



For Immediate Release

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Polaris Charter Academy 3rd Annual Spring Benefit Raised over \$55,000 ---Honors First Graduating Class---

CHICAGO, IL. (May 13, 2014) — [Polaris Charter Academy](http://www.pcachicago.org) hosted *Celebrating the Journey* on May 8th at in Chicago West Loop to support the K through 8th grade curriculum. The event raised over \$55,000 net towards future expeditions, classroom support, and ensuring future Polaris graduates continue to succeed.

Guests celebrated the accomplishments and high school selections of the 48 students in the 8th grade class since their first arrival at Polaris in 2007. Polaris Board Chairman Uday Khedkar, Head of School Michelle Navarre and Director of Academics made moving speeches about the Polaris difference, importance of supportive communities and parents, and impact a quality education on students. The event featured a video presentation of student reflections, raffle prizes, food by [Calihan Catering](#) and beverages provided by [Constellation Brands](#).



The event was sponsored by the Madigan Family, [Feldco](#), [Constellation Brands](#), [Gourmet Gorilla](#), [Microsoft](#), [Prairie Capital](#), [Wintrust Commercial Banking](#), [GoodSmith, Gregg, & Unruh LLP](#), [Linden Group Health Services](#), [ORBA](#), Joel and Trisha Pomerenk, and Kenneth Miller.

About Polaris Charter Academy

[Polaris Charter Academy](http://www.pcachicago.org) is the only public Expeditionary Learning (EL) elementary school in Illinois and the first school in the Midwest to be recognized as a Mentor School by the EL network. Polaris serves 450 students and is located in the West Humboldt Park neighborhood of Chicago. Ninety-four percent of Polaris students are low-income and 99% are African-American or Hispanic. Students “learn by doing” as they conduct fieldwork, speak with experts, work collaboratively, and create authentic, high-quality end products for audiences beyond the classroom. The mission of Polaris Charter Academy is to educate students to be self-motivated, creative, critical thinkers, with the ultimate goal of shaping life-long learners and citizens with a strong sense of personal and civic responsibility.

For additional information and the latest on Polaris Charter Academy, please visit: www.pcachicago.org. For media inquiries, please contact Carolyn Talaske at ctalaska@pcachicago.org or 708-271-3957.

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