



Schott Fellowship News



Schott Fellowship
at
Cambridge College

Volume 2 Issue 8

April 2006

Inside the April Issue:

10 Questions Sharon Scott-Chandler	2
Congratulations Jeri Robinson	3
Congratulations Maria Paulino	3
2006 Calendar	3
Continued Letter to Commissioner	4
Attention Alumni & Current Fellows	5
Congratulations Alumni	5
Photo is Common- wealth Magazine	5
Welcome Elena!	5

LETTER TO COMMISSIONER ANNE REALE

On April 4th the United Way and the Schott Foundation sent a letter to Commissioner Anne Reale outlining the findings of the March 1st meeting of more than 50 members of early education and care, out-of-school time and higher education fields. Here is the letter:

April 4, 2006
Commissioner Anne Reale
Department of Early Education and Care
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Commissioner Reale:

On March 1, 2006, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and The Schott Foundation Fellowship in Early Care and Education brought together more than 50 members of the early education and care, out-of-school time and higher education fields to review, discuss and respond to the EEC's workforce development plan. Through these discussions and our previous collaboration with more than 100 members of the field on the report entitled "Making it Work," we believe that creating a statewide workforce development system requires a diverse and action-oriented task force, a commitment to licensing and quality standards, and a focus on compensation practices.

Through our work, we've learned from other states that a professional development system should effectively tie together compensation, competencies and communities of practice. We know that Massachusetts has a wealth of leaders who are deeply committed and very knowledgeable about these issues, and a task force that unites the wisdom and experience of our state's professionals will enable us to make significant progress.

We believe that higher education, diversity and compensation should be given priority consideration as the EEC seeks to develop an effective workforce development system. And we recognize that such an effort requires more resources than the state alone can provide. Therefore, public and private partnerships are even more critical to the success of Massachusetts' workforce development plan.

As a way to further these partnerships, United Way and The Schott Foundation Fellowship recommend the EEC:

1. Initiate planning for a higher education task force to be convened by a neutral entity. This task force would work in collaboration with the quality workgroup of the Transition Team and begin its work in 2006

Continued on Page 4...



An Interview with a Fellow: 10 Questions

1. What is your full name?

Sharon Scott-Chandler

2. Where do you live?

Natick, Massachusetts

3. Tell me about your family?

I have a wonderful husband and two adorable boys (4 and 5 months).

4. Why did you want to be a Schott Fellow?

I was interested in the fellowship because it is about making positive change for the field and for the children and families who I serve. I also wanted to continue to develop my own leadership skills in public policy within early care and education. I knew it would also give me the chance to take time out of a crazy schedule to work on public policy issues and do it with other individuals in the field that I do not have a chance to work with on a daily basis.

5. Who is your biggest inspiration and why?

My mom is because she really provided the foundation for who I am and what I have been able to accomplish – my values, work ethic, compassion, strength, and my stubbornness!

6. What do you plan to accomplish in the next 5 years?

I plan to make the ABCD Head Start and Children's Services program the best it can be in serving the children and families in Boston. This includes focusing on the changing needs of families, staff and the community, and focusing on increasing the investment and commitment to Head Start to offset federal funding cuts and efforts to dismantle of the program. It also includes actively participating in the ever changing early care and

education field as we move into an age of universal care, continuing to be a strong advocate for the needs of low income families and families of diverse backgrounds. Includes the need to raise funds and "weathering" federal funding cuts.

7. What was the biggest lesson you learned through the Schott?

The commonality of issues early educators face across the state and the need to mobilize around that for change.

8. How will you carry the lesson you learned through your job?

I hope to share these lessons with my staff and within my program. I also plan to look for increased opportunities to work with individuals across the state.

9. What job or jobs do you see yourself having in the next 5 to 10 years?

I see myself continuing my commitment to the early childhood field.

10. Closing thoughts or any advice you have.

People should understand policy and politics and know that it impacts the work we do on a daily basis. And that we can only impact change if we speak out and if we are actively participating in the process.



Congratulations to Alumni, Jeri Robinson!!

Our 2004 Schott Fellow, Jeri Robinson has been selected to be inducted to the American Association of Museums Centennial Honor Roll. The Centennial Honor Roll was created to pay tribute to 100 of American’s museum champions who have worked during the past 100 years to innovate, improve and expand how museums in the United States serve the public. Jeri was selected from over 500 nominations for this honor.

Please join us in congratulating Jeri on her well deserved accomplishment and recognition!

Congratulations Maria Paulino!!

Maria Paulino is a new Child Care Center owner and a new citizen of the United States! Maria, a Child Care teacher since 1998, recently purchased the Busy Bee Preschool Center in Fitchberg. Busy Bees serves up to 39 children ages 2.9 years to 9 years old. Maria has also become a US citizen! Join us in congratulating Maria on her latest accomplishments! Congratulations Maria!



2006 Calendar



Please take a moment and look at the dates on the calendar. The dates highlighted in **RED** are for the **ALUMNI**. The dates highlighted in **BLUE** are for the **FELLOWS**. And the dates highlighted in **GREEN** are for **BOTH ALUMNI AND FELLOWS**.

April 4	10:00—4:00	2006 Fellowship Meeting
May 2	10:00 –4:00	2006Fellowship Meeting
May 4	10:00—2:00	Alumni Meeting
June 6	10:00– 4:00	2006 Fellowship Meeting
July 11	10:00—4:00	2006 Fellowship Meeting
August 1	2006 FELLOWSHIP MEETING CANCELLED!	
September 15	APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE 2007 SCHOTT FELLOWSHIP	

LETTER TO COMMISSIONER ANNE REALE

Continued

I.1 Planning for the Task Force. A planning group would consist of representatives of EEC, DPH, DSS, DMH, Higher Education, the Board of Higher Education, Resource and Referral and CPC's, and, and existing groups within higher education that have been convening. This planning group would be charged with recommending both the task force budget and its membership. This work should begin immediately.

I.2 The charge of the Higher Education task force would include:

- A needs assessment on the scope of adult basic education, bridges to higher education, and related support services tailored to the needs of the birth through 14 EEC workforce, including those who speak languages other than English.
- A plan to provide regional/community-based training and technical assistance and career advisement.
- The development of core competencies, articulation agreements, course alignment, program alignment (school-to-school), credit for life experience/professional experience based on the spectrum of programs offered by adult basic education, vocational education, approved EEC training programs such as those offered by Head Start or resource and referral agencies, community colleges, and four-year colleges. Activities to support this effort would include:
 - A plan to sustain and increase the diversity of the workforce
 - Identification of funding mechanisms to fund scholarships and other support
 - Development of an approval system for college courses and credit-eligible trainings that meet core competencies
 - Identification of gaps in the availability of higher education courses, credit-eligible trainings, and degree programs to meet the needs of the birth through 14 EEC workforce.

Build into licensing and quality standards a requirement that adults working with children (birth through 14) receive training in diversity and cultural competency. Ensure this need is addressed in the work of higher education task force. (see recommendation one)

By January 2007, identify promising practices to effectively address the issue of compensation. Make this a priority of the quality workgroup through the development of a pilot program focused on creating and evaluating a sustainable compensation model.

Thank you for receiving our correspondence. We are optimistic that, by working together, we will establish a comprehensive, practical and effective system for early education and care workforce development in Massachusetts. Please do not hesitate to call on us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Peg Sprague, Vice President

Community Impact

United Way of Mass Bay



Valora Washington, Director

Schott Fellowship in

Early Care and Education

Schott Fellowship
at
Cambridge College

1000 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: 617-873-0678
E-mail:

schottfellowship@cambridgecollege.edu



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

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

Schott Fellowship Staff:

Valora Washington, *PhD Executive Director*

Bonnie Mitchell, *Program Manager*

ATTENTION ALL ALUMNI AND CURRENT FELLOWS!

We need you to sign up to interview the 2007 Schott Fellowship candidates! We will be holding interviews at Cambridge College on November 1st and 2nd. Please email or call Bonnie with the date and time you will be available to help out! We are looking forward to having all of the fellows and alumni be able to help with selecting the fellows for our 4th year!

If you have questions or comments please call Bonnie.

Congratulations to our Alumni

The winter 2006 Perspectives has featured an article called "Family Support: An Essential Component for Effective Preschool Programs" by our very own alumni, Sharon Schott-Chandler, Wendy Luk, Maureen Ferris and Marilyn Hughes along with Valora Washington and Tamara Bates. Congratulations on this accomplishment and we hope everyone will take a moment and read the article!

Check Out the Photo!

The winter 2006 Commonwealth magazine has featured a photo of the 2005 Schott Fellows standing on the steps of the State House. Please take a look at our good looking Alumni!

Welcome Baby Elena!

Our Program Manager, Bonnie Mitchell, has given birth to a beautiful baby girl on March 27th. Elena Foster Mitchell was 8 lbs 10oz and 21 1/2 inches! Mom and baby are doing great! Mom would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and well wishes!

