

Seventh Class of 1966 Locomotive Award

Terry Eakin

Alumni Day, February 22, 2020

Citation by Bill (Roller) Leahy

Welcome to all '66ers this evening. As the Alumni Day activities come to a close, we are happy to see so many members of our class this evening to celebrate the presentation of the Locomotive Award to Terry Eakin.

At the 50th reunion, class leadership considered establishing an award to be given on Alumni Day and at Reunions to a member of the class of 1966 who has achieved excellence in his vocation or avocational pursuits. During the past years we have presented the award to an educator, an environmentalist, a career diplomat focused upon arms mitigation, a physician, and a veteran focused upon veteran affairs.

This evening Terry Eakin (and his wife Lindsay) are receiving the award for founding, sustaining and expanding DC Prep.

The Vision of DC Prep is that every child will be prepared academically and socially for success in the future. The mission of DC Prep is to increase the number of students from under-served communities with the academic and personal characteristics to succeed in competitive high school and college.

After completing Stanford Business School, Lindsay and Terry returned home to the Washington DC area. They began their family and have raised four children. Terry pursued a career in real estate and development, 28 years ago founding EYA. He has been CEO until last year.

Lindsay has, like the wives of our prior awardees, always been a steady and constant soulmate. Terry and Lindsay have always been known for their competitive spirits, interest in "big challenges," and the ability to use their instincts, experience, and "social capital"...a network of similar caring individuals in solving problems.

The constant concerns regarding education in the District of Columbia - lack of accountability, under performance and systemic failure has been noted in the community for decades. As Terry approached "retirement" from his vocation, he began to explore improving the educational system by joining citizens who established public charter schools, an alternative to public education.

Terry and Lindsay ultimately decided to establish their own network of charter schools, concerned that the rate of progress with insufficient. This is a substantial undertaking: a) finding buildings, b) interesting the local residents to consider allowing their children to be educated in "alternative" schools, and c) building staff and teachers - an endless series of challenges. Also, ultimately the program required certification.

The first campus was the Edgewood campus in 2007, the second was the Benning campus in 2008, and the third campus is the Anacostia campus...each with elementary and middle school curricula.

The results are the following for the 8th year:

- DCPrep is the highest performing of public charter schools in the city

- 100% of the 8th grade graduates were accepted to a college prep high school
- 97% of those in high school have graduated (the rate in DC Public School is 65%)
- 100% of the college applicants have received acceptance letters

More impressive than the above "metrics" is the influence upon personal growth and empowerment this education has afforded over 2000 students.

For these endeavors, the Committee is pleased to award the Locomotive to Terry.