



## **Philadelphia's Science Leadership Academy Public High School Named "Apple Distinguished School"**

*Innovative School Created in Partnership with The Franklin Institute*

**Philadelphia, PA – June 10, 2009** -- The Franklin Institute and the School District of Philadelphia (SDP) are pleased to announce that the Science Leadership Academy (SLA) has been named an Apple Distinguished School for its innovative 1:1 laptop program. Founded in 2006, the Science Leadership Academy is the result of an innovative partnership with The Franklin Institute Science Museum and the School District of Philadelphia which marries cutting-edge technologies and project-based learning. The Apple Distinguished School designation is reserved for schools that have implemented a 21<sup>st</sup>-century vision of education using Apple technology. The Distinguished School program was begun in 2008, and the Science Leadership Academy is only one of 33 schools in the nation, and the second in Pennsylvania, to receive the award.

*"We, at the Franklin Institute, are committed to this partnership with SDP and SLA in the truest sense of symbiotic relationship, and the 1:1 laptop program is an integral part of its success,"* said Dr. Frederic Bertley, Vice President of The Franklin Center & The Center for Innovation in Science Learning at The Franklin Institute.

*"This partnership exemplifies collaboration focused on ensuring that all students at SLA can achieve with a high measure of success. I am proud of these students and staff for their strong commitment and zeal to use technology for learning,"* says Marilyn Pérez, Central Regional Superintendent.

*"We at SLA are honored to be chosen by Apple to be an Apple Distinguished School. I am continually amazed at the work of the students and teachers at Science Leadership Academy and the ways that they innovate using the tools at their disposal,"* says Chris Lehmann, principal of Science Leadership Academy.

The selection of Science Leadership Academy as an Apple Distinguished School highlights its successes in enhancing and extending teaching and learning with thoughtful and innovative implementations of technology. Students at SLA use their laptops and the school website to collaborate on projects well after the school day ends. For example, this year, students at SLA created podcasts of their family's oral history, analyzed soil and water samples along the banks of the Schuylkill River, designed 2D & 3D cartography projects and created and distributed public service announcement short films in Spanish.

An Apple Distinguished School is one that has implemented a 21st century vision of education and technology integration in an exemplary way and is willing to share its program with other educators and institutions. Schools selected as an Apple Distinguished School have demonstrated Apple's highest vision of a successful 21st century learning environment using mobile computing technology. This manifests itself in visible qualities that Apple espouses as 'best practices':

- Visionary leadership;
- An infrastructure (IT) that supports a learning workflow of "collaborate-create-distribute-access;"
- Engaging teaching and learning methods that capitalize on the qualities of today's students who are mobile, collaborative and creative;
- One-to-one access to portable computers and/or mobile access devices (iPod) for all teachers and students;
- Evidence of ongoing professional development;
- A systematic approach and ongoing process for evaluation and assessment of results for education improvement and sustainability.

For 2008-09, 33 schools across the United States were selected as Apple Distinguished Schools. The term of appointment as an Apple Distinguished School is for one year, renewable annually.

The Science Leadership Academy (SLA) is a Philadelphia public high school that opened its doors on September 7, 2006. Developed in partnership with The Franklin Institute with its commitment to inquiry-based science, the SLA provides a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum with a focus on science, technology, mathematics and entrepreneurship. Students at the SLA learn in a project-based environment where the core values of inquiry, research, collaboration, presentation and reflection are emphasized in all classes.

###

Press Contact:  
Kat Stein/The Franklin Institute  
215.448.2375  
[kstein@fi.edu](mailto:kstein@fi.edu)