculty, students and parents, Board of Directors and supporters this year.

Fiscal year 2006 was one of exciting growth throughout the Network and also steady progress at the Network's flagship Noble Street campus (since renamed Noble Street College Prep). In November, the Noble Network's mission truly took hold as the first two new Noble Network campuses – Ohio Street and Cortland (since renamed Rauner College Prep and Pritzker College Prep, respectively) – were officially approved by the Chicago Board of Education. Since then, many milestones have been reached: principals were hired to lead these two campuses and spent the year as interns at the Noble Street campus; a lottery was held to select the freshmen classes for the three Network campuses; teachers were hired and construction on the Rauner and Pritzker campus buildings was completed for the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year.

Meanwhile, student achievement at Noble Street College Prep improved even further, confirming the strength of the Noble educational model and our reasons for working toward replication. Noble Street ranked 9th in math, 12th in ACT scores and 14th in reading among Chicago Public high schools according to 2005 Prairie State Achievement Exam scores, and was the only non-selective admission high school to meet requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress as stipulated in the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*.

The Noble Network has strengthened its position as a respected model for high school reform. The Network is proud to be among the excellent educational organizations supported by national foundations, local funders and generous individual donors throughout the area. Partnerships with organizations and individuals in West Town and Hermosa, where our new campuses will operate next year, will enhance the Network's continued accomplishments.

Your interest in and support of the Noble Network of Charter Schools has helped propel it to its current success and will provide momentum for its future progress. With your continued confidence in our work, the Noble Network will move closer to our goal of providing an outstanding education to 3,500 low-income, minority Chicago high school students.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Vittum, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

“The Noble Network has strengthened its position.”





Rauner College Prep and Pritzker College Prep Opened August 2006

The 300 freshman that make up the class of 2010 at the Network's two new high school campuses – Rauner College Prep and Pritzker College Prep – come from more than 70 different elementary schools, most of which have predominantly minority and low-income student bodies.

Experienced Leadership

When the doors to the new schools opened in August, students were greeted by campus staffs that are truly the “best of the best.”

- Eric Thomas, Rauner College Prep principal, is a dedicated educator who created an extremely successful Communications Academy in a Baltimore Public School and oversaw training at Teach for America.
- Pablo Sierra, Pritzker College Prep principal, completed the prestigious New Leaders for New Schools training program, was an intern at the Noble Street campus in 2003-2004 and served as founding principal of ACE Tech Charter School.
- Founding teachers for both campuses come from seven states and hold nine advanced degrees with two in-progress. They have varied experiences including mental health counseling, research and study in Brazil and China, community activism and involvement in photography, theatre and athletics.

“Erie Neighborhood House is proud to cooperate with the Noble Network in serving the youth of West Town. Having the Noble Network’s Rauner College Prep school just blocks away from Erie Neighborhood House will strengthen our partnership and make it even more convenient for Noble Network students to attend Erie Neighborhood House’s after-school, youth and community technology programs.”

— Ricardo (Ric) Estrada, Executive Director, Erie Neighborhood House

Gearing Up for the Future

The Noble Network was awarded a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services to provide tutoring, career and college exploration and summer programs to enhance students’ readiness for college. The program, called Gear Up, enabled the Network to offer the first Early College Summer Program for incoming Noble Street, Rauner and Pritzker freshmen in June and July 2006. Activities during the academic year will be based at the Pritzker College Prep campus and will enable staff to evaluate the impact of focused college readiness programming on students’ progress over the next five years.

Curriculum Development

A grant awarded to the Noble Network from the Illinois State Board of Education as part of the College and Career Success for All program will enable teachers from all three campuses to participate in professional development seminars provided by the College Board this fall. The trainings will be aligned with a Network-wide effort to revise the curriculum so that students develop key skills over the course of four years and are prepared for the ACT college readiness exam and advanced placement classes.

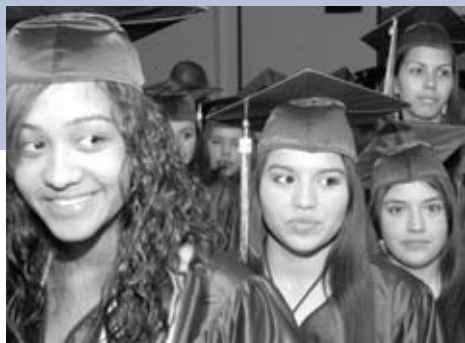
“The Hermosa Community Organization believes that Pritzker College Prep school and the Noble Network, with its holistic educational approach, will be the foundation of opportunity for generations of Hermosa children.”

— Jose Alvarez, Executive Director, Hermosa Community Organization

The Noble Network is grateful to the following individuals and organizations who were instrumental in the Network’s work to secure and prepare the Rauner and Pritzker campus facilities:

Richard M. Daley, Mayor
 Arne Duncan, CEO, Chicago Public Schools
 Walter Burnett, Alderman
 Ariel Reboyras, Alderman
 Cynthia Soto, Illinois State Representative
 Joseph Harming, Office of the Mayor
 Jose Alvarez, Chicago Public Schools
 Thomas Donnellan, City of Chicago
 Department of Buildings
 Richard Rodriguez, City of Chicago
 Department of Construction and Permits
 Dan Alexander, Illinois Facilities Fund
 Kirby Buckholder, Illinois Facilities Fund
 Jill Levine, Illinois Facilities Fund
 Maria Segal, Holabird & Root
 Branyo Dvorak, Holabird & Root
 Audra Hauck, Holabird & Root
 Charles Vinz, Holabird & Root
 Ike Hong, Pacific Construction Services
 Seth Ehrlich, Pacific Construction Services
 John Menendez, Pacific Construction Services
 James Killen, Pacific Construction Services
 Wendi Wolmer, Pacific Construction Services
 Maureen O’Brien, Archdiocese of Chicago
 Father Vincent Gennardo, Santa Maria Addolorata Parish
 Father Denny O’Mara, St. Philomena Church
 Jose Alvarez, Hermosa Community Organization
 Rosario Delgado, Hermosa Community Organization
 Tony Feliciano, Northwestern University Settlement Association

Noble Street College Prep



Impressive Performance

The Noble Network's flagship high school campus, Noble Street College Prep, continued to outperform the Chicago Public Schools district in measures of academic achievement, student attendance and graduation. Noble Street's score on the 2005 Prairie State Achievement Exam was higher than the district average; its attendance rate remains more than 10 percent higher than the district's average rate; and its average graduation rate is nearly double the Chicago Public Schools rate.

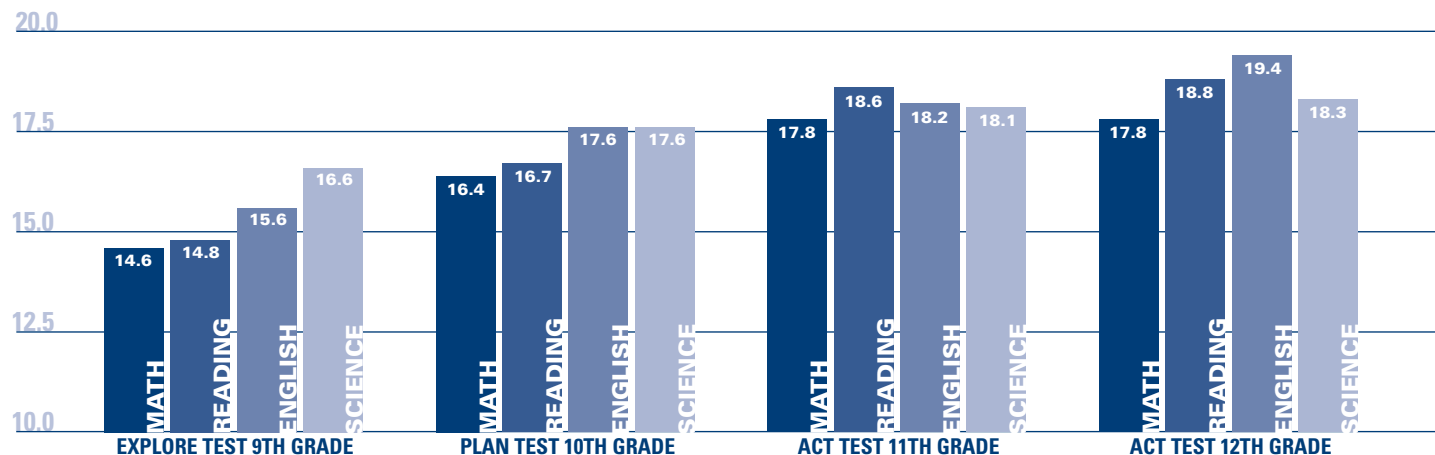
Local Support

On January 24, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley held a press conference at Noble Street College Prep to announce more than \$30 million in funding for new schools opening as part of the citywide Renaissance 2010 initiative. More than 50 corporate and civic leaders attended the breakfast and press conference, and each was escorted by a Noble Street student.

Beyond the Classroom

More than 80 percent of Noble Street students participated in after-school classes such as Modern Dance, Creative Writing and Rocket Club this year, and nearly 30 percent participated in one of 14 competitive sports. The Noble Street football team played its first night game, and the girls' and boys' cross-country teams both placed in the top five in Chicago. The Noble Street Poetry Slam team won the Spirit Award at the city's Louder than a Bomb teen poetry festival.

Noble Street Class of 2005 – Growth In Standardized Test Scores



“The relationship between the Settlement and Noble Street is a true partnership. For the past eight years, the Settlement has benefited greatly from involvement of students as volunteers, and Settlement staff members have enjoyed serving students and their families through programs like emergency services and our theater.”

— Tony Feliciano, Chief of Staff, Northwestern University Settlement Association



Preparing for College

Noble Street College Prep students begin exploring college as early as freshman year. Students visit local universities and also talk to teachers and school visitors about their college experiences. More than 40 percent of students spend several weeks learning and living on college campuses across the country prior to graduation. Approximately 91 percent of Noble Street’s Class of 2006 has plans for postsecondary education. The Class of 2006 earned more than \$1 million in college scholarship money.

Diverse Spirit

Noble Street College Prep served 480 students in grades 9-12 this year. More than 85 percent of students were low-income and the majority lived within two miles of the school. The student body was 85 percent Hispanic and 12 percent Black. About half of this year’s freshmen entered Noble Street with skills below grade level in reading and math, and 12 percent of all students received special education services.



**Class of 2006
College Choices**

- Amherst College
- Carleton College
- Carthage College
- Columbia College
- The Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago
- Daley College
- DePauw University
- DeVry University
- Dominican University
- Eastern Illinois University
- Eastern Michigan University
- Harper College
- Illinois Institute of Art
- Illinois State College
- Lincoln Technical Institute
- Loyola University
- Morton College
- North Park University
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Northern Illinois University
- Occidental College
- Pomona College
- Robert Morris College
- Southern Illinois University
- St. Mary’s University
- University of Dubuque
- University of Illinois at Champaign
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- Wabash College

Contributors

Corporation, Foundation and Organization Support

Noble Network Replication Project

Arie and Ida Crown Memorial Charter School Growth Fund
 Chicago Public Schools
 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
 KPMG LLP
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lutz
 Michael & Susan Dell Foundation
 NewSchools Venture Fund
 Northern Trust
 Prince Charitable Trusts
 Pritzker Family
 Pritzker Traubert Family Foundation
 Rauner Family Foundation
 The Renaissance Schools Fund
 Walton Family Foundation, Inc.

Noble Street College Prep

\$50,000 or more:
 Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust

\$25,000 – \$49,999:
 BP Foundation, Inc.
 Mayer and Morris Kaplan Family Foundation
 The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation

\$10,000 – \$24,999:
 Chicago White Sox Charities, Inc.
 The Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation
 Perkins Malo Hunter Foundation

\$1,000 – \$9,999:
 David Hiller Charitable Fund of The Chicago Community Foundation
 The Farny R. Wurlitzer Foundation
 Anonymous

\$100 – \$999:
 Altria Group, Inc.
 Jane Austen Society of North America
 Hochberg Family Philanthropic Fund
 Maine Township High School West
 On-Cor Frozen Foods, Inc.

Pritzker College Prep (formerly Cortland)

\$10,000 or more:
 Chicago Public Schools
 Magid Glove & Safety Manufacturing Co. LLC
 Prince Charitable Trusts
 Illinois Department of Human Services

Rauner College Prep (formerly Ohio Street)

\$10,000 or more:
 Chicago Public Schools
 Prince Charitable Trusts

Individual Gifts to the Noble Network of Charter Schools

\$25,000 or more:
 Anonymous

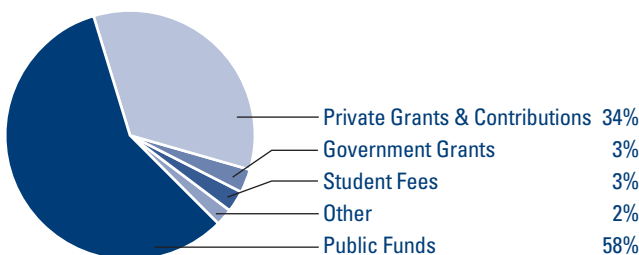
\$5,000 – \$24,999:
 Patricia M. Johnson
 Bob and Julie Montgomery
 Dr. Arnold Weber
 Mr. David Weinberg

\$1,000 – \$4,999:
 Gerhard and Kathy Bette
 Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bernick
 Mrs. Marie K. Burnside
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clifford
 Michael and Kathleen Elliott
 Mr. and Mrs. Avrum Gray
 Dr. Christine L. Jacobek
 Mr. and Mrs. W. Jacobek
 Sherry and Peter John
 Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Krulec
 Mr. and Mrs. Ron Manderschied
 Michael and Tonya Milkie
 Mrs. Dorothy Missner
 Mr. James Mitchell
 Allan and Elaine Muchin
 Anne and Kurt Mueller
 Sylvia and Joe Radov
 Diana and Bruce Rauner
 Ms. Jean E. Sheridan
 Mr. and Mrs. Joel Stone
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Supera
 Kirk and Mindy Uhrlaub
 Mr. Daniel W. Vittum, Jr.
 Mrs. Kathryn Vittum
 Brian and Elaine Weinberg

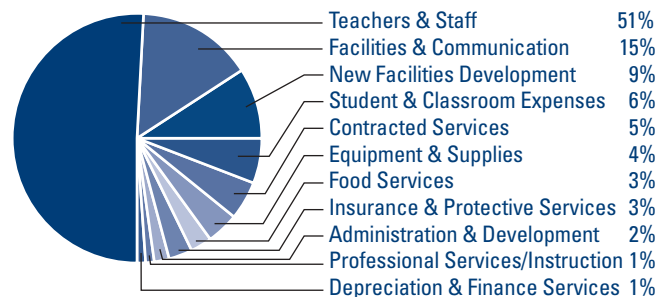
\$500 – \$999:
 Ms. Valery De Long
 David and Robyn Grossberg
 Ms. Ludim Guzman
 Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hinkel
 Jeffrey and Bonnie Kramer
 Dr. Sylvia Manning
 Ms. Margaret E. Wooten

\$100 – \$499:
 Charles and Debra Colodny
 Mrs. Ruth B. Colodny
 Jim and Wendy Daverman
 Mr. and Mrs. Walt Eckenhoff
 Ilana and Steven Fradkin
 Terry M. and Mary D. Faulk
 John and Noreen Ferentz
 Barbara and Tom Filippini
 Rachel and Michael Kramer
 Robert and Carol Lenz
 Jess and Mary Levine
 James G. and Maureen E. Quaid
 Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Rich
 Mr. Brian W. Saber
 Mrs. Kenneth H. Suter
 Mr. Mark Van Grinsven
 Allen and Jennifer Weaver
 CA & HM Wooten Trust
 Carolyn Yoch and Kurt Walsh

Revenue



Expenses



Board of Directors

Kathleen Elliott, *Board Audit and Finance Committee Chair, Vice President (ret.), First Chicago/Bank One*

Ann Marie Goddard, *Partner, KPMG LLP*

William K. Hall, *Chairman, Procyon Technologies*

Patricia M. Johnson, *Community Leader*

John Lock, *CEO & President, Charter School Growth Fund*

Ema Lopez, *Board Parent Representative, Contract Specialist, Erie Neighborhood House*

Ron Manderschied, *Board President, President & CEO, Northwestern University Settlement Association*

Sylvia Manning, *Board Vice Chair, Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago*

Michael Milkie, *Superintendent & COO, Noble Network of Charter Schools*

Robert M. Montgomery, *Chairman, CareerBuilder.com*

Allan B. Muchin, *Board Facilities Committee Chair, Chairman Emeritus, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP*

Anne Mueller, *Community Leader*

James A. Peyser, *Partner, NewSchools Venture Fund, Chairman, Massachusetts Board of Education*

Jean E. Sheridan, *Executive Vice President, Northern Trust*

Daniel W. Vittum, Jr., *Board Chair, Attorney (ret.), Kirkland & Ellis*

David Weinberg, *Founder & President, Illinois Network of Charter Schools*

John C. White, *Executive Director, Teach for America – Chicago*

Board Appointments

Edison Urena, *Board Treasurer, Business Manager, Northwestern University Settlement Association*

Susan Diaz, *Board Secretary and Clerk, Executive Secretary, Northwestern University Settlement Association*

Faculty and Staff

Charter Management Office

Ron Manderschied, *President & CEO*

Michael Milkie, *Superintendent & COO*

Mireya Diaz, *Accountant*

Rachel Kramer, *Resource Development Manager*

Allen Ramsier, *IT Director*

Jessica Flores, *Administrative Assistant*

Laura Gutierrez, *Administrative Assistant*

Pritzker College Prep

Pablo Sierra, *Principal Intern*

Nancy Mendoza, *Office Manager*

Rauner College Prep

Eric Thomas, *Principal Intern*

Madelyn Padin, *Office Manager*

Noble Street College Prep

William Olsen, *Principal*

Tonya Milkie, *Dean of Students*

Marlon Tobin, *Dean of Discipline/Athletic Director*

Ludim Guzman, *Office Manager*

Jackie Rouder, *Social Worker*

John Adams, *Math*

Michelle Barrett, *Health Science*

Kerry Bartholomew, *Reading*

Sarah Baranoff, *Reading*

David Biele, *American History*

Kristen Bohmbach, *Special Ed*

Tim Brown, *Civics*

Natasha Cavitt, *English/Reading*

Angela Chang, *English/Reading*

Francisco Colon, *Security*

John Conneely, *English*

and Engineering

Carmelita Deransburg, *Chemistry*

Josh DeWitte, *Music*

Jim Edwards, *English/College Prep*

Chris Fallon, *Reading*

Vanessa Galarza, *Physics*

Rocio Garcia, *Admin*

Denise Gelb, *Reading*

Lorena Gomez, *Admin*

Norma Gutierrez, *Math*

Jocelyn Hathaway, *English*

Mst. Sgt. Bob Hayes, Jr., *ROTC*

Maria Herrera, *Food Service*

Joanne Howe, *Biology*

Ross Hunefeld, *Math*

Marina Kostina, *Russian*

Maria Lopez, *Special Ed*

Mary Mertens, *English*

Megan McEwen, *Special Ed*

Ellen Metz, *Social Studies*

Becki Newbury, *Math*

Donna Nowatzki, *Technology*

Lt. Col. Tom O'Connell, *ROTC*

Leon Oks, *IT*

Tasha Olsen, *21st Century*

Natasha Oussenko, *Russian*

Jesus Padin, *Food Service*

Drucila Quintero, *Admin*

Indra Rupners, *Special Ed*

Brian Skaj, *Math*

Maricruz Spell-Montero, *Admin*

Edra Soto, *Art*

Joe Tenbusch, *World History*

Guadalupe Urena, *Food Service*

Adriana Villegas, *Admin*





A Network-wide effort to revise the curriculum is underway to enable students to develop key skills and prepare them for the ACT college readiness exams and advanced placement classes.



Looking Ahead

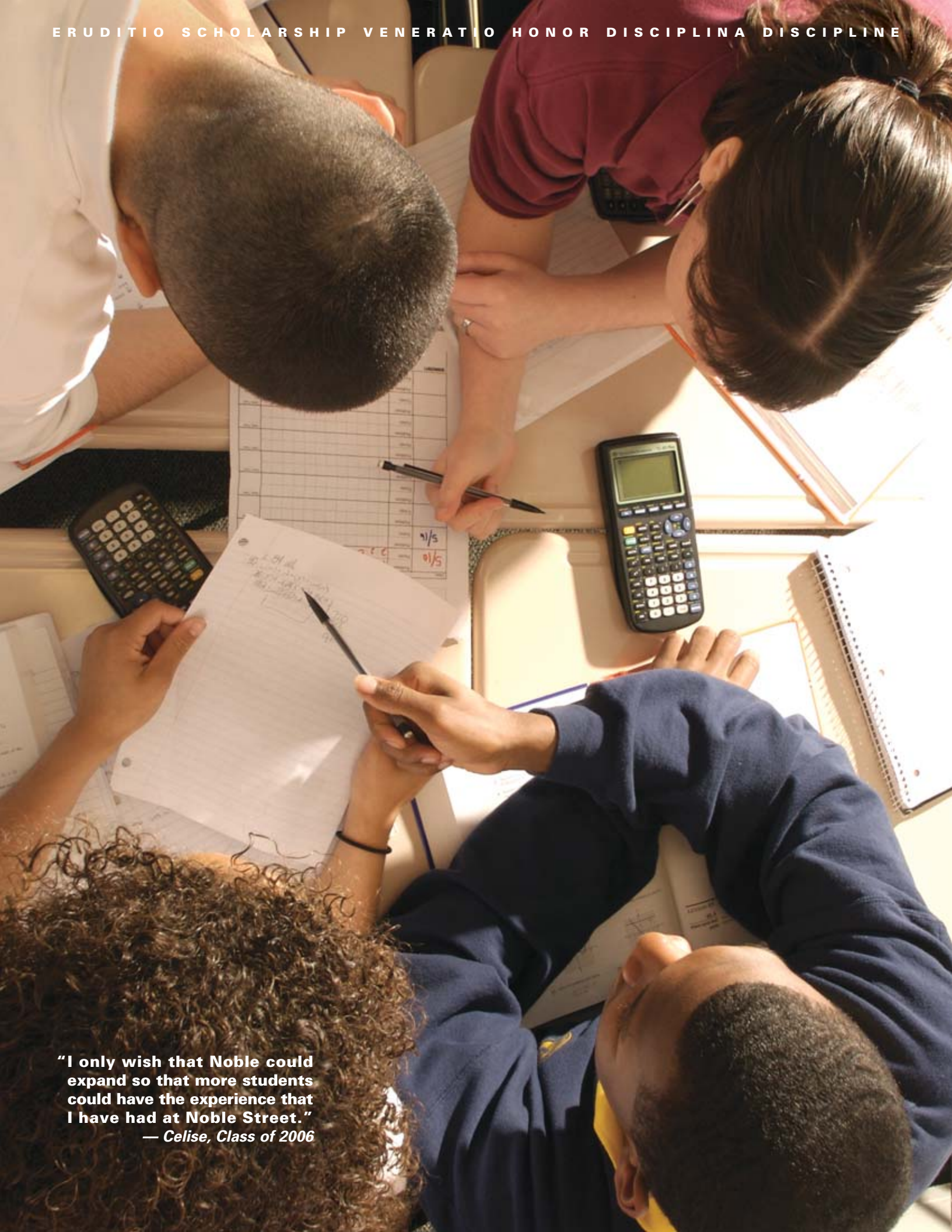
This year was about laying the groundwork for achievement of the Network's ambitious goals. We experienced many "firsts;" the first principal internships, the first facility rehabilitation projects, the first season of recruitment for founding teachers and the first multi-site enrollment lottery. We considered details ranging from school mascots to foreign language curricula to community service requirements, all of which presented themselves anew as we began to expand to multiple campuses. We developed important and rewarding relationships with community leaders, national funders leading the effort to improve American high schools and local supporters.

Now, we begin another exciting year that will be filled with even more "firsts." On August 21, 300 students were the first to enter Rauner College Prep and Pritzker College Prep. We will meet the challenge of

maintaining the strong Noble culture at three distinct locations, and facilitating cooperation among a faculty that continues to grow. We will leverage the additional experience that having three campuses will provide in order to identify the most effective mechanisms for raising academic achievement among underserved youth.

But, we won't sit back and watch the success of the first two new campuses. We will focus our sights on the third and fourth new campuses set to open in August 2007. Two extremely knowledgeable and passionate school leaders have already been hired to be principals at the 2007 campuses, and they will spend next year as interns at the Noble Street, Rauner and Pritzker campuses.

The Noble Network of Charter Schools' future is bright; this year was just the beginning. We look forward to sharing our coming achievements with you.



"I only wish that Noble could expand so that more students could have the experience that I have had at Noble Street."

— Celise, Class of 2006

**Noble Street College Prep, A Campus of Noble Street Charter School
1010 N. Noble Street**

**Rauner College Prep, A Campus of Noble Street Charter School
1337 W. Ohio Street**

**Pritzker College Prep, A Campus of Noble Street Charter School
4131 W. Cortland**

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Fax 773.278.0421

www.noblenetwork.org