



*Creating Solutions. Inspiring Action.®*

**Business Higher Education Forum (BHEF)  
Philadelphia Member-Led Local Project**

BHEF is an organization of Fortune 500 and other CEOs, prominent college and university presidents, and foundation leaders working to advance innovative solutions to our nation's education challenges in order to enhance U.S. competitiveness. BHEF brings together an extraordinary coalition of corporate, academic, and foundation members to address education issues fundamental to our nation's ability to compete globally. These include improving student achievement and readiness for success in college and work and strengthening education, particularly our national capacity in science, technology, engineering, and math. BHEF members develop, adopt, and promote best practices and strategic approaches among corporate, education, and foundation leaders, nationally and locally. They also advocate for policy changes at the federal, state, and local levels.

**The College Readiness Initiative**

BHEF's College Readiness Initiative (CRI) provides a dynamic platform for leaders from business and education to work together to promote college readiness, access, and success for underserved populations. The CRI harnesses the influence and resources of BHEF and its membership. Building on this distinct perspective, the CRI addresses critical P-20 education pipeline issues; identifies practical solutions to local education concerns; focuses on systemic solutions and programs that support key aspects of systemic improvement; and creates a platform for local member-led partnerships to develop strategic approaches, test them, and disseminate lessons learned.

**CRI Member-Led Local Projects**

BHEF's member-led local projects provide opportunities for teams of corporate, university, and foundation leaders in selected communities to work together to support local education improvement efforts. BHEF works with members to bring relevant stakeholders to the table, offers strategic consultation and expertise, and provides members with national perspective and information to make their ideas for educational improvement a reality. BHEF's aim is to engage its members and their peers to invest effectively in education, to advocate for change, and to share information among themselves and their communities. The CRI member-led local projects benefit the communities in which BHEF members work and live, as well as the business and education sectors generally, by enhancing the impact of their individual and collective efforts, and bringing these local efforts into national focus. The member-led local projects work benefits BHEF and its members by providing a platform to develop strategic solutions to important educational challenges and to analyze local impact and disseminate the lessons that are learned to a national audience.

**Member-Led Local Project: Focus on Philadelphia**

Since 2008, BHEF has supported the work of its members and the education community in Philadelphia, particularly efforts by Mayor Nutter and Superintendent Ackerman, to improve college readiness and access for Philadelphia's students. BHEF's Philadelphia members aim to support the school district's efforts to turn around the lowest performing schools, and to develop a center for innovation and best practices focused on improving students' college readiness and access. BHEF fosters collaboration among local K-12 education, higher education, business, community, and foundation leaders, and offers strategic consultation and national perspective as needed. In addition, BHEF brings the support and expertise of other BHEF members working on school turnaround efforts, public charter schools, and college readiness and access across the nation, and shares the lessons of BHEF's Philadelphia members' education improvement efforts with the BHEF membership as a whole.

For more information on BHEF's Member-Led Local Project in Philadelphia, please contact Pamela Lessard at [pamela.lessard@bhef.com](mailto:pamela.lessard@bhef.com).