



When School Makes The Grade

(NAPS)—A successful public/private initiative is giving many students the extra boost they need to open doors of opportunity.

The School-to-Work Initiative, administered jointly by the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor, provides a framework to support state and local development of integrated systems of education and work-force preparation.



Ruth's successful bid to enter Temple University this year was the happy product of her hope and determination which was fueled by an education initiative that provides mentor support from private enterprise in communities all across the country.

School-to-Work seeks to impress upon youth the value of learning career skills by placing them in a position where the skills can be applied.

For example, Ruth Rivera, is a student from an economically depressed Philadelphia neighborhood. She had failed the ninth grade and considered herself to be on her way toward dropping out of school—and society—completely.

After meeting with a School-to-Work counselor however, Rivera's priorities changed and she turned her life around.

School-to-Work, which recognizes all students, regardless of background or economic level, helped her find a job as an intern at First Union Bank and served to motivate her to stay in school. Rivera is now studying at Temple University.

"School-to-Work helped show me what an education can be worth—it brought meaning to school. Now, studying at Temple is a dream come true," says Rivera.

For more information on the School-to-Work initiative, visit www.stw.ed.gov.