

Schott Fellowship News

Architects of Change

Volume 3 Issue 9 September 2007



The Puerto Rican Experience: Understanding Children/ Families of the Commonwealth

As part of the upcoming Immigration Project and Educational Study Tour, the Schott Fellowship will be holding a roundtable discussion entitled “The Puerto Rican Experience: Understanding Children/ Families of the Commonwealth” on Monday October 1, 2007, from 11:45 to 3:00. The roundtable will begin with a speaker and a panel, and end with breakout groups, who will discuss the quality of Puerto Rican life and what we can do about it. To RSVP for this event, call the Schott Fellowship office at 617-873-0678.

Assessment Roundtable

On October 2, 2007 from 12:00 to 4:00, the Schott Fellowship will be holding an Assessment Roundtable. A group of Schott Fellows researched the topic of implementing a statewide assessment system for early childhood education. They will present the findings from their research and the subsequent policy paper prepared from that research.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Samuel Meisels, president of Erikson Institute, a graduate school in child development. He is also considered one of the nation’s leading authorities on the assessment of young children. Following Dr. Meisels’ speech, a distinguished panel of early childhood education professionals will present information on the “Next Steps for Massachusetts in Implementing a Statewide Assessment System”. Confirmed panelists include Amy Kershaw of the Department of Early Education and Care, Monty Neill of Fair Test, and Corey Zimmerman of Boston EQUIP. To RSVP for this event, call the Schott Fellowship office at 617-873-0678.

Developmentally Appropriate Practice: It Looks Like This

The Schott Fellowship will be holding a workshop on Developmentally Appropriate Practice. This workshop is available for elementary principals with preschool programs and will be held on Monday, October 29, 2007, 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Cambridge College. The workshop will be highly interactive and use videos, case studies, handouts and vignettes to provide information about what high quality early childhood. Please RSVP by contacting the Schott Fellowship office at 617-873-0678.

Health and Safety Roundtable

The Schott Fellows in Early Care and Education invite you to join us for a summit meeting on Health and Safety in Early Childhood Programs. The summit will be held on November 6, 2007 from 8:30 am to 1:30 PM at Cambridge College, 1000 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA 02138. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

The featured speaker will be Dr. Grace-Ann Caruso Whitney, Ph.D., M.P.A., an expert who has helped move a comparable agenda successfully in the state of Connecticut. She will discuss her experience in creating a state wide agenda to move forward a system of change for health and safety in early childhood programs in Connecticut. She is the director for Connecticut Head Start State Collaboration Office and Adjunct Instructor for the Connecticut State University System and the University of Connecticut.

At the November 6th meeting, we will officially release two documents:

1. The Advisory Committee report entitled *Cornerstones: Strengthening the Foundation of Health and Safety in Early Education and Care*
2. The Schott Fellows policy report entitled *Prioritizing Health and Safety in Early Childhood Programs: A Wise Investment in School Readiness*" (now available on our web site www.schottfellowship.org under '2007 publications')

For more information please contact the Schott Fellowship office at 617-873-0678 or schottfellowship@yahoo.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1, 2007	Alumni Meeting 9:45 to 11:45
October 1, 2007	Immigration Roundtable 11:45 to 3:00
October 2, 2007	Assessment Roundtable 12:00 to 4:00
October 29, 2007	Principals Fellowship 5:00 to 9:00 PM
November 6, 2007	Health Roundtable 8:30 to 1:30

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

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Governor Taps Broad Cross-Section of Commonwealth Residents for Readiness Project

Drawing on a wealth of talent, experience and practical expertise across all aspects of education, Governor Patrick released the names of the more than 150 Massachusetts citizens appointed to subcommittees of the Readiness Project Leadership Council.

These volunteers will address the following issues from a systemic perspective, offering specific recommendations for state action: Assessment & Accountability, Curriculum Alignment, Early Education and Care, Education Technology, Expanded Teaching and Learning Time, High School Plus, Innovative Schools, Long-Term Funding, MCAS and Assessments, Public and Private Education, Recruiting and Retaining Educators, Whole Child and UMass and Public Higher Education.

Among those appointed were Schott Fellowship alumni Yvette Rodriguez, Marie Enochty, Wendy Luk, Schott Fellowship Executive Director Valora Washington and Schott Fellowship consultant Marta Rosa.

2007 Policy Projects Published

The 2007 Schott Fellows have examined three critical issues that can support children and families in the Commonwealth. Three fact sheets detailing issues, and recommending solutions, based on both the research evidence and best practices in other states have been published.

“Improving Child Care Access for Immigrant Families” highlights the increased prevalence of immigrant families in the state and offers suggestions on how the Commonwealth can be more responsive to both the needs of these families and the early educators who serve them.

“Prioritizing Health and Safety in Early Childhood Programs: A Wise Investment in School Readiness” identifies the concerns of early childhood leaders regarding the quality and consistency of health practices and safety issues in early childhood programs. A new study has identified serious concerns with the quality of health and safety in group care for young children.

“Initiating Statewide Assessment in Early Education and Care: Opportunities and Challenges” reminds us that a state effort must prioritize a focus on building program staff capacity to understand the purpose, uses, and cautions of an assessment system. We applaud recent efforts and suggest next steps to make these efforts more effective.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the policy projects please contact the Schott Fellowship office at 617-873-0678 or schottfellowship@yahoo.com. They can also be found on our web site www.schottfellowship.org.

List of Site Visits For the Schott Fellowship Puerto Rico Educational Study Tour: The Boston-area Immigrant Communities

As part of the Schott Fellowship Puerto Rico Immigration Project and Study Tour, the participants visited four schools in the Boston area that are part of the Immigrant Communities.

September 12, 2007	Haitian Multiservice Center	Dorchester
September 17, 2007	ACORN Center	Boston
September 21, 2007	Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción, Inc. (IBA)	Boston
September 25, 2007	Hernandez School	Roxbury

Commonwealth Journal Interview

Keeping the Promise: 2007 Massachusetts Voucher Study

Valora Washington was interviewed by the Commonwealth Journal along with Mary Reed, President of the Bessie Tarrt Wilson Children's Foundation. The two discussed early education in Massachusetts, their ongoing investigation of child care vouchers, and the "Keeping the Promise" voucher study conference that was held on September 20, 2007. The program was aired on WUMB Radio, 91.9 FM on September 16, 2007.

The interview can be heard at <http://wumb.podshowcreator.com/podcasts.aspx?feedid=1072>, the reference number for this interview is 2007-37.

Alumni News

Congratulations to **Lei-Anne Ellis** on her new job as the Division Head for Children and Family Support for the city of Cambridge Department of Human Resources.

Congratulations to **Sharon Scott-Chandler** on being appointed Chair of the Early Education and Care Board.