

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of At-Large Councilmember Kwame R. Brown
Chair, Committee on Economic Development



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 31, 2007

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**BROWN'S AMENDMENT MAKES RESTORING PHELPS VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL A
REALITY**



(from left to right: DCPS Chancellor Michelle Rhee and Councilmember Brown applaud comments from officials; Brown stresses importance of incorporating technical training for District youth; Mayor Fenty, Chancellor Rhee, Councilmember Brown along with other officials turn their shovels to kick-off construction for the new Phelps-photos by Lateef Mangum)

Today, D.C. Councilmember At-Large Kwame R. Brown joined D.C. Public School Administrators, local carpentry associations and former instructors to break ground to mark the start of construction of the new Phelps Architecture, Construction & Engineering High School.

As both former student of-then Phelps Career High School and a firm advocate for restoring vocational education in the District, Brown emphasized to need to incorporate a construction and engineering curriculum that will strengthen the District's educational infrastructure. "Today is especially historic for we will be able to give our young people a chance to pursue their career aspirations before graduation; an opportunity that that I had as a DCPS student," commented Councilmember Brown. "Applying the mathematic and scientific concepts learned in the classroom will help our students to develop skills to meet the demands of our labor market. In years to come, I hope to see other cities creating programs that model our world-class facility," said Brown.

Igniting educational reform, Brown co-introduced the law "School Modernization Financing Act of 2005, providing the largest funding increase of the District's public educational system. In 2006, Brown authored the amendment to the "School Modernization Financing Act of 2005," to earmark funds to reopen Phelps by Fall 2008. April 2007, Brown along with members of the D.C. Council approved emergency actions for \$30 million to rebuild Phelps. Reopening of the career facility will provide students with the necessary training to meet the demand future construction opportunities throughout the city.

About Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School:

In 1934 the Cardozo Vocational School was moved to a newly constructed facility on the Hilltop campus overlooking the Anacostia River. The original Phelps students were trained in the areas of Bricklaying, Carpentry, Mechanical Drawing as well as Machine Shop and Shoe Repair. By 1944, the program was elevated to the level of Senior High School.

When Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School reopens in 2008, it will mark the continuation of the Career and Technical Education in DC Public Schools and the rebirth of Phelps High School. Phelps will be a comprehensive high school that will prepare students for higher education with a specialization in careers associated with architecture, construction and engineering industries.

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