



Academy Prep Center of Tampa
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**Celebrating the Pioneer Class
at Academy Prep's *An Evening of Champions***

Ybor City, FL – The Academy Prep Center of Tampa, in partnership with Visionary Sponsor, Ogden & Sullivan, PA, presents *An Evening of Champions*, a fundraising gala, to benefit the Student Scholarship Fund. The event will be held on Thursday, March 5th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Academy Prep campus in Ybor. The gala will be co-hosted by Academy Prep's head of school, Lincoln Tamayo, and WTSP 10 News anchor Dion Lim. This year's theme of "Where Dreams Take Flight" honors Academy Prep Center of Tampa's Pioneer Class who will be graduating from college this year.

"This is a very special year for Academy Prep Center of Tampa, as at least a third of the students from our first graduating class in 2007 – the "Pioneers" – are graduating from college this spring, while most of the others are still pursuing their college degrees," said Tamayo. "These pioneers, along with all our graduates behind them, continue to stride purposefully toward their places as the leaders of our community. This is yet another clear example of our mission accomplished in our society."

The event will also honor Rosemary Armstrong with the Paul L. Whiting, Sr. Service Award and Ogden & Sullivan, PA with the Partner of Excellence Award for their incredible service to Academy Prep students throughout the years.

An Evening of Champions opens the doors of Academy Prep to attendees who wish to see how the school is making an impact in the Tampa community. Attendees will kick off the evening with a cocktail reception and the opportunity to network with some of Tampa's finest business professionals. They will then live the "Academy Prep experience" and go back to school, participating in a classroom lesson led by Academy Prep's very own students and teachers. Following the classroom experience, guests will enjoy dinner and a program.

The fundraising gala is open to the public. Tickets start at \$300/person or \$500/couple. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. The event will be held at the Academy Prep Center of Tampa campus at 1407 E. Columbus. If individuals are unable to attend the event but would still like to make a donation, they can do so online by visiting www.academyprep.org/tampa/donate. For more information on the Academy Prep Center of Tampa, please contact Tammy Ashe, Development Manager, at 813.248.5600 (ext 1130) or tashe@academyprep.org.

Academy Prep Center of Tampa is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It is an urban college preparatory middle school whose mission is to inspire and empower students qualifying for need-based scholarships to be future community leaders through a rigorous middle school program coupled with ongoing graduate support. To learn more information, please visit: www.academyprep.org/tampa

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