



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Paradigm Schools' CEO to Participate in 14th Annual Tesla Spirit Award Conference

Multi-day conference will explore Nikola Tesla's global influence through education, innovation, and the arts

Philadelphia, PA; January 9, 2026—Ashley Redfearn, Chief Executive Officer of American Paradigm Schools (APS), will participate in the 14th Annual Tesla Spirit Award Conference, hosted by the Tesla Science Foundation (TSF) in New York City from January 9–14, 2026. The international conference will convene educators, historians, artists, and global leaders to celebrate the truth, legacy, and cultural diplomacy of Nikola Tesla.

Founded and led by Nikola Lonchar, Founder and President of the Tesla Science Foundation, the conference will examine Tesla's universal vision and underscore the importance of preserving his legacy through historical accuracy and ethical stewardship. Programming will highlight Tesla's continued relevance to modern education, cross-cultural collaboration, and scientific advancement.

As part of this year's programming, Redfearn will moderate the Philadelphia Pigeon Project, a featured discussion examining Tesla's fascination with pigeons and its connection to creativity, compassion, and unconventional thinking. APS team members Todd Parker, Todd Smith, Naimah Wimberly, and Mohamed Hassan will also join the conversation alongside Eden Jolliffe from Wildthings Preserve and Colin Jerolmak, PhD from New York University.

The week's events include leadership meetings, a grand awards session, a memorial service honoring Nikola Tesla, filming at historic Tesla sites across New York City, and a Tesla Day celebration at the Serbian Consulate General in New York, featuring the Tesla Spirit Awards and a "Tesla Through Art" exhibition.

APS is a long-standing partner of the Tesla Science Foundation, with all four schools participating in the "Introducing Tesla to Schools in America" initiative, which brings Nikola Tesla's life and work into classrooms through science, art, and music. APS' Tacony Academy Charter School remains a national leader in S.T.E.A.M. education as the first school in the United States to implement the Tesla curriculum.

"Tesla's influence remains deeply relevant in modern education, and opportunities like the Tesla Spirit Award Conference allow us to continue meaningful conversations about how science, creativity, and learning intersect. APS is proud of its abiding commitment to this work, with Tesla's legacy remaining embedded in our curriculum as we collaborate with educators from around the world," said Ashley Redfearn, CEO of American Paradigm Schools.



To learn more about Tesla Clubs in Schools, please visit teslasciencefoundation.org and for more information on APS, please visit ap-schools.org.

About American Paradigm Schools

American Paradigm Schools (APS) is a nonprofit charter management organization that supports and serves four charter schools in North and Northeast Philadelphia. These schools are: First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School; Lindley Academy Charter School; Memphis Street Academy; and Tacony Academy Charter School. For more information, visit www.ap-schools.org.

American Paradigm Schools are dedicated to equity and excellence for all learners, while celebrating the uniqueness of our communities. Our values drive our dedication to providing a world class education.

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