



2009 NCTE Literacy Award recipient Lisa Nutter (at center), president of the nonprofit group Philadelphia Academies, Inc., is shown with current students and graduates of the Philadelphia Academies program.

The recipient of NCTE's **2009 Literacy Award** is Lisa Nutter, the president of the Philadelphia Academies, Inc., a nonprofit youth development organization that works in Philadelphia's public high schools to provide career based learning experiences.

Prior to working with Philadelphia Academies, Nutter was Project Director for the Center for Collaborative Learning, Program Associate for the Philadelphia Children's Network, Community Coordinator for Philadelphia Educational Partnership, and served in many other roles that show her commitment to issues related to social change and youth development.

Yvonne Siu-Runyon, Chair of the 2009 Literacy Award Selection Committee, said, "It is with great delight that we recommend Lisa Nutter. Not only is Lisa a prominent figure in the Philadelphia area, but she is someone who does the day-to-day work to promote literacy in action. She understands that being literate makes a huge difference in one's life and one's ability to contribute to society.

Lois McGee, Director of Integrated Instruction, Office of Teaching and Learning of the Philadelphia Public Schools, said, "Lisa Nutter has repeatedly shown her support for public education and for the importance of literacy development in how she has chosen to spend her time—and I can honestly say that she has chosen to spend much of it advocating for improving student literacy."

Meet the 2009 NCTE Literacy Award Winner: **LISA NUTTER**

NCTE recently asked Lisa Nutter to share some thoughts on her work:

The Council Chronicle (CC): *What led you to become involved with Philadelphia Academies?*

Lisa Nutter (LN): I became interested in the work initially as the organization's research and evaluation consultant. What struck me in that role and continues to impress me is our ability to organize various and influential constituencies around public education and the role that it plays in our regional economy.

CC: *What is the most inspiring aspect of your role with Philadelphia Academies?*

LN: The work moves back and forth between micro and macro every day. I get to be on the ground enough to actually be able to see young people we are supporting evolve over the years while also being able to influence policy level changes in partnership with other non-profit youth organizations and the School District of Philadelphia.

CC: *Are there any particular success stories you'd like to share from your experience?*

LN: I can't pick just one, but the general theme is about resilience and the fact that healthy communities can and should be focused on helping young people become resilient—helping them get focused on a set of goals, providing the support of at least one positive adult to be a "tour guide," providing real opportunities and access, and having high expectations for them.

CC: *What is your hope for the next 5 years of the Philadelphia Academies?*

LN: That we are able to work successfully in partnership with other youth development organizations, industry, higher education, organized labor, and the School District to ensure that ALL young people in Philadelphia are prepared for careers and post-secondary education no matter their neighborhood or socio-economic status. Our work is to share what works about what we do, collaborate, teach others how to do it, and scale-up effective practices in a way that ensures that every public high school student graduates with the skills that they need to compete in a 21st century economy.

Established in 1989, NCTE's Literacy Award is presented annually to a public figure or group (not primarily professional educators) for making a significant difference in drawing public attention to the issue of literacy and for stimulating the development of programs to foster literacy among adults as well as among youth and children.

Lisa Nutter will receive the honor during the NCTE Annual Convention to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 19–22. The award will be presented during the General Session, 10 a.m., Sunday, November 22, 2009.