



Thornton Township High School District 205
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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DISTRICT 205 STUDENTS LEAD GLOBAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE CONNECTING ILLINOIS AND GHANA

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VIDEO: <https://youtube.com/shorts/YOl3LUC1Vow?feature=share>

South Holland, IL – At a time when public attention often focuses on the challenges facing young people, students from Thornton Township High School District 205 are writing a different story. Their story is one of leadership, service, innovation, and global impact.

Wednesday, June 3, 2026, District 205 and Building Our Own Community (BOOC), Inc. unveiled the Digital Learning Exchange (DLX), a student-led international education initiative designed to connect District 205 students with their peers in Ghana through academic collaboration, cultural exchange, leadership development, and community service.

The initiative represents a powerful example of what can happen when young people are empowered to lead. Developed by the District 205 Student Board and facilitated by BOOC, Inc., DLX provides students with opportunities to engage in meaningful global learning experiences while helping address educational inequities abroad.

"While headlines too often focus on the negative narratives surrounding young people, the Digital Learning Exchange tells a different story," said Bishop Lance L. Davis, President and CEO of BOOC, Inc. and organizer of the initiative. "It highlights the positive, productive, and visionary side of today's youth. These students are demonstrating leadership, compassion, and a commitment to creating solutions that benefit communities both locally and internationally."

As part of the initiative, students helped organize the collection of gently used classroom furniture to support schools in Ghana. During the unveiling at Thornwood High School, attendees viewed desks, chairs, file cabinets, and other classroom furnishings being prepared for shipment. Two shipping containers are currently staged for departure, joining six containers that have already been sent to Ghana.

The furniture donation effort symbolizes more than the transfer of educational resources. It represents the students' and District 205's commitment to building meaningful and mutually beneficial partnerships with schools in Ghana and the Ghana Library Authority. The initiative seeks to foster educational excellence, cultural understanding, and global citizenship among students on both continents.

District leaders emphasized that the project demonstrates the tremendous potential that exists when schools, families, businesses, and community organizations unite around the success of young people.

"The Digital Learning Exchange showcases the very best of our students," said Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent of Thornton Township High School District 205. "These young leaders are proving that education extends beyond the classroom. They are building relationships across cultures, addressing real-world challenges, and developing the skills necessary to thrive in a global society."

The initiative is supported by a coalition of predominantly African American-led organizations, businesses, educators, and community leaders working together to improve educational outcomes and expand opportunities for children who have too often been overlooked or underserved.

In addition to Bishop Davis, among those participating in the unveiling were Senator Napoleon Harris; State Representatives Mr. Thaddeus Jones and Mr. Will Davis; Cook County Commissioner Mrs. Kisha McCaskill; District 205 Board President Ms. Nina Graham; Superintendent Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham; Associate Superintendent Dr. Jerry Doss; Board Vice President Dr. Kara E. Davis; Board Members Mr. Ray Banks, Ms. Sonja Bradley, and Mrs. Bernadette Lawrence; BOOC, Inc. Director Ms. Faith Hawkins; Minister LaNiece Thomas-Flagg of Sankofa US; architect and DLX donor Mr. Lee Reid; Ms. Sarah Floyd of Panera+Reid Architects and General Contractors; and Mr. Brian Washington, owner of Kingston Construction & Janitorial LLC.

Coalition leaders believe that when communities unite around educational excellence, social resilience, and cultural understanding, they can change the trajectory of future generations.

"Many of us grew up hearing the phrase, 'The children are our future,'" Davis added. "The truth is, they still are. The question is whether we are willing to invest in them, believe in them, and create opportunities for them to lead. The Digital Learning Exchange is proof of what happens when we do."

The DLX initiative serves as a model of youth-driven civic engagement, demonstrating how students can become active participants in addressing educational challenges while strengthening cultural connections and building a more equitable future.

"I applaud the efforts of Bishop Davis, DLX, and District 205 School and Student Boards for this unique partnership that will benefit and enhance the academic careers of thousands of Ghanaian students," said Cook County Commissioner Mrs. Kisha McCaskill. "This speaks volumes to the humanitarian efforts of our students who can now enjoy this phenomenal bond with their student counterparts in Ghana."

"This program is extremely valuable to our students because it offers them a sense of cultural diversity awareness, personal growth, and enhance self-confidence," added Illinois State Representative Thaddeus Jones. "Engaging with diverse environments helps students to develop a broader world view and a better understanding of global issues. This local effort by students of District 205 speaks volumes to the focus of BOOC, Inc. and DXL in their collaborative effort to reshape the social consciousness of our young people."

ABOUT THE DIGITAL LEARNING EXCHANGE (DLX)

The Digital Learning Exchange is a student-led global education initiative spearheaded by the Thornton Township High School District 205 Student Board and facilitated by Building Our Own Community (BOOC), Inc. The program connects students in Illinois and Ghana through collaborative learning, cultural exchange, leadership development, and service initiatives designed to promote educational equity, academic achievement, and global citizenship.

MEDIA RESOURCES

Press Release Video: <https://youtube.com/shorts/YOI3LUC1Vow?feature=share>

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