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# LIBERTY ACADEMY FOUNDER RECEIVES DREXEL FUND FELLOWSHIP

Liberty Academy of Columbus founding member JR Huff was awarded a fellowship by The Drexel Fund to help launch a new private school in the Columbus area.

The Drexel Fund Founders Program is a one-year fellowship that helps outstanding leaders already on the path to launching a school continue to plan and open an innovative and effective private school. Through the fellowship, school founders develop their school's education model and engage in the nuts and bolts of its launch.

As part of the program, Huff will receive a stipend and an additional allowance for professional capacity-building activities to help prepare him to open the school. He will also participate in coaching and training sessions, visit other high-performing schools and be eligible for additional funding and start-up support opportunities.

Huff is a former Bartholomew County public school teacher and has served in public education for almost a decade. He is a graduate of the University of Louisville where he earned both Masters of Arts and Teaching and Masters of Business Administration degrees.

Huff says that he will use his expertise to launch Liberty Academy of Columbus, a classical school that will focus primarily on the education of the whole child; mind, body, and character. "We want to be a true partner with parents in the education of their children.", Huff said.

Huff was inspired to launch Liberty Academy after researching school options for his own children and finding that they were limited. "As I began researching schools in Indiana that were successful, I kept coming across the classical schooling model. The more I learned and witnessed as I visited these schools, it was evident that this model produces students that are markedly different. The goal of a classical education is not to answer the question 'What do I want to be?', but to resolve the question of 'Who do I want to become'."

Participants in the Drexel Fund Founders Program open schools with a student body that is at least a third low-income, are academically rigorous, financially sustainable and help students develop strong character. "I am honored to be a part of this fellowship with the Drexel Fund. Starting a school is a daunting task, and to have the support and guidance of an organization like Drexel will allow us to make classical education accessible to all members of our community."

Huff says that Liberty Academy will be introducing the classical model to families at information sessions starting in the fall ahead of the schools launch in the fall of 2023.

More information about Liberty Academy of Columbus is available by contacting JR Huff at [jrhuff@libertyacademycolumbus.com](mailto:jrhuff@libertyacademycolumbus.com) or visiting [www.libertyacademycolumbus.com](http://www.libertyacademycolumbus.com).



*JR Huff*