

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Philadelphia Principal Receives National Award**

ST. PAUL, Minn. (January 20, 2015) — Shira Woolf Cohen, Principal of New Foundations Charter School, Philadelphia, Penn. has been selected to receive the 2015 G. Bernard Gill Urban Leadership Award. The award, which is given by the National Youth Leadership Council with support from UPS, will be presented on April 10 at the 26th Annual National Service-Learning Conference® in Washington D.C.

The award honors individuals, who, by example, have played a leadership role in urban schools, communities, and the lives of young people. With a passion for engaging African-American males and a belief that service-learning could improve their lives, Bernard Gill was a pioneering leader in the urban service-learning movement and organized the first and successive National Urban Service-Learning Institute.

“It is with great pleasure that we present the G. Bernard Gill Urban Leadership Award to this inspiring leader,” said Kelita Bak, CEO of NYLC. “Shira is a passionate advocate for all young people to be seen as active, contributing members of our communities. She consistently demonstrates that commitment; including helping Bernard create the first ever Urban Service-Learning Institute.”

Woolf Cohen became the Principal of New Foundations Charter School in 2014 where she started as a middle school math teacher in 2001. Since her time at New Foundations Charter School, Woolf Cohen has made tremendous contributions to the school and community through service-learning. She created an alumnus service-learning council to engage high school students in the community. She created the K-12 Service Learning Continuum, which serves as a guide for teachers on the different themes that students can explore based on age-appropriate levels and topics. She developed a summer camp to create a safe space to learn, grow, and have fun over the summer.

Woolf Cohen is also an adjunct professor with leading teacher training programs at Drexel University, Johns Hopkins University, and Temple University, where she is imparting her expertise and passion for service-learning to future teachers.

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**About NYLC**

At the National Youth Leadership Council, we strive for a world where all young people are valued and called on to lead. With passion, creativity, and ingenuity, young people can address world issues while strengthening academic and learning outcomes through service-learning. To that end, we provide programs and services that **develop** young leaders, **support** educators, and **advance** the field of service-learning. Visit [www.nylc.org](http://www.nylc.org) to learn more about NYLC and service-learning.

**About the National Service-Learning Conference**

The National Service-Learning Conference brings together youth and adults from across the country and around the world for three and a half days of learning, inspiration, and connection for those who view youth as solutions for stronger communities and schools. For more information, visit [www.nylc.org/conference](http://www.nylc.org/conference).