

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Paradigm Schools Commemorates Nikola Tesla's Historic 1893 Lecture with "A Night of Science" at The Franklin Institute

Philadelphia, PA—March 2, 2026—American Paradigm Schools (APS) welcomed community leaders, educators, partners and supporters to *A Night of Science* last night at The Franklin Institute, celebrating the enduring power of science education and commemorating Nikola Tesla's landmark address, "*Light and Other High Frequency Phenomena*," originally delivered on the steps of the historic institution 130 years earlier.

Led by Nikola Lonchar, Founder and President of the Tesla Science Foundation, the event brought together educators, city leaders, community partners, and members of the Tesla Science Foundation for an evening dedicated to inspiring innovation in science education and commemorating Tesla's February 24, 1893 lecture, "Experiments with Alternate Currents of High Potential and High Frequency." During that historic speech, Tesla demonstrated emerging electrical technologies that would help shape the future of modern power systems and scientific discovery.

Held at the historic Franklin Institute, where the story of electricity stretches from Benjamin Franklin's early experiments to the awe-inspiring Tesla Coil, the event symbolically connected past discoveries to the future of science learning in Philadelphia.

"Tesla's vision transformed how the world understands energy and innovation," said Ashley Redfearn, CEO of American Paradigm Schools. "In that same spirit of curiosity and invention, we are ensuring the more than 4,000 students we serve at American Paradigm Schools have access to immersive, high-quality science education, empowering them to become the problem-solvers and leaders of tomorrow. From this point forward, I hope we can continue to celebrate this date in Philadelphia, recognizing not only Tesla's legacy, but the innovative work happening in our classrooms every single day."

The celebration highlighted APS' continued leadership in advancing S.T.E.A.M. education across its school network. Through its collaboration with the Tesla Science Foundation, APS has integrated Tesla-focused curriculum and launched Tesla Clubs to connect students to scientific discovery through art, music and hands-on experimentation, bringing complex scientific concepts to life in engaging and accessible ways.

Throughout the evening, guests reflected on the importance of expanding access to curiosity-driven science education, particularly in public charter school communities. The

gathering underscored APS' commitment to experiential learning, critical thinking and cultivating a lifelong passion for discovery among more than 4,000 students across Northeast Philadelphia. It also celebrates the diversity of all the members of our community who speak English as a second language, just as Nikola Tesla did. There are 53 different languages identified as primary languages spoken at home in our school community.

By commemorating Tesla's historic lecture at the very site where it once captivated audiences, APS reinforced Philadelphia's enduring role as a center of scientific advancement, while demonstrating how that legacy continues in classrooms today.

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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