



## LOCAL TEEN WINNERS OF THE STOCK MARKET GAME RANG THE OPENING BELL AT THE PHILADELPHIA STOCK EXCHANGE ON THURSDAY, JUNE 15

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**PHILADELPHIA – June 14, 2006** –Local teen winners from Martin Luther King High School rang the opening bell on the floor of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange on Thursday, June 15. Remarks began promptly at 9:20 a.m., 10 minutes before trading began.

The 12th-grade team, using virtual cash, turned a \$100,000 investment into \$147,270 during the ten-week Stock Market Game™ simulation. More than 8,000 Philadelphia students participated in the online simulation this Spring as part of the Investing Pays Off ( IPO® ) program, made possible through a partnership between EconomicsPennsylvania and Merrill Lynch. All 48 Philadelphia High Schools participate in the game as part of the social studies curriculum.

The winners of the game are: Letitia Perez-Staton, Corrin Baylis and Denise Smiley. With them were Jessica Wilkinson, Student Government Vice President and Trish Latorture, Student Government Regional Delegate. Laurence Sherzer, the winning teacher and David Mandell, the head of the social studies department were also present.

### **The media is invited for photos and interviews.**

About the PHLX: The Philadelphia Stock Exchange was founded in 1790. The PHLX trades 1,943 stocks, 2,231 equity options, 19 sectors index options and currency options and futures. For more information about the PHLX and its products, visit [www.phlx.com](http://www.phlx.com).

About EconomicsPennsylvania: EconomicsPennsylvania is a not for profit organization specializing in economic and financial literacy programs, K – 12, across the state. Their overall mission is to promote and encourage understanding of economic and financial concepts through education. Through their Center for Economic Education at Temple University, EconomicsPennsylvania has been working with Philadelphia teachers for over 10 years to incorporate a variety of economic programs that help develop financial, entrepreneurial and economic student skills.

About Merrill Lynch's Philanthropy: Merrill Lynch was founded on the idea that the world is full of opportunity. Opening the door to that opportunity for underserved children and youth is the focus of the firm's global philanthropy. In 2005, Merrill Lynch giving totaled more than \$37 million, with education receiving nearly half of that support. Merrill Lynch's flagship program Investing Pays Off® -or IPO® -helps create a level playing field for youngsters of all backgrounds through financial literacy and business savvy. The program strength lies in a free curriculum, the involvement of Merrill Lynch volunteers and online educational resources at <http://volunteer.ml.com>