

**April 14, 2011**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Academy Prep Center of Tampa hosts An Evening of Champions**

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**Tampa, FL—Academy Prep Center of Tampa will host *An Evening of Champions*, a fundraising event to support student scholarships on Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 6:30pm. The event will take place at the school, 1407 E. Columbus Drive, Tampa.** Ginger Gadsden, of 10News, and Lincoln Tamayo, Head of School, will host this special evening which includes dinner, drinks, musical entertainment, student performances, and a unique “back-to-school” activities of interactive classroom visits. Guests will have a chance to live the “Academy Prep Experience.”

*“Let Us Work and Play Like Champions Today.”* Every student at Academy Prep hears these words each morning at the start of the school day. Academy Prep students are learning how to be champions in their own lives— victors over life’s challenges. *An Evening of Champions* guests will have the opportunity to become champions, too ... champions for students and champions for the future of our community. Attendees can become a “Champion for Change” by funding individual one-year student scholarships. “Champions for Change” have a direct impact on the lives of our youth in a tangible, lasting way.

Academy Prep Center of Tampa is a private, non-profit middle school serving students who qualify for need-based scholarships. Every student attends on full scholarship--\$15,000 annually per student-- raised from individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations.

Established 2003 in Ybor City, the school is changing the lives of economically-challenged students and their families. In Tampa, less than 45% of adults in the neighborhoods hold a high school diploma. But, Academy Prep is having an enormously positive impact: **In 2011, 100% of Academy Prep alumni who are high school seniors will receive a diploma, including seniors from Tampa’s first graduating class.**

Academy Prep students have the ability and desire to succeed in a rigorous academic program. Students attend school up to 11 hours a day, 6 days a week, 11 months a year. The curriculum is demanding and offers a full range of academic classes and enrichment activities.

*An Evening of Champions* begins with dinner and drinks at 6:30pm, followed by classroom tours at 7:15pm. Sponsors for *An Evening of Champions* include The Capital Grille, Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Chameleon Printing, Mantra Creative, BlackHawk Printing, Jeremy Rex, IM Events, Mike Matthews Photography, World of Beer, Indigo Coffee and Bailey’s.

**For more information about Academy Prep Center of Tampa’s *An Evening of Champions* or to become a Champion for Change contact Maggie McCleland, Development Manager 813-248-5600 x1138 or mmcleland@academyprep.org.**