



*Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy
Charter Public School*

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ALUMNUS CHRISTOPHER FOLKES ELECTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Boston, MA. — Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy (DLA) is proud to announce that former student, Mr. Christopher Folkes, has been elected to the Board of Trustees. His term started August 2017.

Mr. Folkes graduated from the Academy in 2012 and is currently studying nursing at Quincy Community College. While a student at the Academy, Folkes was a standout student athlete on the track & field team, who competed in the 100-meter and 200-meter dash. Folkes was also a Meal Program volunteer who helped serve breakfast and lunch, all three years while he attended the Academy. Upon graduation, Folkes was honored with a “*Make A Difference*

Award,” for his exemplary commitment to serving others.

Mr. Folkes’ desire to join the board came after he reflected on a statement that was spoken during graduation, which encouraged alumni to serve their community. Folkes stated, “that challenge never left my mind, and I knew one day I would join the board of my middle-school, as I was a proud alumnus and felt a duty to give back to an institution that had invested so much in me.”

Folkes explained that his most memorable experience at Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy was his participation in Blacks In Wax, a come-to-life black history wax museum exhibit. Folkes said, “Blacks In Wax gave me the opportunity to research Black leaders that made great contributions to our society.” He continued, “The most important thing I learned at DLA was to love and respect myself; it is because of my education at DLA that I am confident in my abilities and so knowledgeable about my culture and Black History.”

Mr. Kevin Tarpley, the Board chairman says, “We are honored to have Mr. Folkes on our board. He will provide that powerful voice that will speak from the student’s perspective. He has valuable insight that will ensure the board makes decisions that are mindful of the students.”

The Board of Trustees has nine members and all serve a three-year term. The board is the governing body for the Academy and their primary responsibilities include general oversight and compliance with all state and federal laws that apply to the school. Additionally, among other duties, the board ensures that the Academy operates in accordance with its charter.

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The mission of the Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy Charter Public School is to develop high-achieving students of good character who use problem solving, communication and interpersonal skills to inspire others and to catalyze educational, economic and political advancement within their communities and the broader nation.