

Schott Fellowship News

Architects of Change

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The Schott Fellowship
in Early Care
and Education

Boston Globe Op-Ed

On February 20, 2008, the *Boston Globe* printed an op-ed written by Valora Washington and Mary Reed, President of the Bessie Tarrt Wilson Children's Foundation. The article, "Speaking The Same Language", talks about the need for a program that clearly communicates available services to families, regardless of the language they speak.

Two years ago, the Bessie Tarrt Wilson Children's Foundation released *Keeping the Promise*, a report on child care and early learning in Massachusetts. Since then, providers, state regulators, and advocates have cobbled together reforms to help 52,000 children in the state receive high-quality child care through the federally supported voucher system for low-income families.

Despite this, those with limited English proficiency face significant communication barriers in connecting with the network of services offered by the Department of Early Education and Care. These problems include a lack of a systemic, reliable approach to translating materials in Massachusetts, few voucher counselors who speak and read the languages of their clients and written materials that are only available in English.

Valora and Mary say that the Department of Early Education and Care recognizes this need, but they need to deepen their connections with these communities. Until the system is improved, it is the children who will suffer the most.

2008 Focus on Men and Boys in Early Childhood:

Join Us for Two Events

Roundtable on Men and Boys in ECE

Join us for a Schott Fellowship Panel and Roundtable on special topics related to men and boys in early childhood education. Confirmed speakers include Josue Cruz of the Council for Professional Recognition, Edward Greene of EM Greene Associates and Bryan Nelson of Men Teach. The roundtable will be held on April 8, 2008 at Cambridge College from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. If you know someone who would be interested in attending this event, please share their contact information with schottfellowship@yahoo.com.

Schott Fellowship Sponsors Men's Interest Reception

On Friday, April 11, as part of MassAEYC's annual conference, the Schott Fellowship is sponsoring a Men's Interest Reception. The purpose of the reception is to reach out to educators and policy makers to build a network in an informal situation. The conference's keynote speaker, T. Berry Brazelton, will join the gathering in order to share his perspective of working with children and their families. The reception also will serve to build interest in the panel presentation the following day.

In a year when current Schott Fellows are undertaking a policy project focused on the role of men in early education, we are fortunate to have many other people working with us to address the lack of gender diversity in the field.

2007 Health and Safety Fellows

The 2007 health and safety team, Jeannie Parkus, Pamela Tames and Sonia Carter, were asked to share their policy project with the Mental Health/ Special Education Subcommittee of the Cambridge 0-8 Council and the Somerville Early Childhood Advisory Council . They presented their findings at a meeting held on March 24, 2008 and discussed the work they have done as Fellows regarding young children and mental health issues.

For Principal Fellows Only

The Principals' Fellowship has several upcoming events:

- **Social/ Emotional Workshop:** This workshop will be led by Joan Matsalia, Assistant Director of the Harvard Achievement Support Initiative and 2006 Schott Fellow. It will be held on April 23, 2008 at Cambridge College.
- **Assessment Workshop:** This workshop, lead by David Fernie of Wheelock College, will be held on May 13, 2008 at Cambridge College.

We are still in the process of planning a New York site visit and a meeting with Dr. Carol Johnson, superintendent of Boston Public Schools. To register for either of the above events, please contact the Fellowship office at 617-873-0678 or schottfellowship@yahoo.com.

Other Interesting Events Around Massachusetts

- Horizons for Homeless Children is holding their Third Annual “Young Children Without Homes” National Conference from April 15-17, 2008 at the Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA. To register, go to: www.regonline.com/HHCregister. For more information, visit www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org
- Associated Grant Makers of Boston, MA is pleased to announce that applications for the 2008-2009 Diversity Fellowship Program are being accepted. The application can be found at www.agmconnect.org and is due by 5:00 PM on Thursday, April 10, 2008. For more information, visit their website or send an email to tdowley-blackman@agmconnect.org.
- MassAEYC’s Annual Conference, “Children: Our Link to the Future” will be held on April 11-12, 2008. Keynote speaker will be Dr. T. Berry Brazelton. For information, go to www.massaeyc.com.
- An individual grant program, the William T. Grant Scholars Program, now in its 28th year, supports promising, early-career researchers whose work strengthens our understanding of the settings of youth ages 8 to 25 in the United States. If interested, you are referred to their website, wtgrantfoundation.org
- FYI: Senate Bill 2018. S.2018 would require children up to age eight or 4’9” in height to be secured in a belt-positioning booster seat.

Fellow/Alumni News

Corrine Corso is running for a seat as school committee member for Whittier Regional Vocational High School.

Marie Enochty and Lei-Anne Ellis are running for co-presidents of MassAEYC.

Gail Wilson is now the Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Western Massachusetts.

Francia Wisnewski completed her master’s degree at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 28-29		Alumni Retreat	Chatham, MA
April 8	9:00 to 4:00	Roundtable: Men in Education	Cambridge College
May 13-14	10:00 to 4:00	Mediation Workshop	Cambridge College