



**GRAND OPENING SCHOOL 16**  
September 20, 2016  
10a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Includes Tour of the School  
**133 PRINCE STREET**  
9:30 a.m.

Good morning, Congressman Pascrell; Charles McKenna, Chief Executive Officer of the NJ Schools Development Authority; Senator Pou; Assemblywoman Sumter and Assemblyman Wimberly, Council members and esteemed guests and members of the public.

It's a pleasure to join you on the grand opening of Public School Number 16.

This brand new, beautiful, state-of-the-art school will offer children, students and administrators, with endless possibilities to thrive, to succeed and forge happy memories.

I'm sure it may at times serve as a second home for you all.

For too long many Paterson schools have been in need of repair,

For too long, Paterson neighborhoods have seen closings: the closing of businesses, factories and hospitals as opposed to opening schools.

But, in our city we have an undying hope and a different vision for our schools.

Thanks to the partnership between the NJ Schools Development Authority, the city of Paterson and the strong support of Dr. Evans we have seen the opening of new schools throughout the city.

And soon will be building our first middle school, and cutting the ribbon in the grand opening of Dr. Hani A-wa-da-llah School on Hazel St.

Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

That's true. In fact, so does every human being's first journey. As children, we had to learn how to take that first step in order to walk.

Every big thing that's ever been done started with a first step.

When Neil Armstrong took his first walk on the moon, he stated, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

But the first steps of that achievement occurred decades before.

We can't get anywhere in life without taking that first small step. Sometimes the step is hard; other times its easy.

But, no matter what, you have to do it if you want to achieve big things.

In Paterson we believe in those little steps that take us to big accomplishments for our children.

We believe than when a school meets students' needs, students become increasingly committed to higher goals.

And with time, learn skills and develop habits that will benefit them throughout their lives.

I recently attended an event, where it was noted that true, all encompassing collaboration between students, families, mentors and other stakeholders helped produce a student, that was not only prepared academically, but a well-rounded individual with much to offer.

I am of the belief that the investment in our human capital is the wisest investment of all.

And this school is testimony that when we invest in our children's future we are investing in our city. A testimony to partnership.

Thomas Jefferson observed, "A candle loses nothing when it lights another candle."

This is the real nature of partnership...at times we think that sharing means losing something.

But, I believe that in this area, you get from life what you expect.

You can keep what you receive, or you can give what you have, and you will be rewarded with abundance.

Education is the corner stone of this city...

Teachers have changed the lives of a child by showing them the capabilities they don't yet see in themselves.

May these hallways be the home to future college graduates, mayors and governors...

Olympic champions, scientists, poets and inventors...

Of students who ask questions and feel curiosity for the world and most of all feel hope for their future.

I'd like to close by saying that ultimately, our commitment to our children's education is what matters.

Ultimately, the City of Paterson will be better for it.

Today is a blessed day and I want to sincerely congratulate you all!

Thank you, may God bless you all!

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