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2017 McCormick Medalist Thomas B. Schmidt, III Honored at Founders Day

WORMLEYSBURG, PA – Thomas B. Schmidt, III, a former trustee and alumni parent, accepted the 2017 McCormick Medal at Harrisburg Academy’s annual Founders Day celebration on Monday. The McCormick Medal is presented each year to one individual who exemplifies leadership and service to the school. Founders Day is held at the John Harris and Simon Cameron Mansion in downtown Harrisburg, Harrisburg Academy’s original location.



Schmidt is the father of Nate '13 and Nick '13, both 15-year students who attended the Academy from preschool (HATS) through 12th grade. Schmidt served on the Board of Trustees for 10 years, as a trustee from 2003-2007, vice president from 2007-2009, and president from 2009-2013. He was involved in the germination of several important Academy initiatives, including The Centers for Experiential Learning & Innovation, the campus-wide facilities master plan, the campaign feasibility study, and ultimately, Bold Ambition: The Campaign for Harrisburg Academy. Schmidt and his wife, Donna Fisher, are also founding members of the Academy’s leadership giving society, The John Harris Circle. During his time as an Academy parent, Schmidt actively supported his sons in their many activities at school.

Professionally, Schmidt is the attorney-in-charge at the Harrisburg office of Pepper Hamilton LLP. Since his sons’ graduation, he has continued to provide valuable legal advice to Harrisburg Academy. In addition, he was a celebrated speaker in the International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge classes, specifically regarding his involvement with the 2005 “Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District” court case.

Schmidt’s resume includes service to many other local boards, including Market Square Concerts, Harristown Development Corporation, and Pennfuture. He is also a member of the vestry of St. Stephen’s Cathedral (twice senior warden) and serves as an adjunct instructor of advocacy at Dickinson School of Law, the same school from which he earned his law degree. Schmidt has been the proud recipient of the “Thaddeus Stevens Champion Award” from the Public Law Center of Philadelphia, “Adelante Award” from Friends of Farmworkers, Inc., and “Excellence Award” from Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, in addition to being listed in “The Best Lawyers in America.”

Established in 1784, Harrisburg Academy is the 17th oldest non-public school in the nation and Harrisburg’s only independent school. Our coed, diverse school community inspires students from age three through 12th grade by providing an academically challenging and globally minded liberal arts education focused on dynamic classroom experiences, strong student outcomes, and a commitment to character development. The Academy proudly stands as the first school in the greater Harrisburg area to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and merit scholarship.

For more information about Harrisburg Academy please visit our website or contact Miranda Connelly at 717-763-7811 or via email at connelly.m@harrisburgacademy.org.