

# BELL MULTICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL

## EARLY COLLEGE AND LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL

### MULTICULTURAL



*the success story starts here*



**MULTICULTURAL  
CAREER  
INTERN  
PROGRAM**

AT COLUMBIA HEIGHTS EDUCATIONAL CAMPUS

**BELL MULTICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL  
AND LINCOLN MULTICULTURAL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## WELCOME TO BELL MULTICULTURAL EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL



It is a place of great hope and inspiring successes, where economically disadvantaged students come to receive a first-rate education. Some are overcoming years of interrupted schooling in their native countries due to war, the economy, or natural disasters. Others come to learn English as a second, third, or even fourth language. Many are attracted to Bell's rigorous but supportive educational programs, and still others appreciate the multicultural vision that helps them develop a greater understanding of the global economy. Most will be the first in their families to attain a college education.

Their success stories start here. Ninety percent of Bell's seniors are accepted by colleges. The daily attendance rate is 93%, which is one of the highest among high schools in the District of Columbia. The administrators and faculty are some of the most gifted and dedicated within the school system. Bell recently made the largest gains of any public or charter high school on the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in reading and math. And Maria Tukeva received the distinguished "Principal of the Year" award given by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

**So how does Bell achieve what many consider impossible?**

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## THE BIRTH OF A VISION

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In 1979, the Multicultural Career Intern Program (MCIP), created by Maria Tukeyva and funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, began its mission to serve a multicultural population, including the growing number of limited English-speaking refugees and immigrants in the District of Columbia. In 1989, they teamed up with DC Public Schools to create Bell Multicultural, which is now joined with the Lincoln Multicultural Middle School (LMMS); the joint schools comprise the Columbia Heights Educational Campus (CHEC). They are known respectively as the upper and lower houses of CHEC. They welcome students from Columbia Heights and throughout the District of Columbia on a first-come, first-served basis.

Both Bell Multicultural and Lincoln Multicultural are DC Public Schools (DCPS), and MCIP is their non-profit fundraising arm. Together, they are one of the most vibrant community/school partnerships in the nation, and they are setting new standards for public education in the District of Columbia.

As CHEC, Bell and Lincoln Multicultural share a vision. Their mission is to inspire every student to succeed in higher education and in life by equipping him or her with the tools to work well independently and with others, to approach challenges with passion and drive, to understand and respect other cultures, and to reach and exceed the highest levels of academic performance. This dream is very much alive.

We need your help to keep it thriving.



## GETTING THINGS DONE: MARIA TUKEVA

Behind every great endeavor is an equally dynamic team of visionaries. Our story starts with Maria Tukeva, the founding and current Principal of CHEC and Executive Director of MCIP. Tukeva believes that “America’s culturally and linguistically diverse students have a right to a quality education and that their very diversity is one of this nation’s great untapped strengths.” Years ago, she saw the need to seek opportunities “for an underserved community that has always gone without.” At the time, her students occupied one of the oldest buildings in the DCPS, and lacked access to a cafeteria, science labs, gym, playing fields, and many other basic amenities. Something needed to change.

Together with the DC Public Schools, the MCIP Board of Directors, the AMIGOs Corporate Advisory Council, generous donors, teachers, students, and parents, Tukeva worked to build the state-of-the-art Columbia Heights Educational Campus. In February of 2006, teachers who speak 25 languages welcomed students from 50 countries through the doors of their new building. All in all, well over 1,000 students came to learn. The “United Nations” of DCPS was in session. Richard England, an MCIP Board Member and lead fundraiser who has raised millions of dollars for CHEC, says of Tukeva, “She is a woman who gets things done. She has the amazing ability to inspire change!”

## AGENTS OF CHANGE: THE PROGRAMS

CHEC approaches everything it does with a passion in the pursuit of academic excellence. Considered an educational model, CHEC creates curriculum and educational programs tailored to its unique student body needs, thereby integrating the community and going far beyond the standard offerings of DC public schools. Starting with Lincoln Multicultural Middle School, students have the exciting opportunity to prepare earlier for the rigor of an early college high school environment.

With your support, CHEC can continue to provide top-notch programs that help its largely underprivileged student body rise above the obstacles it faces.

### EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM (ECP)

Ms. Tukeva's foresight and attention to this crucial educational program is one of the reasons why Bell Multicultural is so successful. Since September 2004, the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) and University of the District of Columbia (UDC) have offered courses to all Bell students as part of the MCIP's ECP. This means that students can earn a diploma and an Associate's degree (or sixty college credits towards a Bachelor's degree), greatly increasing their graduation rates and catapulting them into higher education. Over 85% work to support themselves or their families, so finding money for college is especially difficult. This program knocks down some of the economic and social barriers, granting access to college for students who otherwise would never have the chance. When it was started, it was the first of its kind in the DC Metro area.

We're seeking your help for tuition, textbooks, transportation, and other necessities.

### SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Bell strongly supports students' quests for higher education. An early intervention-tracking program helps students earn scholarship funds from 9th grade through their senior year. However, MCIP generates the largest scholarship funds for the senior class through our Gala—the fundraising event of the year. MCIP works with the schools' corporate advisory counsel, the AMIGOS, to create a memorable event that lays the groundwork for many bright futures.

You can help. Mark your calendars for early June, and come to honor our students who are off to college in the fall. Donate funds for scholarships or provide items for the auction. You'll make a big difference just by being there.

## A Writer Finds Her Words: A Success Story



*It was 1998, and thirteen year-old Shuk-Kuen Chiu and her mother left their home in the Canton Province of China behind to pursue a better life in Washington, DC. They also had to leave Shuk-Kuen's father, who stayed in Hong Kong to work.*

*With very little knowledge of English, Shuk-Kuen attended Jefferson Junior High School in Southwest DC; she enrolled in Bell Multicultural High School for 10th grade.*

*At Bell, Shuk-Kuen's teachers challenged her to learn English and to strive for high academic goals. Under their tutelage, Shuk-Kuen's language skills improved dramatically. She thrived in Bell's multicultural atmosphere, ultimately mastering English as she worked alongside the other determined students in her class. That experience changed her life. "Bell impacted the way I look at people," she says. "I have so much respect for people who work hard." She also earned a lot of respect at Bell, gaining entrance into the prestigious National Honor Society.*

*Shuk-Kuen worked on the school newspaper. She proved to be a talented writer, winning the 2002 Power Play Festival from the Young Playwright's Theater and honorable mention at the Maryland Scholastic Press Association. Her play, Giving, was one of eight plays selected by Young Playwrights' to be read at Arena Stage and the Canadian Embassy. Shuk-Kuen generously shared this talent with students at Bancroft Elementary School, assisting them in writing their own plays. She also partnered with National Public Radio to create a series of stories about the lives of Chinese people in DC.*

*Shuk-Kuen has tremendous gratitude for her mother, who also learned English and found work in the U.S. to support her daughter's education. Shuk-Kuen graduated from Bell and went to the University of Maryland, where she received her degree in Education and Chinese in 2008, just ten years after she set foot in this country. She now teaches middle school math at CHEC, and her story is an inspiration to eighth grade students who also endeavor to write their own success stories.*

### LITERACY

A Bell education is rooted in excellent communication skills. So Bell Multicultural works year-round with the nationally recognized Scholastic Read-180 program, structured English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) programs, and customized tutorial services. The pre-ESL Read-180 is the foundation, and it has produced remarkable results, palpably empowering the students. You can see the ripple effect move through subjects like math and history too. Strong language programs raise overall academic performance, and raised standards are a common thing at Bell.

Please help us secure additional instructors, tutors, classroom libraries, and reading material for students at Bell and books for students at Lincoln.

### PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

It's the hallmark of any good school, and it's vital to CHEC's success. The Parental Involvement Center is an excellent year-round resource for area parents, many who are still adjusting to life in the U.S. The Center provides ESL, counseling, acculturation assistance, GED preparation, immigration and naturalization help, and translation and interpretation services. The Center hosts regular workshops that inform parents of reform initiatives, educate them about academic standards and requirements, simplify financial issues, and demystify

emerging adolescent issues. The Center provides on-site counseling and home visits. Together with a program called Parents as Partners, the Center has increased the number of parents involved in school activities by 35%. When parents are actively involved in their child's education, their child takes it seriously too.

We need your assistance to maintain the parent outreach positions, purchase refreshments and recreational items for the annual family day, and to augment the emergency fund for families in need.

## AFTER SCHOOL "BEYOND THE BELLS" PROGRAM

To help each student reach his or her full potential, Bell instituted this program of daily individualized and small group tutoring sessions, self-paced computer-based instruction, writing labs, and access to a homework center. Students receive instruction in algebra, trigonometry, geometry, SAT prep, and AP Academy. Arts, music, dance, and theater activities extend the classroom into the city. Teachers review interpersonal communication and leadership skills, and students get involved by planning school assemblies and festivals. The state-of-the art gymnasium pulses late into the night with all types of sporting events. This school never rests.

Help us find reading and math tutors, teachers for extra-curricular activities, educational supplies and materials, and funds for important field trips.



## SUMMER ENRICHMENT AND SUMMER BRIDGE

School is never out at Bell

Multicultural. All summer, Bell offers a comprehensive education to many students. Each day starts with a harambe or coming-together activity and a transformative text. The curriculum features Youth Development workshops, literacy education, portfolio development, credit recovery, health and fitness, internships, and field trips which explore the cultural riches of the city. The learning never stops, even though the school year does.

We're looking for reading and math tutors, teachers for extra-curricular activities, educational supplies and materials, and funds for interesting field trips.

## PROGRAMS IN THE ARTS

For a very long time, CHEC's talented performers did not have a stage on which to act out their dreams. Now that CHEC has the world-class space to foster and challenge these artists, we applaud their efforts to create first-rate theater and performance. They learn playwriting, dance, set design, lighting and riggings, and theatrical cosmetology. They have the opportunity to work with an artist-in-residence to hone their craft. They gain the skills and the confidence to face ever-larger audiences.

We can use your help to establish an artist-in-residence program, purchase costumes, set materials, and general art supplies, and furnish theater tickets to students so that they can see the magic of drama for themselves.



## TECHNOLOGY

MCIP and CHEC place great importance on technology, continually seeking out best practices and ensuring that every student has access to his or her own computer.



The best schools in the country strive for this goal. With superior technology, CHEC faculty and administrators also receive continuous professional development.

development. With your help, we can bridge the digital/technological divide and optimize the use of technology across the curriculum. Technology connects the entire school to a successful future.

We are looking for partners, internships, and distance-learning opportunities. We also want to develop programs that help parents gain more access to and knowledge of computers.

## ENGINEERING, BUILDING TRADES AND RENOVATIONS PROGRAM

To prepare students for careers, Bell offers basic drafting, technology, and introductory applications that focus on developing visualization skills, sketching, and computer-aided drafting (CAD). It's a comprehensive way to build math, science, and language arts skills. The Engineering major offers courses in principles of engineering, digital electronics, architecture, civil engineering, carpentry I-IV, AP Physics and AP Calculus. The

AutoCAD/Design Engineering class features an intensive weeklong follow-up course with lessons on architecture, machine tool drawing, and drafting. Students arrive with curiosity and leave ready to dazzle the design world.

Please help us by offering paid internships to our students, and by purchasing updated hardware, software, and raw materials for drafting.

## PREVENTION, DIVERSION, AND INTERVENTION

MCIP's year-round program prevents negative behavior by providing at-risk students with before, during, and after-school leadership and team-building activities, family-strengthening strategies, outreach support, academic and career mentoring, street law education, male responsibility instruction, and substance abuse prevention. There's no admonishment—just advancement.

You can be a big help by helping us maintain the highly qualified staff, providing incentives rewarding exemplary behavior, and embarking on field trips that expose at-risk students to healthier positive activities.



## TEEN PARENT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

To support teen parents in their quest for high school graduation and college admission and to provide all students with access to quality, uninterrupted education, CHEC created the Teen Parent and Child Development Center. It's run by Board-certified early childhood educators, and engages the children in cognitively stimulating activities tailored for their ages. Educators encourage infants to speak in their native languages to foster a link between home and school. Both mother and father receive case management services, parenting classes, life-skills workshops, and tutoring services. Without this service, many students might be missing out on their education. Instead, they're mastering it—for themselves and their young families.

We need your assistance to maintain the Center's highly qualified staff, increase the number of parenting classes and support group meetings, purchase educational materials and toys, and support reading circles of teen parents, their parents, and their infants.

## TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION

This program is offered year-round to the entire student body. It teaches students that teen pregnancy is a complex issue, and addresses it with sexuality education, self-esteem building, and leadership skills. Teachers promote diversionary activities and emphasize great academic achievement. Students learn through classroom instruction, peer education, mentoring, career development, community service learning, parental involvement, after-school activities, and therapeutic support. Students learn skills for life, not just for school.

With your help, we can continue employing a program coordinator, provide stipends for peer health educators, and pay for field trips and incentives for model students.



## Bell Climbs the Rankings

Newsweek's *Challenge Index*, devised by The Washington Post columnist Jay Mathews, ranks U.S. high schools based on the number of Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and other college-credit exams given at each school, divided by the number of graduating seniors. In 2008, Bell was the only high school in DC to place in the top 100, at 77 (up from 333 the year prior).

*With one of the highest percentages of low-income students in the top 100 schools, Bell still excelled. Matthews says, "I discovered that Tukeya and her faculty had done something I had never seen before at any inner-city public school... Tukeya and her faculty made AP English Literature a required course... For many of these students, it will likely be the most difficult course they have ever taken. But Tukeya said that was the point. She wanted them to wrestle with their country's national language at the highest possible level. She wanted to prepare them for college."*



## Breaking Down Barriers to Higher Education



*"No issue is of greater concern to the Latino community than the educational status of its children, who now represent the second largest segment of the school-aged population.*

*This concern stems from the unsettling fact that the Latino education landscape is characterized by missed opportunities in early childhood, unsound educational treatments in elementary and secondary schools, and barriers to college." Raul Yzaguirre, former President of the National Council of La Raza, which granted early college school status to Bell Multicultural.*

*And that is why Bell sought early college school status. It was the DC Metro area's first Early College High School, and one of only 69 schools nationwide.*

*"The Early College Project is the next logical step to increasing college enrollment as it creates more cost effective ways of obtaining a post-secondary education," says Maria Tukeva. So far, it seems to be doing just that.*

## CHEC SOCCER: NEVER HAD A HOME GAME

The Bell High School soccer team has consistently finished first or second in the city for the past twelve years, yet they've never had a home game. The team has no field. In the past ten years, they've also racked up five league championships, two legacy cup championships, four Columbia Heights Soccer League championships, and two independent league indoor soccer championships. If they can accomplish this without their own field, imagine what they could do with a place to practice and play. They've already received resounding support from the U.S. Soccer Federation, which pledged a \$100,000 grant towards an all conditions synthetic grass field.

*The Washington Post's Philip L. Graham generously donated \$50,000.*

With your help, they can gain the home field advantage they've never seen. And the school can have its very own Bell/Lincoln Athletic Field.



**With your support,** we can continue to take the challenging statistics and turn them into great successes. Something very special is happening here, and we need your help to see it through. Be a part of this growing success story. It continues with you.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes, I would like to help MCIP and CHEC to continue to build exemplary programs that challenge and motivate students to succeed in high school, higher education, and in life.**

Enclosed please find my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR

I hereby authorize you to charge my donation for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR

I hereby authorize you to charge a monthly donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one: VISA Mastercard American Express Discover

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SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Please bill me for my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ at the address above.

Make checks payable to MCIP and mail to Multicultural Career Intern Program, 3101 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20010. You can also donate on our website, [www.checd.org](http://www.checd.org).

**Thank you for your tax-deductible gift!**

I am not able to give at this time, but please include me in your future correspondence.

**In grateful acknowledgement for their contributions to the Columbia Heights Educational Campus,  
home to Bell Multicultural High School and Lincoln Multicultural Middle School, we wish to recognize:**

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