FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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P-TECH AT PANTHER ACADEMY KICKS OFF SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR INCOMING STUDENTS IN INAUGURAL CLASS

PHOTOS ATTACHED: IDs at the end of the release

Program to help incoming freshmen make transition to new school launching in September

PATERNOS – While most students are continuing their summer breaks from school, the incoming students of the new P-TECH (Pathways in Technology and Early College High School) at PANTHER Academy were back in classrooms today for the kickoff of P-TECH’s Summer Bridge Program.

The program is aimed at helping the students make the transition from middle school to the rigors and expectations of the P-TECH at PANTHER Academy high school. At the same time, the students are becoming more familiar with their new school environment, as well as their new teachers and classmates.

“P-TECH at PANTHER Academy will give Paterson students the chance to gain real-world tech sector experience while earning a high school diploma and an associate’s degree. It’s the chance to get a tremendous head start in developing the skills and knowledge that can lead to innovations that can change the world,” said Schools Superintendent Eileen Shafer. “This two-week program to help students make a smooth transition into P-TECH from middle school is just one way we are working to set up students for success.”

“All of the teachers and administrators are very excited about this chance to meet the incoming students, and to be a part of the whole P-TECH at Panther initiative,” said Principal Charla Holder, Ed.D. “Because our students will be working collaboratively often, team building among students will be a major component of the Summer Bridge program.”

The Summer Bridge program will run through Friday, August 23. Highlights of the program will include team building exercises on a field trip at a natural preserve this week, and a presentation of group projects on the program’s last day. First day of school for students is Thursday, September 5.

P-TECH at PANTHER Academy is a new type of high school that combines the core elements of high school, college coursework and opportunities to participate in the professional world. This school model, originally established by IBM in 2011, enables students to begin their college and professional lives more quickly and with more support than the typical school-to-work pathway. Graduates of P-TECH at PANTHER Academy will earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) field from Passaic County Community College. They will also leave the school with the skills and knowledge they need to continue their studies or step seamlessly into competitive jobs within STEM industries. The program also includes special opportunities to intern and interview for entry level positions at the IBM Corporation.
Photo 1: Principal Holder greets the P-TECH students at the Summer Bridge program
Photo 2: Student Learning Coordinator Tisan Dawud greets the students
Photo 3: Teacher Rashad Davis reviews the day’s agenda with the students
Photo 4: Teacher Shae Gray leads students in an icebreaking exercise

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