

Southland College Prep Charter High School, located in Chicago's south suburbs, was one of five Chicago area high schools featured in the fall of 2024 on the "Morning Show" of the local ABC affiliate station. ABC7 Chicago is the number one news station in the third largest U.S. media market. Our in-house produced video "ABC7 Chicago Friday Flyover at Southland College Prep" gives a behind the scenes view of the broadcast that showcased Southland's academics, arts and athletics. Throughout its "Morning Show" on September 27, from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m., followed by a live streaming interview at 7:10 a.m., ABC7 anchor Diane Pathieu and a team of producers and photographers conducted interviews and captured scenes of Southland's choir, broadcast studio, dance group, Kappa League Steppers, speech team, cheerleaders and marching band, among other groups as well as the school's Commons, Performing Arts Center and multi-purpose field house. Every fall ABC7 has a "Friday Flyover" in which area high schools show their school spirit by creating a formation on the football field (Southland has no football field). This year, the station made the "Friday Flyover" more of an "open house" opportunity for schools to showcase their students and campuses. Students, faculty and administrators started arriving on campus before 4 a.m., energized by the unique opportunity to shine a light on the school which has less than 600 students and serves a primarily African American population. The performing arts are an important aspect of student life at Southland with more than half of the students involved in the performing arts through band, strings, choir, speech and dance. Athletics, student clubs and a STEM project also were highlighted. Southland's senior class was profiled as they prepared to follow the school's tradition of all members of the class being accepted to college. Southland's first 11 graduating classes garnered scholarship offers totaling more than \$400 million. Southland graduates have been accepted to all of the top 50 national universities, all eight Ivy League schools, every major public Illinois university and the 50 top Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Shortly after sunrise, the ABC7 helicopter arrived overhead and flew over students and the marching band performing in formation on the school's parking lot (our drone also captured the formation). The "Morning Show" and our video capturing the show's taping provided an opportunity to deliver the Southland message of academic excellence, college acceptance and the importance of the

performing arts in education. The school received messages from across the country from people who saw the show online and were impressed with our students and the work being done at Southland. The video produced in house further drives home our messaging of "unlimited potential, unlimited possibilities" for our students. Shared on our social media platforms, the video fostered school and community pride and extended the life of an early morning television broadcast. The video shows how a small charter school is producing big results in the south suburbs of Chicago.