

# Schott Fellowship News

Architects of Change

## A New Opportunity: The Principals' Fellowship

We are now accepting applications, a one-year professional development opportunity for leaders of early childhood programs in school systems.

2. demonstrates both a commitment and experience working within communities of color, language diversity and/or economically underserved communities.

During this experience the fellows will strengthen their vision and capacity to impact change in themselves, in their school and community.

The fellowship begins with a 5 day residency from July 10 to July 14 in Milton, Massachusetts. Topics such as Early Education, Policy Practice and Supervision will be addressed. After the residency, fellows will conduct site visits to elementary schools. To conclude the fellowship year there will be a one day seminar on May 8, 2007 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Principal fellow will earn and receive six Certified of Advance Graduate Study (CAGS) level credits at Cambridge College.

This fellowship is opened to any principal or director of a school in Massachusetts that:

1. serves children under kindergarten age.

All costs, except for transportation and some subsidy for the cost of six credits to be earned, have been generously funded by the Foundation for Child Development.

The application deadline is **June 10, 2006** and all accepted fellows will be notified no later than **June 16, 2006**. Applications are

available online at: [www.schottfellowship.org](http://www.schottfellowship.org). For a printed application, or to request further information, please contact:

Bonnie Mitchell  
617-873-0678

[principalfellowship@yahoo.com](mailto:principalfellowship@yahoo.com)



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### REMINDER

*Please email or call Bonnie if you can help with the interviews for the 2007 Schott Fellows on either November 1 or 2. Your help is greatly appreciated!*

# MONTHLY CALENDAR

## UPCOMING DATES

*May 1-2 - Negotiation Seminar with Josh Flax - Cambridge College 3rd Floor*

*May 4th - Alumni Meeting - Cambridge College 3rd Floor*

*June 6th - Fellowship Meeting - Infant Toddler Round Table -*

*Invitation Only*

*July 10 - 14 - PRINCIPALS' FELLOWSHIP - Milton, Massachusetts*

*July 11 - Fellowship Meeting - Location to be announced*

*Questions*

*Contact Bonnie Mitchell*

## 2007 Schott Fellowship Application

*The 2007 applications for the Schott Fellowship are now available!*

*To get the application go to [www.schottfellowship.org](http://www.schottfellowship.org) and click on the application section.*

*If you have any questions or would like the application faxed please contact*

*Bonnie Mitchell.*



# Massachusetts Voucher Study

*On April 26, 2006, the Boston Globe published an article about the voucher study that Valora Washington and Mary Reed have been tirelessly researching and publishing. Below is the article as written in the Boston Globe.*

## *Closing the child-care gap*

*By Valora Washington and Mary L. Reed | April 26, 2006*

*MUCH HAS been written about the persistent achievement gap in elementary and secondary schools in Massachusetts. But many people don't know that thousands of Massachusetts children, even before they set foot in kindergarten, face a "care" gap.*

*While resolving the achievement gap may take many years, Massachusetts can resolve its care gap right now.*

*For 52,000 children of the Commonwealth last year, a voucher program subsidized largely by the federal government was the only way to ensure these infants, toddlers, and preschoolers received quality child care and preschool while their parents worked.*

*But a first-ever study of this program, sponsored by the Bessie Tartt Wilson Children's Foundation, found the voucher program, mired in red tape, unfairly subjects these children to unstable care, places a financial burden on providers, and makes low-income working parents second-class consumers of the services they are allowed under the law.*

*Although Massachusetts policy allows for a six-month certification period for vouchers, most children were subject to discontinuous, unstable care, according to the study. Nearly two-thirds of the 2,295 vouchers studied were issued for less than six months. The early-education experience for low-income children is disastrous. Of the cases examined by the research team, children were absent for a total of 1,730 days -- the equivalent of 2.5 days per year per child -- because they had no voucher.*

*At the same time, child-care providers and pre-schools are being forced to subsidize this program because state reimbursement rates are so low.*

*On average, the centers pay a significant price for their participation in the voucher program. These centers were forced to provide an average of 30 days a year of free care for children, and another 136 days a year where their openings remained unfilled when vouchers were terminated. Often small business enterprises, many providers refuse to accept state vouchers, leaving vulnerable children without the "choice" they were promised when the system was established.*

*The study found that the lives of poor, working parents are difficult and complex because of the maze of regulations they face when accessing the system. Working to achieve economic self sufficiency, their jobs are often at risk by the demands of the bureaucracy. The administrative burden of this program runs the gamut from "double documentation" among agencies, to inaccessible office hours, to an absence of translators and bilingual material for parents. All the while these families are trying to build proud and productive futures.*

*The reality is that bureaucratic orthodoxy handcuffs these mothers and fathers as consumers when it comes to child care. What if these parents had the authority to ensure continuous care for their children, the kind of parental decision-making we all demand for ourselves?*

*There are solutions to make this well-intentioned program effective for families, equitable for providers, and enriching for children. For starters, Massachusetts can join other states that have extended the voucher certification period. This allows children to have continuous, stable early education and experiences that all parents desire for their children.*

*In addition, the state should stop forcing providers to subsidize the system. Streamlining administrative requirements and improving reimbursement policies would increase the likelihood that more providers will participate in the subsidy system.*

*The resource and referral function should also be improved. Better "R&R" means reduced caseloads and a shift of focus onto providing more support services to families.*

*These measures would take giant steps to resolving the care gap at its root. Children who are better served by child care and pre-school enter the K-12 system ready to learn. Ultimately, ending the care gap may go a long way to ending the achievement gap.*

*Valora Washington was the principal investigator of "Keeping the Promise: A Study of the Massachusetts Child Care Voucher System." Mary L. Reed is president of the Bessie Tartt Wilson Children's Foundation.*

**The  
Schott Fellowship in Early  
Care and Education**

**Be an Architect of Change: The  
Schott Fellowship in Early Care**

1000 Massachusetts Avenue  
Suite 308  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
617-873-0678  
[www.schottfellowship.org](http://www.schottfellowship.org)

**Thanks to our Advisory Committee!**

The Fellowship Advisory Committee consists of Schott staff, community leaders and former fellows. They are:

Mr. Douglas Baird, *President and CEO, Associated Early Care and Education*

Ms. Corrine Corso, *Former Schott Fellow, Special Projects Coordinator, Child Care Circuit*

Mr. David Moy, *Agency Director, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center*

Dr. Theresa Perry, *Professor, Simmons College*

Ms. Jeri Robinson, *Former Schott Fellow, Vice President of Children's Programs, Boston Children's Museum*

Ms. Marta T. Rosa, *Consultant, MRT Consulting*

Dr. Rosa A. Smith, *President, Schott Foundation*

**Support for this fellowship has been generously provided by:**

The Schott Foundation for Public Education

The Foundation for Child Development

Cambridge College

An Anonymous Donor

**Schott Fellowship Staff:**

Valora Washington, PhD *Executive Director*

Bonnie Mitchell, *Program Manager*

**Fellows  
And Alumni  
Negotiate**

On May 1 and 2 the current Schott fellows and alumni attended a negotiation and mediation seminar with Josh Flax. Mr. Flax is one of 180 National Mediators/ Negotiators in the US.

Josh led a very energetic and informative two day seminar teaching the fine art of using open ended questions, knowing your BATNA (Best Alternative To a Negotiated Agreement) and defining your ZOPA (Zone of Possible Agreement). The fellows and alumni were able to walk away with some very valuable information on how to negotiate what they want in both their work and personal life.

We look forward to working with Josh for next year's negotiation

**AGM Diversity  
Fellowship Program**

Associated Grant Makers is pleased to announce The AGM Diversity Fellowship Program.

AGM, founded in 1969, is a regional association of grant makers in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

This fellowship program aims to inspire the next generation of philanthropic leaders among people of color by offering training and support to a select group of passionate, emerging professionals. We strive to increase the number and proportion of people of color as staff – and executives – in the field of philanthropy.

For more information and to request a brochure email [diversity@agmconnect.org](mailto:diversity@agmconnect.org) or go to [www.agmconnect.org](http://www.agmconnect.org)

**VOTE FOR  
JOE**

Our very own Joe Martin, 2005 Fellow, is running for Auburn School Committee! Joe is tireless in his efforts for education, children and family. Help us support "a NEW and energetic leader to the Auburn School Committee." Good Luck Joe!

**Congratulations Lori!**

We would like to send a very warm congratulations to Lori Cox, 2005 Fellow, who has accepted the position of Director of the West Zone Family Resource Center. Lori previously held the position of Assistant Director of Countdown to Kindergarten. Congratulations Lori!