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## **LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL INSTALLS MAJOR MOSAIC MURAL CELEBRATING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

*Six Months of Work Involves Local and National Partners to Complete*

**PHILADELPHIA** -- Lincoln High School students, led by teacher Judy Eastburn, completed a massive mosaic in the corridors of their high school. The 135-foot long colorful tile artwork celebrating environmental conservation and community service was done with the assistance of artist Josey Stamm of NetworkArts, a non-profit organization which has worked with more than 20,000 students in the Philadelphia area to explore ecological education through mosaic.

Lincoln teachers and staff worked with more than 1,000 students and Ms. Stamm to bring the mosaic to life, from planning during the summer of 2004 to the placement of the last tile by Paul Vallas, School District of Philadelphia CEO, in late January.

"This mosaic is a wonderful addition to our already impressive collection of mosaics throughout our schools, and is one of the largest in the District. We thank these partners, along with Rohm and Haas who provided a grant for the work. Partnerships enable the District to enhance the learning environment beyond the traditional structure, and we thank them all for their generous assistance," said James Nevels, Chairman of the School Reform Commission.

"We are excited to complete this mural, because it offers something for everyone. Our teachers are including the content in their lesson plans to teach about the environmental contributions of Benjamin Franklin, George Washington Carver and others, the more than two hundred text tiles are loaded with conservation information. We are impressed by the work done by these groups," said Paul Vallas, CEO of the School District of Philadelphia.

The former Lincoln Principal, David Kipphut, led the group that included Educational/Artistic Director of NetworkArts Josey Stamm, local Earth Force Executive Director Janet Smallwood, WHYY Representative Craig Santoro, and Lincoln Teachers led by Judi Eastburn.

As part of the collaboration with WHYY, they will produce a video that documents the mosaic process as well as highlights other NetworkArts and Earth Force events at Lincoln High School.

Students learned to apply their classroom education in unique ways. Horticultural students learned about environmental events such as deforestation, law students learned about laws and federal government acts covering ecological issues, math students could learn about the number of tiles needed for the space or the amount of adhesive required to attach the tiles, and science students learned about the positive aspects of environmental studies. It also would benefit deaf and hard of hearing students who learned from the mosaic by the visual nature of the artwork.

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