

EDUCATION

Urban Community School reaches \$16 million capital goal

Urban Community School launched an ambitious campaign five years ago to raise \$16 million. The private school, which serves children from its diverse neighborhood on Cleveland's near West Side, finally hit its goal.



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Sister Maureen Doyle, the school's director, said each contribution has helped to "open new windows of opportunity for children."

This was the first major capital fund-raiser for the 39-year-old school. Most of the money paid for the \$12 million building on West 48th Street and Lorain Avenue that opened in the fall of 2005.

The remaining \$4 million has been placed in the operating and endowment funds to provide additional scholarships, needed even more today due to the increase in enrollment.

The private school has 440 students in preschool through grade eight. Most are from families whose incomes are below the federal poverty level.

Urban Community School is known for its nongraded learning programs, which allow children to work at their own pace.

College bound: College remains the American dream for many high school students who will be the first in their families to pursue a post-secondary degree.

Ursuline College in Pepper Pike will provide some of them with a taste of life on campus when it holds a Mock College Day on March 29 for about 50 juniors from St. Martin De-Porres High School. The students will get to attend classes, visit dorms and eat in the din-

ing halls.

Ursuline's goal is to guide low-income students through the college search process and give them a glimpse of what campus life is all about. About 53 percent of Ursuline's enrollment are first-generation college students.

Best in Ohio: Orange High School's Advanced Placement program was named the top in Ohio by the Siemens Foundation.

One high school per state is selected each year to recognize its commitment to students and leadership in AP participation and performance, according to foundation officials. Orange will receive a \$1,000 grant from the foundation to be used to support math and science education.

Super search: The Ohio School Boards Association will hold an open house for residents and students in the Warrensville Heights school district to gather input on the search for a new superintendent.

Al Meloy, the association's deputy director of search services and board development, will be available to talk to residents from 6 to 6:45 p.m. Wednesday in the Warrensville Heights High School auditorium. Superintendent Elaine Davis, who resigned on Feb. 26, will stay on the job until Aug. 31.

Plain Dealer reporter Angela Townsend contributed to this column.

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