
Graduate! Philadelphia center opens

By Jane M. Von Bergen

INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Graduate! Philadelphia held the official grand opening of its center this morning.

The center, located in the Gallery near the Ninth Street entrance, has been funded by the Knight Foundation and the city to help people who left college return to school and complete their degrees.

Standing in for Mayor Nutter at the opening was his chief education officer, Lori Schorr. In his inaugural address last month, Nutter set a goal of doubling the number of college graduates in the city.

Also speaking at the opening were Sallie Glickman, who heads the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board, and various funders and partners in project. Tyrone Mays, of South Philadelphia, one of the center's first clients, also spoke about his ambition to return to college. He left college in the 1980s.

The center's executive director Hadass Sheffer, who also spoke, said the center will help students review their transcripts and link them with partner colleges who can help them move toward a degree.

She said there are 80,000 former college students in the city of Philadelphia. For information, call 215-574-1341 or visit www.graduatephiladelphia.org.

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