

# **NEWS**

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **LOCAL STUDENTS VISIT BROOKLYN NAVY YARD TO PREPARE FOR NEW ORLEANS VISIT**

### ***Learn about construction careers rebuilding New Orleans***

**Brooklyn (March 15, 2007)** – Students from Benjamin Banneker High School -- who will spend their spring break in New Orleans, helping people of that city rebuild homes that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina – received a quick course in construction today at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, which is home to several construction industry tenants and numerous active construction projects.

The visit to the Brooklyn Navy Yard is part of a broader partnership that the city-owned industrial park, managed by the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation (BNYDC) has forged with the school, which is located one block away. BNYDC and Navy Yard tenants are helping pay for the students' trip to New Orleans, which is happening in conjunction with ACORN's efforts to rebuild the devastated portions of the Gulf Coast. A total of 25 students make the cleanup mission from March 30 – April 6.

“The Brooklyn Navy Yard is committed to promoting educational advancement and employment opportunities for young people living in the surrounding community. Through our relationship with Benjamin Banneker High School, we look forward to helping students learn about different career paths that lie ahead and using the many resources available here,” said Andrew H. Kimball, BNYDC President and CEO. “We commend the leadership and volunteerism displayed by these young men and women and are honored to work with them.”

In preparation for their trip, students toured the 300-acre industrial park and met with businesses to learn about infrastructure and redevelopment issues – as well as career opportunities in the construction and engineering fields. They met with Capsys Corp., a manufacturer of modular homes being used in New Orleans; TDX, the construction manager of an 89,000-square-foot industrial development site within the Navy Yard; and Phoenix Marine, a construction company. Following their tour, students and BNYDC executives discussed the many construction-industry occupations that are rebuilding New Orleans.

“Thanks to the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, Benjamin Banneker students are learning about new and different careers,” said Majida Abdul Karim, Interim Principal of Benjamin Banneker High School. “Students and faculty are excited about the many possibilities this relationship can create. We look forward to many great things to come.”

The students were inspired into action through the personal experience of Terry Samuel, a Banneker teacher who spent last summer assisting ACORN with the cleanup. This school year, Ms. Samuel worked with then interim principal Majida Abdul Karim and ACORN to plan a trip for students who wanted to help. The students pledged to raise \$5,000 for an affected family and to pay for their own travel and hotel accommodations. ACORN has agreed to pay for the students’ lunch and dinner in return for their commitment. During their trip, the students will meet with Stephen Bradberry, the Head Organizer of New Orleans ACORN and recipient of the 2005 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award. In addition, they will tour area colleges and cultural institutions.

To help the students reach their \$5,000 goal, the BNYDC worked with Capsys Corp, TDX and Phoenix Marine to raise \$2,000.

On October 19, 2006, Andrew Kimball had the honor of serving as Principal of Benjamin Banneker High School as part of PENCIL’s Principal For A Day program. As a result, the high school and the BNYDC have forged a partnership to develop a bond between Banneker students and the Navy Yard’s tenants. Elements of this partnership include field trips, job shadowing, mentoring, fundraising and equipment donations.

### **About the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation**

The BNYDC is the not-for-profit corporation that manages the Brooklyn Navy Yard on behalf of its owner, the City of New York. BNYDC leases space in the Yard, promotes local economic development, develops underutilized areas and oversees modernization of the Yard’s infrastructure. The corporation’s board of directors is comprised of leaders of Brooklyn’s economic development community. It is chaired by Alan H. Fishman.

Established in 1801, the Brooklyn Navy Yard served as one of America’s preeminent military facilities for more than 150 years. Closed by the federal government in 1966, the City of New York subsequently assumed ownership and re-opened the Yard as an industrial park. The Navy Yard now operates at 99% capacity and has launched an expansion program to meet significant demand for space from new industrial tenants. The Navy Yard presently houses more than 230 private-sector firms that provide approximately 4,500 permanent jobs, half of which are held by Brooklyn residents.

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