



3447 East Carson St. • Pittsburgh, PA 15203
Phone: 412-325-7305 • Fax: 412-325-7309
www.propelschools.org

MEDIA ALERT
May 24, 2017

Contact: Kelly Wall
Propel Schools
412-325-7305 ext. 1430
kellywall@propelschools.org

Propel Leaders Named Regional EY Entrepreneur of the Year Finalist

PITTSBURGH, Pa. - EY has named Dr. Tina Chekan, CEO and superintendent of Propel Schools, and Jeremy Resnick, executive director of the Propel Schools Foundation, as a joint finalist for the Entrepreneur of the Year 2017 awards in the Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia region.

The Propel leaders are among three dozen local leaders being recognized for excellence in areas such as innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their businesses and communities. A panel of independent judges, including entrepreneurs and prominent leaders from business, finance and the local community selected the finalists.

“This is a highly competitive awards program by one of the biggest names in global business,” Chekan said. “It is an honor to stand among these Pittsburgh leaders and be recognized for the quality, efficiency and innovation of our organization.”

With the addition of two new schools in 2017, leaders are projecting total enrollment to top 4,000 within two years. Chekan and Resnick attribute Propel’s success to its strong business model, which delivers growth, continuous improvements to its core programs and bold new initiatives such as Propel Partners in Wellness, a comprehensive wellness support system for students; “Pathways” professional development opportunities for teachers and staff; and Fund My Future, a program providing savings accounts to families to encourage saving for college.

The [EY awards program](#), now in its 31st year, has honored business leaders in over 145 cities and more than 60 countries throughout the world. The program encourages entrepreneurial activity among those with potential and recognizes the contribution of



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people who inspire others with their vision, leadership and achievement.

EY will announce the regional award winners at a gala June 16 at the The Wyndham Grand Downtown Pittsburgh Hotel. Winners are eligible for the national Entrepreneur of the Year competition.

NOTE TO MEDIA: Bios are below and photos attached.

Dr. Tina Chekan, CEO and Superintendent, Propel Schools

Dr. Tina Chekan began her career with Propel Schools in 2003, teaching kindergarten to its inaugural class at Propel Homestead. Since then, she has served as a literacy coach, principal and assistant superintendent. Under her leadership as principal at Propel McKeesport, Dr. Chekan received three national Effective Practice Incentive Community Awards from New Leaders for New Schools. Last year, the Pittsburgh Business Times honored her with the 2016 Business Women First Award.

Dr. Chekan holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Ball State University, a Master of Education in Deaf Education from the University of Pittsburgh and a K-12 Principal Certification from Gannon University. She earned her doctorate in administration and policy at the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to Propel, she was a teacher at the Wilkinsburg School District and a behavioral specialist at Pressley Ridge.

Jeremy Resnick, Executive Director and Founder, Propel Schools Foundation

Jeremy Resnick co-founded Propel Schools in 2003 with the mission of providing access to high-performing public schools to all children regardless of their economic status or family structure. Under Resnick's leadership, Propel has grown to be a regional asset and national model. His work has been recognized with the Pittsburgh Business Times' 2007 Diamond Award, Pittsburgh Social Venture Partners' 2009 Social Venture Award and the 2013 Distinguished Individual Leadership Award from Coro Pittsburgh. In 2014, he was selected for the Pahara-Aspen Education Fellows Program.

Prior to founding Propel Schools, Resnick was a founder and the administrative and educational leader at Northside Urban Pathways Charter School, a founder and director of the Charter Schools Project at Duquesne University, a founder and director of the Steel Center Technical Academy and a teacher in Pittsburgh Public Schools.



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About Propel Schools

Propel Schools is a network of public charter schools that transforms the lives of children in underserved communities through innovative, student-centered learning. Propel sets a standard for creating productive citizens by prioritizing academic excellence and fundamental life skills. Based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Propel has become one of the largest, fastest-expanding charter school organizations since it was established in 2003. Today, Propel serves 3,700 students at 13 Allegheny County locations. Visit propelschools.org to learn more.

About EY

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