

Schott Fellowship News

Architects of Change

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The Schott Fellowship in Early Care and Education
Be an Architect of Change

Principals' Fellowship Visits Newark Public Schools

A team of 13 participants with the Principals' Fellowship conducted a site visit on May 29th and 30th to four public schools in Newark, New Jersey that offer PreK in their buildings.

On Thursday evening, the focus was on learning about the Abbott school districts in New Jersey. Discussion was led by New Jersey's Assistant Commissioner for Early Childhood Education, Dr. Jacqueline Jones, as well as by two leaders from the Newark Public Schools; Nancy Rivera, Director of Early Childhood Education and Gayle Griffin, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. 40,000 children are being served by the Abbott Preschool Program. 56% are served in private centers, 37% in school district classrooms and 7% in Head Start centers. On Friday, four Abbott schools were visited, followed by engaging discussion with Newark's staff and principals. Three of the schools were PreK-8th grade and one was PreK- 4th.

In 1998, New Jersey's Supreme Court mandated that all children in the state's Abbott districts, the 30 highest poverty districts, receive a high quality preschool education. Newark, the largest and oldest system in (continued on pg 5)



2009 Schott Fellowship Information

The application for the 2009 Schott Fellowship is now posted at www.schottfellowship.org. Application deadline is Sept 15, 2008. The Fellowship year runs from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

The 2009 Schott Fellowship topics are as follows:

1. **Family Childcare**
2. **Children, Families, Race, and Culture**
3. **Young Children and Disabilities**
4. **Workforce Issues in Early Care and Education**
5. **Young Children in Public Schools**
6. **Policy Issues Related to Regionalization (i.e. Western Mass, Cape Cod)**

Welcome our Newest Staff Member

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the newest member of our staff, Julia Campbell. Julia is a native of Beverly, MA and an alumna of Boston University. After graduating college in 1999 with a degree in Communications, she traveled to Senegal, West Africa, to serve for two years as a Community Health Educator with the United States Peace Corps. Upon her return, Julia organized international conferences and fellowships for former African presidents at the African Presidential Archives and Research Center (APARC) at Boston University. She recently returned from a three year stay in Norfolk, VA, where she earned her MPA from Old Dominion University.

Julia is very excited to be here and to hit the ground running!

We've Moved

The office has moved. Our new address is
315 Broadway Suite 9
Cambridge, MA 02139

Our phone number is still 617-873-0678.

Due to the move, our fax is down. Please call if you need to fax us. If you're in the neighborhood, feel free to stop in and say hello!

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 25	9:00 to 11:00	Re-branding Task Force Meeting
June 27	11:30	Principals' Fellowship Meeting with Boston Superintendent
July 6-10		Principals' Summer Institute in Virginia Beach
July 9	9:00 to 11:00	Re-branding Task Force Meeting
July 17	10:00 to 4:00	Fellowship Meeting
July 23	9:00 to 11:00	Re-branding Task Force Meeting (if necessary)

Recruiting Principal Fellows

Now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 Principals' Fellowship. Boston Public School principals that serve pre-kindergarten children are eligible.

For more information, contact Valora Washington at 617-873-0678 or Jason Sachs at 617-635-9071. Applications are now available at www.schottfellowship.org.

Network News

Susan Werley earned a degree from Tufts University's Eliot-Pearson School of Child Development by applying the knowledge she gained through the Schott Fellowship and working with the Principal Fellows.

Mary-Jane Webster, Principal of the Barnum School in Taunton reports that her program successfully completed NAEYC re-accreditation. The report came in this month and on the 10 standards, Barnum School received one 93%, three 100%, and six 100+% meaning that they met the required criteria as well as the emerging practice criteria.

Carol Nolan has been elected to BAEYC's Board of Directors for a three year term.

Francia DeJesus-Flores' program at Children's Services of Roxbury, passed the center based licensing with the Department of Early Education and Care.

Valora Washington and **Stacie Goffin** were published in the July/August 2008 issue of Exchange. "Leadership Choices in Early Care and Education". The article was based on their book *Ready or Not: Leadership Choices in Early Care and Education*.

Legislative News

The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) has announced that men are now entitled to paternity leave under the **Massachusetts Maternity Leave Act**. A violation of this act constitutes a violation of Massachusetts anti-discrimination laws.

H. 1459: An Act Increasing Parental Involvement with Childcare. This act has to do with whether or not a non custodial parent can provide the childcare for the child. This bill would allow fit fathers to care for their children in preference to outside caregivers.

S. 2667: A Child Is Missing Alert and Recovery Center Act. A bill to direct the Attorney General to make an annual grant to the A Child Is Missing Alert and Recovery Center to assist law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing children, and for other purposes.

H. 3776: An Act Relative to Early Education and Care. This bill is a comprehensive proposal for the effective development of a coordinated system of early education and care in Massachusetts. The bill further defines the Massachusetts Universal Pre-Kindergarten (MA UPK) Program, a voluntary, high-quality, universally accessible early education program for preschool aged children, to be delivered through a mixed system of providers and meeting high program quality standards.

S. 2920: Child Care Lending Pilot Program. If the bill is passed it would give loans to small, nonprofit business owned child care providers.

For Principal Fellows Only

- Meeting with Boston Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Carol Johnson will be on June 27, 2008 at 11:00 AM at 26 Court Street, Boston. An end of the year celebration will immediately follow.
- The NAESP Summer Institute is on July 6-10 in Virginia Beach, VA. This year's institute is titled, "Leadership for Learning: Principals as Transformers."

One Fellow's Opinion

Editor's note: We are pleased to inaugurate this column on the views and work of people in our network. If you would like to submit an article, please contact our office. This is a follow up to last month's op-ed.

Voices Carry – All the Way to the Senate

By Kitt Cox, 2006 Fellow

Last month this newsletter carried an article I wrote praising the Massachusetts Family Network (MFN) as a potential model for building a universal, comprehensive system of education and support for infants, toddlers and their families. I also noted at that time that the Senate Ways and Means Committee's budget proposal for FY'09 threatened to cut off funding for the fifteen year old program that serves over 20,000 families per year. As sampled below, the widespread outcry over potential zero funding had a profound effect on the Senate's actions.

"I have called all four numbers and will get my mother in law to do the same... The first two individuals said they have already signed on (if for no other reason, to get us to stop calling... they sounded a bit irritated). The other two are still "deciding where the money is going to come from". I explained how important this program was to our family and the others at Birth to Three... I hope it helps. Let me know if there is anything else I can do..." **An MFN Parent**

"I was pleased to offer an amendment to restore funding to the Mass Family Networks. Good parenting skills are so important to the health, well-being, and overall development of our children. What followed was, in many respects, an example of grass-roots democratic activism at its best. The volume of calls and emails to my office and the offices of my colleagues was astonishing and quickly generated numerous co-sponsors. While my colleagues and I often encounter well-organized campaigns, what made this one stand out was the outpouring of individuals who offered convincing personal testimony to the success and importance of the program. At the end of the day, I believe that is what led to the amendment's success."

"To put the accomplishment in perspective, the senate adopted a little over \$8 million in additional spending from the 897 amendments that were offered. The Mass Family Networks amendment accounts for \$5.3 million of that total." **Senator Susan Fargo**

Principals' Fellowship Visit Newark Public Schools

(continued from pg 1) New Jersey, is part of the Abbott program. Abbott districts are required to

- limit class size of no more than 15 students, with one certified teacher and one assistant teacher per classroom
- use a developmentally appropriate curriculum linked to state standards
- provide facilities, special education, bilingual services, transportation and health services.

New Jersey also recognized that many families in the 30 targeted school districts would be in need of full day, full year services. The program developed a system of "wrap around" services to extend its six hour day and ten month year to a 10 hour day and full year.

What is unique to New Jersey's system is that benefits and services reach across all private and public programs. New Jersey's system placed preschool teachers on an equal footing with their K-12 teachers with respect to compensation and qualifications. The court mandated that all teachers in Abbott preschools -- unless they already held the nursery or kindergarten through grade 8 certification and had two years of experience working with preschool aged children -- obtain at least a bachelor's degree and a preschool-grade 3 (P-3) certification by September 2004. Resources to higher education systems and financial assistance were offered to help current and prospective teachers meet this goal by the target date.

There was unanimous consensus among our Massachusetts team that "we are going back with a vision of what high functioning preschool classrooms with district wide consistency can look like."

The Boston team included Alenor Abdal-Khallaq Williams, Mather Elementary School; Sherry Brooks-Roberts, Lyndon Pilot School; Marice Diakite, Patrick J. Kennedy School; Suzanne Federspiel, Kenny Elementary School; Valerie Gumes, Haynes Early Education Center; Ben Russell, East Zone Early Learning Center. The Boston Public School staff members present were Jason Sachs, Margaret Angell, and Patricia Butler. Our Fellowship staff on the trip were Valora Washington, Winnie Hagan, Marie Enochty, and Jessica D'Amico.

Other Interesting Events Around Massachusetts

- Commonwealth Seminar presents "New Networks and New Power Celebration" with keynote speaker Governor Deval Patrick. The event is on Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 5:30 PM, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Boston. For more information or to RSVP go to www.masscs.org. This event is co-sponsored by the Schott Fellowship.
- The 2008 AGELE National Conference, "Building Leadership For Diversity In Education: Examining the Gender Intersect" is on July 27-30, 2008, at the Boston Marriott Peabody Hotel, in Peabody. For more information or to register go to www.agele.org.
- Harvard Graduate School of Education presents "Pre-K to 3 Education: Promoting Early Success" November 13-15, 2008. To register online, visit www.gse.harvard.edu/ppe.
- MassAEYC is sponsoring a distance learning course "A Caring Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Twos". The course will start in mid July. For more information contact Marcia L. Farris at massaeyc@yahoo.com.