

**Stacey Cruise**

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## **Executive Profile**

**Entrepreneurial educator, with an 18-year success record of founding, reforming, replicating, and leading 5 nationally celebrated K-12 public charter schools in under-resourced urban communities enrolling 3000+ students.**

### **Subject Matter Expertise**

- Co-schools: First Philadelphia Charter School, Tacony Academy Charter School, and Memphis Street Academy( a turn-round Renaissance School).
- Providing visionary leadership for 275 highly competent faculty and staff members including building engineers, grant writers, public and community relations professionals, researchers, compliance coordinators, and a statistician.
- Customizing award-winning educational programming and curricula to meet the unique and diverse academic and social-emotional profiles of disenfranchised K-12 urban youth.
- Pioneering three (3) student-centered Arts and athletic initiatives to foster collaboration and cooperation between eight(8) Philadelphia public charter schools with 500+ students participating over six(6) years.
- Building and retaining five (5) school-specific educational teams of 50-75 certified and highly-skilled employees per team to sustain a Caring School Community to promote improved student academic outcomes on the State mandated assessments and safe and inclusive K-12 school cultures.
- Cultivating, matching, and maintaining dozens of mission-specific community based and city-wide institutional partnerships with 4 administrated K-12 charter schools to boost student engagement and school pride.

### **Selected Executive Level Achievements**

#### *Convening and Innovation*

- Participated as a Board member of Philadelphia Charters for Excellence, a citywide school choice advocacy nonprofit supporting 30 high achieving public charter schools.

- Spearheaded a teacher residency program for 3 administrated American Paradigm charter schools, in partnership with Neumann University's School of Education and Professional Studies and 8 University selected undergraduate education majors.

- Coauthored four (4) approved charter school applications and one (1) turn-around Renaissance School application.

- Formed individualized charter school start-up plans and managed each start-up plan's operations to ensure successful school and on-time openings.

- Implemented the practices of a Caring School Community (Collaboration, Cooperative Learning Structures, and Character Education) and Bloom's Taxonomy within the educational programs at each of the founded and administrated urban schools with fidelity.

- Ethnographic researcher, Katia Manaurd Weissman, Ph.D. reported the impact of institutionalizing the Caring School Community in American Paradigm Schools by studying a sample of fifth-grade students and all teachers. The research determined that:

- 95.8% of the fifth graders feel school work is important;
- 94.4% of the fifth graders believe things they learn in school are important for their future;
- 86.1% of the fifth graders like school because what they learn is interesting;
- 83.8% of the fifth graders feel safe at school; and
- 97.7% of the teachers felt they manage classroom climate effectively;
- 100% of the teachers strive to help their students be successful;
- 97.6% of the teachers help students understand that their accomplishments contribute to the well-being of the class;
- 96.3% of the teachers feel they have a positive impact on my students' achievement.

\* Research is available for review

- Developed and managed four community-specific public relations and branding campaigns for administrated charter schools that included: building individual school websites and social media presence, crafting press release templates, publishing online monthly newsletters, and logo development.

- Started "Friends of" committees to annually raise \$30,000+ to financially support student international -centered activities.

- Co-chaired three educational conferences and partnered with the Philadelphia Education Fund on its annual teacher convening event reaching hundreds of educators.

- Presented at four(4) national conferences, six (6) local conferences/workshops, and TEDx.

### *Resource Development*

- Compiled 10 charter school annual reports for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education and school community stakeholders.
- Highly experienced with building and sustaining long-term partnerships with diverse community groups, social service organizations, venerable arts institutions, and individuals committed to improving the school experience and academic success of urban students.
- Recruited board members for charter school boards as co-founder of the Metropolitan Philadelphia Athletic Association, an athletic league for 6th-8th grade charter school students.

### *Fiscal Management*

- Experienced developing, managing, and monitoring (on average) 6 million dollar school budgets for each administrated school and over-seeing the annual school finance audit process for each school site.
- Authored and administrated a 2.5 million dollar 21st Century Learning Grant, financing out-of-school-time programming and events for 600+ students over 4 years.

### **Selected School Leadership Highlights**

- Recruited to develop and implement a data-driven comprehensive charter school “turn-around” action-plan to remediate 38 school operational deficiencies in response to the non-renewal vote for a new charter to operate Laboratory Charter School.

The successful execution of this turn-around plan allows Laboratory Charter School another appearance and another vote before the charter school authorizer. Action steps included:

- Overhauling and re-staffing the charter school’s finance department.
- Centralizing and streamlining the faculty and staff recruiting, hiring, and on-boarding processes.
- Restructuring and re-staffing the Special Education Department to ensure annual compliance and excellent services to identified students.
- Reorganizing and re-staffing the English as a Second Language and Federal Title programs to ensure compliance and improve program delivery to identified students.
- Synthesizing the process for preparing for and organizing monthly public Board of Trustees meetings to comply with the Sunshine Act and for greater efficiency.
- Revamping school health services and student enrollment management practices.
- Managing the updating of the K-8 curriculum for World Language, Mathematics, composition, and Project-Based Learning while building the foundation for a Caring School Community.
- Establishing the Passport Friends Committee of 4 business partnerships forged to enhance the teaching and learning World Languages experience of the Laboratory Charter School community.
- Institutionalizing Laboratory Charter School’s annual international travel opportunities for the eighth-grade class.
- Forming the school’s first instrumental music and orchestra program.

- Formulating a new communication, public relations, and social network plan to re-brand Laboratory Charter School.
- Originated “Project At Ease”, the nationally recognized and award-winning school turn-around initiative developed for Memphis Street Academy Charter School. Military veterans were hired to serve and support middle years disenfranchised Memphis Street Academy students as their School Engagement Coaches and mentors. After one year of implementing a 90% reduction in school-based violent incidents was reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, daily student attendance average increased from 68% to 84% and reading and math below basic rates on the State mandated assessments declined.

National Coverage

<http://www.today.com/video/today/50888151#50888151>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2013/07/a-philadelphia-schools-big-bet-on-nonviolence/277893/>

**Chronological Work Experience**

Chief Executive Officer Laboratory Charter School of Communication and Languages	March 2016-June 2018 Philadelphia, PA
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Founder Principal Education Consultant Legacy School Services *Business profile available for review	January 2014-present Philadelphia, PA
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Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer American Paradigm Schools First Philadelphia Charter School	August 2002-November 2013
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**Education, Selected Recognitions, and Affiliations**

Master’s Degree, Education Leadership, 2000-2002  
Arcadia University

Bachelor’s Degree, Secondary Education and English, 1976-1980  
Spelman College

Letter of Accommodation for Memphis Street Academy from Precinct 24’s Captain Voigt

Awarded \$32,000 from the Philadelphia Housing Authority to provide STEM summer programming in two public housing communities

Board member, Sister Cities Girlchoir

Board member, Philadelphia Charter Schools for Excellence

Board member, Impact Services

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

National Association of University Women Suburban Philadelphia Branch

Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter, Spelman College

**Professional references are available upon request**