



Emily Goodman

9th-12th School Counselor

South Philadelphia High School, Phila., PA

Exceptional Teacher
Grand Prize Award

Within 3 weeks of arriving at South Philadelphia High School in January, 2015, Emily Goodman had all the students' names and profiles memorized. By June, she had worked with every student to set a short- and long-term plan for success.



The graduation rate that year jumped from 38% to 65%. Just one year later (2015-2016), it increased to a whopping 86%, the school's highest rate ever.

One way Ms. Goodman guides her students to success is through a series of special events she co-ordinates throughout the year. Standouts include:

- A *Prom Drive Tea Party* that provides new and gently used prom dresses for the girls
- *Scholastic Swag*, an all-male event that focuses on career building skills
- "*March Madness*," a basketball tournament that rewards good attendance
- A "*Commitment Ceremony*" where 9th grade students pledge to graduate in 4 years

Ms. Goodman's nomination was filled with a string of "absolutes" that describe her dedication perfectly: "*There is no problem you can't solve.*" "*Everyone comes to you.*" "*Nothing stops you from helping a student.*"