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## Joe's Theater Tech Program Selected as Outstanding Employer by Prince George's County Public Schools

**Upper Marlboro, MD, May 6, 2015** – The Theater Tech Program (TTP) at Joe's Movement Emporium was selected as the *Most Outstanding Employer of 2015* by the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). The award was presented by the PGCPS's Office of Career Academy Programs to recognize excellence in experiential learning opportunities for students and is the highest honor given out each year. Pictured above are (from left) Rhonda Gillus of Parkdale High School, who nominated TTP for the award; Shonique McBayne (holding award), TTP program director; Cathy Smith, recruitment and outreach coordinator for TTP; program participants Miracle Verner and Jaylen Butler; Adriel Woods, technical theater coordinator for TTP; and participant Kelin Bonilla.



**About Joe's:** Joe's Movement Emporium, Prince George's County's largest independent performing arts center, serves as the artistic base to over 25 artists and arts group of all disciplines. Complete with black box theater, three dance studios and an arts education wing, the facility serves nearly 70,000 individuals annually. As one of the region's most well respected non-profit arts center, Joe's successfully utilizes arts as a vehicle for cultural enrichment, economic growth, progressive education and workforce training, serving 3,500 youth last year alone.

**About Joe's Theater Tech Program:** The Theater Tech Program (TTP), is a workforce development initiative based at Joe's Movement Emporium that supports at-risk youth ages 16-21 in Prince George's County, MD. TTP provides young people with technical instruction in theater production, operation and digital media. Paired with critical supports that include college exploration, life skills coaching and real work experience, TTP gives participants life and employability skills toward a successful future. TTP embraces youth most at risk by providing one-on-one support, mentoring and a belief in their abilities. Participants are high school seniors or recently out-of-school youth from extremely low-income households who face numerous barriers to success. The program was created in 2008 in response to the county's high teen unemployment rate. It consistently graduates 95% of students from high school and 100% go on to college (70%); military (15%) or enter the job force (15%).

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