

## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MUCHIN COLLEGE PREP OFFERS OPEN ACCESS TO A SAFE, HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION** *Innovative Approach Nearly Doubles Average Graduation Rate*

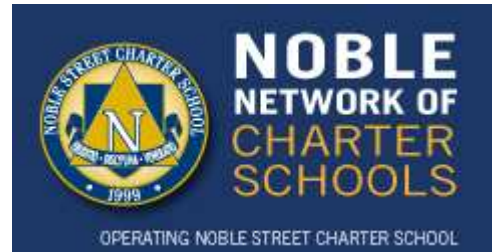
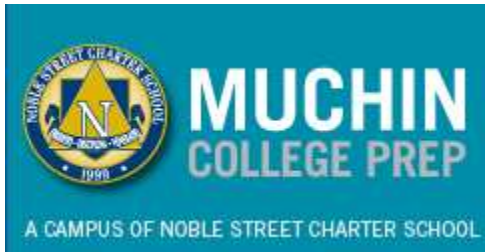
**CHICAGO** (October 28, 2009) –

Muchin College Prep, a Noble Street Charter School campus, opened this year in the heart of the loop serving Chicago Public School students from over 40 different neighborhoods across the city. The Muchin campus will celebrate its grand opening on October 28, 2009. Scheduled speakers include Noble board chairman and benefactor Allan B. Muchin, Renaissance Schools Fund President and CEO Phyllis Lockett, Baxter International Inc. Corporate Vice President, Human Resources Jeanne Mason, Noble Street Superintendent & CEO Michael Milkie, Muchin College Prep Principal Kimberly Neal, Alderman Brendan Reilly, Muchin College Prep students and a Noble Street graduate.

Noble Street Charter School was awarded its charter in 1999 and is currently the largest charter high school network in the Chicago Public School system. Noble has nine public high school campuses throughout the city serving over 4,000 students this year. Based on 2009 ACT scores, Noble Street Charter School campuses are the top-ranked, non-selective high schools in the city.

Any student in Chicago who graduates from 8<sup>th</sup> grade can submit an application for enrollment to a campus of Noble Street Charter School. When David Sanders, Muchin College Prep freshman, was asked why he chose Muchin College Prep, he stated that “The school’s setting, in downtown Chicago, lets us get used to the business type of environment that we may be a part of in the future. At the same time, this school has a safe, home away from home, type of environment.”

With block scheduling and a longer school day and school year, students at Noble Street campuses receive about 25 percent more instructional time than students at traditional public high schools. Further, Noble Street Charter School students are required to earn enrichment credits through after-school and summer classes. The Noble approach is working. “Each year, more than 95 percent of the Noble senior class graduates and 85 percent enroll in college,” noted Allan B. Muchin, attorney at Katten Muchin Rosenman and chairman of the Noble Network board of directors and key supporter of Muchin College Prep. “The Noble campuses are safe havens in which students are given the academic and personal support necessary to succeed. Graduates have opportunities to attend college, pursue careers of their choice, and build their futures.”



Muchin College Prep is part of Mayor Daley's Renaissance 2010 program, with support from Baxter International Inc. and the Renaissance Schools Fund. "Baxter is honored to help Chicago-area students reach their academic goals. In 2008, we launched Science @ Work: Expanding Minds with Real-World Science as a multi-year commitment aimed at providing enhanced science education opportunities for CPS students and teachers, while also helping develop a greater understanding of biotechnology," said Robert L. Parkinson, Jr. Baxter International Inc. chairman and chief executive officer. "As part of Science @ Work, we are supporting curricula development at Muchin College Prep, giving students throughout Chicago the opportunity to prepare for college in a disciplined and supportive environment that will encourage academic excellence."

Muchin College Prep offers its students more than 200 minutes of science weekly - twice the instructional time in science than is offered at other Noble campuses - including a focus on biology fundamentals which will evolve into biotechnology as students progress - in recognition of its relationship with Baxter International Inc. Muchin College Prep students, like all Noble Street campus students, take two literacy classes and two math classes; complete character education based on *The Seven Habits of Healthy Teens*; are assigned a single-gender advisory for their four years at Muchin; and must pass all of their classes including physical education and complete community service requirements to be promoted each year and to graduate.

#### About the Noble Network of Charter Schools

*The Noble Network of Charter Schools operates Noble Street Charter School, which, is a public charter high school serving close to 4,000 low-income students on multiple campuses in Chicago. Muchin College Prep is the newest campus of the Noble Street Charter School. Its mission is to prepare low-income students with the scholarship, discipline and honor necessary to succeed in college and lead exemplary lives.*

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