

The Golden Opportunity Summit

Exploring Equity-Minded Approaches
to Student Assignment and School Reform

*Charles
Hamilton
Houston*

INSTITUTE FOR
RACE & JUSTICE

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

In Collaboration with:

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of the Boston Bar Association
The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts
The Institute on Urban Health Research Northeastern University



March 27, 2010

Dear Participants:

Welcome to the Golden Opportunity Summit.

Today, educators, advocates, elected leaders, community members, parents, leading thinkers and practitioners from Boston and across the nation gather to explore issues related to student assignment and education reform in metropolitan Boston. Our three organizations worked in partnership to sponsor, plan and organize this exciting event. We hope it will be helpful to the many and varied organizations and individuals that have come together today out of concern for education and equity.

Today's convening has two goals. One, we hope the information and exchanges offered here will assist Boston's public school educators, officials and community members as they embark on the challenging, complex process of developing a new school assignment plan for the city's students. Two, we hope to inspire exploration of policy and practice related not only to education, but to the intertwined areas of public health, housing and regional planning. We hope the conversations that begin here will engender constructive collaborations necessary both to the development of a student assignment plan and to the long-term health of the city and region.

Thank you for making this Summit possible.

Sincerely,

The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for
Race and Justice at Harvard Law School

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights
Under Law of the Boston Bar Association

The American Civil Liberties Union of
Massachusetts

"The good news is we have a golden opportunity in the next few months to get it right."

Rev. Gregory G. Groover, Boston School Committee Chairperson
quoted in Boston Globe on June 4, 2009

Agenda

All our struggles must tie in together and support one another.
We must remain on the alert and push the
struggle farther with all our might.

—Charles Hamilton Houston

"The good news is we have a golden opportunity in the next few months to get it right."

Rev. Gregory G. Groover, Boston School Committee Chairperson
quoted in Boston Globe on June 4, 2009

Introductions

9:00 AM

- **Susan Eaton**, *Research Director*, The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice
- **David Harris**, *Managing Director*, The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice

Developing the Public Will to Address the Opportunity Gap

9:15 AM

- **Katy Abel**, *Associate Commissioner for External Affairs*, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
- **John Brittain**, *Professor of Law*, University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law
- **Phil Catanzano**, *Attorney*, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education (Boston)
- **Elizabeth Horton Sheff**, *Parent/Plaintiff in Sheff v. O'Neill Case in Connecticut*
- **Ron Marlow**, *Assistant Secretary for Access and Opportunity*, Executive Office for Administration and Finance

Mapping Opportunity in Boston: What Do We Know?

10:30 AM

Moderated by Susan Eaton, Research Director, The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice

- **Jane E. López**, *Senior Staff Attorney*, Multicultural Education, Training & Advocacy
- **Nancy McArdle**, *Co-Developer and Principal Data Analyst*, DiversityData.org
- **Rebecca Reno**, *Senior Research Associate*, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

Break

11:30 AM

Supporting Equity-Minded Education Policy: Promising Student Assignment and Regional Models

11:45 AM

- **Khin Mai Aung**, *Director of Educational Equity & Youth Rights Project*, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
- **Gina Chirichigno**, *Post-PICS Coordinator*, The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice
- **Tanya Coke**, *Co-Chair of the School Integration Task Force*, Montclair NJ
- **Dena Dossett**, *Evaluation Specialist for Accountability, Research, and Planning*, Jefferson County Public Schools

Working Lunch

1:00 PM

Introduced by Jocelyn Wright, Special Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer, Boston Public Schools

Exploring Equity-Minded Approaches to Student Assignment and School Reform

Youth Performance

2:00 PM

Introduced by Laura Rótoló, Staff Attorney, ACLU of Massachusetts

- **The Boston Children's Chorus**, *Central Training and West End House Choirs*, conducted by Irene Idicheria

Creative Collaborations, Resource Building and Strategies for Closing the Opportunity Gap

2:15 PM

- **Dolores Acevedo-Garcia**, *Associate Director*, Institute on Urban Health Research at Northeastern University
- **Dr. Bruce Douglas**, *Executive Director*, Capitol Region Education Council
- **Myron Orfield**, *Executive Director*, University of Minnesota's Institute on Race & Poverty

Break

3:45 PM

The Boston TASAP Project

4:00 PM

- **Jane Feinberg**, *Senior Associate*, The FrameWorks Institute
- **Dr. Carol Johnson**, *Superintendent*, Boston Public Schools
- **John Landesman**, *Senior Associate*, Everyday Democracy

Concluding Remarks

4:45 PM

- **Rahsaan Hall**, *Staff Attorney*, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of Boston Bar Association

Participant Biographies

Speakers and Special Guests

Exploring Equity-Minded Approaches to Student Assignment and School Reform

Katy Abel

**Associate Commissioner for External Affairs
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education**

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Katy Abel recently joined the staff of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education as a communications strategist. Previously, as Director of Communications and Partnerships at the Boston Museum, a history museum planned for downtown Boston, she created cultural partnerships and educational institutes for middle and high school teachers in Greater Boston. One of these institutes, held in the summer of 2009, focused on the history of school desegregation in Boston. A Boston native, Katy has an extensive background covering education issues on television, in print and on line.

Dolores Acevedo-Garcia

**Associate Professor and Associate Director
Bouve College of Health Sciences, Institute on Urban Health
Research at Northeastern University**

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Dolores Acevedo-Garcia is an Associate Professor in the Bouve College of Health Sciences, and Associate Director of the Institute on Urban Health Research at Northeastern University. Prior to joining Northeastern (September 2009), she was an Associate Professor in the Department of Society, Human Development and Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. She received her MPA-URP and PhD in Public Policy/Demography from Princeton University. Her research focuses on the effect of social determinants (e.g. residential segregation, immigrant adaptation) on racial/ethnic health disparities; the role of non-health policies (e.g. housing policies, immigrant policies) in reducing those disparities; and the health and well-being of children with special needs. She is Project Director for DiversityData.org, a multi-year project on racial/ethnic equity in U.S. metropolitan areas, supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. In the next three years, DiversityData will be enhanced and expanded to make it a more comprehensive database of indicators on child wellbeing, and racial/ethnic equity among children; and to incorporate indicators and case studies on policies that may help improve the lives of vulnerable children and promote child equity. She is also a member of the new MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Housing and Families with Children. Dr. Acevedo-Garcia was recently on two national expert panels convened by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) (Housing and Health, and Social Determinants of Health), and on the expert panel for the award-winning PBS documentary series "Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making us Sick?" Other recent professional activities include invited testimony to the National Commission on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity led by former HUD Secretaries Cisneros and Kemp, a briefing for the Congressional Black Caucus on housing policy as a tool to tackle health disparities, and a convening with HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan on the Section 8 Housing Voucher program. Dr. Acevedo-Garcia is a member of the Advisory Committee on the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in Boston (City of Boston, Office of Civil Rights), the Boston Metropolitan Area Planning Council Equity Report Card Advisory Committee, the Social Science Advisory Board of the Poverty and Race Research Action Council, the Board of Directors of the Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston, and the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts.

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quoted in Boston Globe on June 4, 2009

Khin Mai Aung

**Director, Educational Equity & Youth Rights Project
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund**

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Khin Mai Aung is the Director of the Educational Equity and Youth Rights Project at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) in New York City. Among other matters, she works on access to bilingual education, language access, anti-Asian violence in public schools, school discipline, post 9/11 and gang profiling, affirmative action, and school integration. She has filed a Supreme Court amicus brief supporting the school districts in *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District*, and was active in the battle against Michigan's anti-affirmative action Proposition 2. Before joining AALDEF, she was the Director of Policy and Civil Engagement at Youth Leadership Institute, a community-based youth development nonprofit advocating for and supporting youth voices in public policies and initiatives impacting children and youth. She has also been a Staff Attorney at Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco where she launched a pilot youth law project and ran a direct legal service program serving Asian Pacific Islander elders. She began her legal career in commercial business litigation at the San Francisco office of Morrison and Foerster. Ms. Aung is a 1996 graduate of Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley, where she was the Book Review Editor for California Law Review and an Articles Editor for the Asian Law Journal. She received her undergraduate degree from Georgetown University in 1993.

John Brittain

**Visiting Professor of Law
University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke
School of Law**

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John C. Brittain returned to legal academia in June 2009 as a professor of law at the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law. Since 2005, Brittain had been the Chief Counsel and Senior Deputy Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington, DC, a 45-year old public interest legal organization started by President John F. Kennedy to enlist private lawyers to take pro bono cases in civil rights. Brittain is a former law school dean at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston, veteran law professor at the University of Connecticut School of Law and public interest civil rights lawyer with a career spanning 40 years with residences in Mississippi (1969-73), California (1973-77), Connecticut (1977-99), Texas (1999-2005) and northern Virginia (2005-present). He is a school desegregation specialist and one of the original counsel in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, a landmark case decided by the Connecticut Supreme Court in 1996. He was frequently mentioned in the book *The Children in Room E4: American Education on Trial* by Susan Eaton, which chronicles the *Sheff* case. In addition, Brittain was a part of a legal team that filed a friend of the court brief on behalf of the NAACP in the *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District* and *Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education* (Seattle and Louisville) school cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court (2007) concerning voluntary race-conscious student assignment plans. Further, he filed a friend of the court brief in the Connecticut adequacy finance lawsuit styled, *Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding (CCJEF) v. Rell* (pending in the Connecticut Supreme Court 2009). In one other related area, Brittain has concentrated on the intersection between housing and school segregation, and the policies that contribute to the condition of structural poverty in low income and neighborhoods of color. Brittain earned a BA (1966) and JD (1969) from Howard University. He is admitted to practice in Connecticut, Mississippi, California and associated federal courts.

Phil Catanzano

**Attorney
Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education**

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Phil Catanzano is a Civil Rights Attorney at the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. In this role, Phil responds to complaints filed by individuals and also conducts compliance reviews of educational institutions that are alleged to have discriminated on the basis of race, national origin, gender, and/or disability. Phil frequently provides technical assistance and presents on these topics to educational institutions, advocacy groups, students, and their parents. Prior to joining OCR, Phil was a litigator at the law firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo, PC in Boston and he also took part in a fellowship as a trial attorney at the Youth Advocacy Project in Roxbury. He is also currently an adjunct professor at Northeastern University School of Law.

Exploring Equity-Minded Approaches to Student Assignment and School Reform

Gina Chirichigno

Post-PICS Coordinator

**Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice
at Harvard Law School**

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Gina Chirichigno is a graduate of Hampshire College in Amherst, MA and of Howard University School of Law in Washington, DC. Prior to law school, she worked for one year as a Residential Instructor at the SEED Public Charter School of Washington, DC. While in law school, she handled employment discrimination claims as an intern for the Office of Human Rights for the City of Alexandria, VA. Shortly after becoming a licensed attorney in Massachusetts, Gina joined the staff of Education Action!, a small nonprofit organization spearheaded by author and education activist Jonathan Kozol to assist teachers, parents, and students in becoming politically active in education reform issues. She has been with CHHIRJ since June of 2008, when she began coordinating the Institute's school diversity efforts. During her time at CHHIRJ, she has planned several major conferences on school diversity policy, including *Passing the Torch: The Past, Present, and Future of Interdistrict School Desegregation* (January 2009) and *Reaffirming the Role of School Integration in K-12 Public Education Policy: A Conversation Among Policymakers, Advocates and Educators* (November 2009). This fall, she was appointed to serve on the Racial Imbalance Advisory Council, one of several advisory councils to the Commonwealth's Commissioner of Education and the Board of Education.

Tanya Coke

**Co Chair of the School Integration Task Force
Montclair, NJ**

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Tanya Coke is an independent consultant and principal of TC Consulting, a firm which provides strategic planning and program development for philanthropies and non-profit organizations. Past clients include the American Civil Liberties Union, the Open Society Institute, the Brennan Center for Justice, the Ford Foundation, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the Atlantic Philanthropies. Ms. Coke was previously Program Manager for the US Human Rights Fund, a donor collaborative of Public Interest Projects. The US Human Rights Fund provides field-building support to human rights advocacy in the United States. Ms. Coke's areas of expertise include racial justice, criminal justice and human rights. From 1998 to 2002, she was a program director at the Open Society Institute, where she supervised OSI's grantmaking on indigent defense, death penalty and sentencing reform. Ms. Coke began her career at the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund as a research director in its capital punishment project. After attending law school, she practiced as a trial attorney in the Federal Defender Division of the Legal Aid Society, from where she defended clients in drug, immigration and other federal matters in New York City. Ms. Coke graduated from Yale College and New York University School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden public interest scholar and Editor-in-Chief of the New York University Law Review. She served as law clerk to the Honorable Pierre N. Leval of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Ms. Coke received the Reebok Human Rights Award in 1988 and the Distinguished Recent Graduate Award from NYU's School of Law in 2004. She serves on the advisory board of Human Rights Watch's US Program, and on the board of directors for the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana and the IMANI College Advocacy Center of Montclair, New Jersey. Currently she is leading a Montclair Public Schools task force commissioned to update the school district's nationally recognized integration program.

Dena Dossett

Evaluation Specialist

**Department of Accountability, Research and Planning,
Jefferson County Public Schools**

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Dena Dossett, Ph.D. is an Evaluation Specialist in the Department of Accountability, Research and Planning for Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) in Louisville, KY. Currently, she coordinates the district and school improvement planning processes and directs the program evaluation unit. She has ten years experience as a lead evaluator for numerous federal, state, and private foundation grants. Most recently, she has worked on the team charged with developing and implementing a new student assignment plan for JCPS. Dr. Dossett received a Ph.D. in experimental psychology with a concentration in cognitive psychology from the University of Louisville. She is the author and co-author of several articles, and regularly presents at national educational conferences.

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Dr. Bruce Douglas
Executive Director
Capitol Region Education Council

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Dr. Bruce E. Douglas has served public education for over 40 years as a teacher, coach, and school administrator for the Bloomfield Public Schools and as Assistant Superintendent and then Superintendent for Suffield Public Schools. In 2001, he was appointed Executive Director of the Capitol Region Education Council, which is responsible for overseeing numerous ambitious initiatives for regional educational opportunities. These included an aggressive interdistrict, voluntary school desegregation program resulting in several nationally recognized magnet schools that attract a uniquely diverse and divergent pool of students, families, and teachers. He has presented at conferences nationally and internationally in the areas of curriculum development, multicultural education, diversity training, school climate and culture, and supervision and evaluation. Dr. Douglas holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in History and Secondary Education, a Master degree in Medieval Studies, and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership. He has dedicated his career to serving the best interest of children, families, and communities. He orchestrated the development of eleven magnet schools and one charter school as well as a regional Open Choice Project that will enroll approximately 6,000 students. Four additional magnet schools are scheduled to open within two years. Since assuming the Executive Directorship of the Capitol Region Education Council, he has fostered a spirit of collaboration, partnership, and capacity building among educational and civic institutions that further the causes of social justice.

Susan Eaton
Research Director
Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice
at Harvard Law School

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Susan Eaton is Research Director at the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School. Her scholarly and research interests center around the causes and cures for unequal opportunities for racial, ethnic, and linguistic minorities in the United States. She is particularly concerned about the challenges of schooling and childrearing in high-poverty, urban neighborhoods. She has lectured, studied, and written about related subjects for two decades as a journalist, scholar, and activist across the United States, in South Africa and in Japan. Susan is author, most recently, of *The Children in Room E4: American Education on Trial*, a narrative book that interweaves the stories of a landmark contemporary civil rights case and an urban classroom in Hartford, Connecticut. She is also author of *The Other Boston Busing Story: What's Won and Lost Across the Boundary Line*, which explores the adult lives of African-Americans who had participated in the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) program as children. She is also co-author, with Gary Orfield, of *Dismantling Desegregation: The Quiet Reversal of Brown v. Board of Education*, an overview of tragically overlooked jurisprudence on school desegregation. Her writing has appeared in numerous popular and scholarly publications, including The New York Times, The Boston Globe Sunday Magazine, The Nation, Virginia Quarterly Review and Education Week. Susan holds a doctorate in education from Harvard, where she was assistant director at the Project on School Desegregation. For nearly a decade, Susan was a staff reporter at daily newspapers in Massachusetts and Connecticut where she won several awards for her writing about public education.

Exploring Equity-Minded Approaches to Student Assignment and School Reform

Jane Feinberg Senior Associate FrameWorks Institute

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Jane Feinberg is a Senior Associate with the FrameWorks Institute. As a member of the Field Building team, she produces video and on-line tools, and works with issue advocates to translate FrameWorks' research into field-based practices that advance public will. An award-winning journalist, Feinberg spent twenty-five years as a writer and producer of public and commercial television programs and series. For PBS, she developed and produced college telecourses and public affairs and children's programs, including an hour-long documentary about Amelia Earhart, a special on Tip O'Neil Jr., and segments for the "MacNeil/Lehrer NEWSHour." She was a producer for New England's nightly television newsmagazine show, "Chronicle," for nearly a decade. As a public affairs and communications professional, Feinberg has consulted to a variety of non-profits and government agencies, and served as Director of Communications for the Boston Public Schools. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and holds a Masters degree in Journalism from Boston University.

Rahsaan Hall Staff Attorney Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of the Boston Bar Association

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Rahsaan Hall is a graduate of Northeastern University School of Law, and comes to the Lawyers' Committee from the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office as a member of the Senior Trial Unit. After graduating, he worked briefly in the office of Dade County Public Defender Bennett H. Brummer in Miami FL, before returning to Boston and joining the District Attorney's office in 2000. Assigned to the Safe Neighborhood Initiative Unit, he was responsible for community outreach as well as prosecution of criminal matters arising out of certain sections of the city of Boston. In this role, he worked closely with community organizations, service agencies, and neighborhood residents to facilitate a coordinated public safety agenda. Rahsaan is an experienced litigator who has tried high profile and complex cases including homicides. He has also demonstrated his commitment to civil rights while interning at the Zimbabwean Human Rights Organization and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and while working for the civil rights law firm of Burnham and Hines.

David Harris Managing Director Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School

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David Harris is the Managing Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School. He has extensive experience in many facets of civil rights, from police brutality and racial profiling to redistricting and domestic violence, as well as fair housing and community development. Prior to his current position, David served as founding Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston. During his tenure, the Fair Housing Center became nationally recognized among fair housing organizations. The center's work generated several original analyses of housing discrimination patterns in Greater Boston and the organization became a leading force for fair housing and regional equity. Recognized as a leading voice for civil rights in the Boston region, David has spoken extensively at local, regional and national forums on civil rights, regional equity and fair housing. He previously served with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. His cases at HUD, including the landmark *Jane Doe v. BHA*, garnered some of the largest damage awards and most extensive affirmative relief in New England. While at the Commission, he conducted studies of the civil rights implications of domestic violence in Connecticut, legislative redistricting in Rhode Island and highway construction on integrated neighborhoods. He holds a Ph.D. in sociology from Harvard University, a B.A. from Georgetown University and is an adjunct faculty member of Cambridge College. David is the Chair of the Massachusetts Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. He currently chairs the Medford Human Rights Commission.

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Elizabeth Horton Sheff

Lead Plaintiff

Sheff v. O'Neill Case in Connecticut

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In 1989, when her son, Milo, was a fourth grade student at Annie Fisher Elementary School in Hartford, **Elizabeth Horton Sheff** joined with others and began a long and arduous journey to redress the inequity between the level of education provided to students in Hartford public schools, to that available in surrounding suburban districts. This effort – known around the State of Connecticut, and throughout the United States, as *Sheff vs. O'Neill* – is a successful, landmark lawsuit that challenged disparities in educational opportunity for all children and the long-term effects borne from poverty concentration and racial isolation. Ms. Horton Sheff is a long-time activist. She has defended the rights of persons who live in public housing, those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, families marginalized by economic challenges, and advocates against the proliferation of waste facilities in Hartford. In her role as an activist, a community organizer and as a member of the Hartford City Council, Ms. Sheff has helped to raise awareness and seek solutions to the high incidence of asthma, lead poisoning, and obesity among Hartford's children. Ms. Horton Sheff is the founder of the City of Hartford Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program – an initiative that resulted in the construction of housing units to support such families. Ms. Horton Sheff recently retired from public service on the Hartford City Council. During her tenure there, Ms. Horton Sheff initiated the "Campaign for Civic Pride," which resulted in an increase in citizen access to and participation on City Boards and Commissions; promoted jobs and wealth building opportunities for Hartford residents and businesses in city assisted projects; created and lead the city-wide literary effort "Keep Them Reading" campaign; encouraged community policing through strengthening the city's Civilian Police Review Board; and hosted "Community Council," a monthly public access television show through which she kept Hartford residents informed of resources available and happenings in Hartford city hall. Ms. Horton Sheff is a trained licensed nurse and a graduate of the Hartford Seminary Black Ministries Certificate Program. In 2002, Ms. Horton Sheff received an Associates Degree in Science with Honors; in 2008 she received her Bachelors Degree of Science with Honors, both from Charter Oak State College. Ms. Horton Sheff is currently enrolled at the University of Hartford in the Masters of Educational Technology program. Currently, Ms. Horton Sheff is Director of Community Services at the Community Renewal Team (CRT). Through her work at CRT, Ms. Horton Sheff assists persons and families with meeting basic needs and preparing for an empowered future.

John Landesman

Senior Associate

Everyday Democracy

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More info: <http://www.everyday-democracy.org>

More info: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/studycircles>

John Landesman is the coordinator of the Montgomery County Public Schools Study Circles Program in Maryland. The program has organized over 2000 parents, teachers, administrators, and students in dialogue and action to address racial and ethnic barriers to student achievement and parent involvement. Mr. Landesman is also a Senior Associate and former Director of Community Assistance for the national organization Everyday Democracy. He consults with government agencies and community organizations to develop tools to engage diverse stakeholders in problem solving on challenging public issues such as racism, education reform, and immigration.

Jane E. López

Senior Staff Attorney

Multicultural Education, Training & Advocacy (META, Inc.)

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Jane E. López is a bilingual attorney with Multicultural Education, Training & Advocacy (META, Inc.), a national not-for-profit legal advocacy organization which specializes exclusively in the educational civil rights of immigrant and language minority students. Attorney López's experience and expertise is in community lawyering strategies including impact class action litigation in federal court, community organizing, and policy analysis and development. Ms. López has represented language minority children in judicial and administrative forums all over the United States, and has also worked at all levels of government to broker legislation and policies that acknowledge and promote the rights of language minority children. Ms. López has sat on a number of community boards and has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys' 2003 Las Primeras Award. In 2005 she was selected a National Semi-Finalist for the Leadership for a Changing World program as An Outstanding Community Leader by the Advocacy Institute together with the Wagner School of Public Service at New York University and the Ford Foundation.

Exploring Equity-Minded Approaches to Student Assignment and School Reform

Dr. Carol Johnson Superintendent Boston Public Schools

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Dr. Carol Johnson has been Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools (BPS) since August 2007, having been appointed by a unanimous vote of the Boston School Committee in June 2007 after a national search. As Superintendent of the 56,000-student district in the capital city of Massachusetts, she also serves as a cabinet member for Mayor Thomas M. Menino. Under her leadership, the District has focused on closing achievement and access gaps as well as graduating all students prepared for college and career success. Boston Public Schools currently has its lowest dropout rate in over two decades and BPS students most recently outperformed their urban peers in math on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The Superintendent's strong commitment to arts in education is evidenced through Boston's multi-year Arts Expansion Initiative, which aims to provide weekly in-school arts experiences for every student in Grades K-8. Dr. Johnson has a wealth of experience in public education as a teacher, principal, and administrator. She served as Superintendent of the Memphis City Schools in Memphis, Tennessee, where she successfully removed more than 100 schools from the state's No Child Left Behind "high priority" list. Prior to her appointment in Memphis in 2003, Dr. Johnson was Superintendent of the Minneapolis Public Schools, where she was named Minnesota Superintendent of the Year. She also led the St. Louis Park, Minnesota school district located in suburban Minneapolis. Nationally, Dr. Johnson serves as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Council of the Great City Schools, and on the Spencer Foundation Board, the Harvard University Urban Superintendents' Advisory Board, and she has served on the College Board. Dr. Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, and master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Minnesota. She is married to history teacher Matthew Johnson, and they are parents of three children.

Nancy McArdle Co-Developer and Principal Data Analyst DiversityData.org

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Nancy McArdle is a researcher and author with over twenty years experience analyzing housing policy and demographics, migration and settlement patterns, racial segregation, and the intersection between civil rights and opportunity. She received a Masters of Public Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and was research analyst at Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies and research director of the Harvard Civil Rights Project's Metro Boston Equity Initiative. She has served as an expert witness, providing analysis and testimony at trial in several major legal cases involving housing and school segregation. McArdle is currently co-developer and principal data analyst of DiversityData.org, a website allowing comparison of a wide range of socio-economic, demographic, and neighborhood indicators by race/ethnicity for all metropolitan areas of the U.S. She is a recent contributor to *Twenty-First Century Color Lines: Multiracial Change in Contemporary Society* and *The Integration Debate: Competing Futures for American Cities*.

Ron Marlow Assistant Secretary for Access and Opportunity Executive Office for Administration and Finance

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Ron Marlow serves as the Assistant Secretary for Access and Opportunity in the Patrick administration. The Secretary of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, with the approval of the Governor, appointed him to this position on May 1, 2008. In this role, he is responsible for overseeing and coordinating efforts to ensure that all individuals, no matter their race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability, have an equal opportunity to work for and contract with state government. Additionally, he is responsible for reviewing existing state programs, activities and/or policies that may unintentionally limit individual efforts to advance economically and putting forward recommendations to improve outcomes. Ron has been very active in the Boston community. He is the Vice Chair of the Massachusetts Community Development Finance Corporation. He is a member of the board of directors of the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation or CEDAC. He is also a member of the Massachusetts State Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights and a member of the Educational Equity Advisory Board of The Pennsylvania State University.

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Myron Orfield

Executive Director

University of Minnesota's Institute on Race & Poverty

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Myron Orfield is the Julius E. Davis Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota Law School, Executive Director of the Institute on Race & Poverty, non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., and an affiliate faculty member at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. He teaches and writes in the fields of civil rights, state and local government, state and local finance, land use, questions of regional governance, and the legislative process. For 2005-06, Professor Orfield served as the Fesler-Lampert Chair in Urban and Regional Affairs. Professor Orfield graduated, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Minnesota, was a graduate student at Princeton University, and has a J.D. from the University of Chicago, where he was a member of the University of Chicago Law Review. In 1990, Professor Orfield was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives, where he served five terms, and to the Minnesota Senate in 2000, where he served one term. There, he was the architect of a series of important changes in land use, fair housing, and school and local government aid programs. His first book, *Metropolitics: A Regional Agenda for Community and Stability* (Brookings 1997), a study of local government structure and demographics, relates to these efforts. For over a decade, Professor Orfield has been president of a nationally respected regional research organization undertaking studies involving the legal, demographic and land use profiles of various American metropolitan areas. His second book, *American Metropolitics: The New Suburban Reality* (Brookings 2002), is a compilation of his work involving the nation's 25 largest regions.

Rebecca Reno

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Rebecca Reno is a senior research associate at the Kirwan Institute. Her primary area of interest and specialization at the Kirwan Institute is education, specifically identifying policy recommendations and best practices to narrow disparity/opportunity gaps across the education pipeline. Prior to joining the institute, Becky worked as a research assistant at Otterbein College and most recently at OSU, studying the effects of psychological states on the body. She holds an M.A. in education from The Ohio State University and is currently pursuing her doctorate in education. She earned her B.A. in psychology from The Ohio State University as well, where she graduated *summa cum laude*.

Laura Rótolo

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Laura Rótolo is a Staff Attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (ACLUM). Previously, as a Human Rights Fellow, she authored ACLUM's report *Detention and Deportation in the Age of ICE*, and she was part of a legal team that challenged the government's actions in one of the largest immigration raids in history in New Bedford in 2007. Before joining ACLUM, Laura worked at the ACLU's national office in New York, where she analyzed thousands of pages of U.S. government documents released under the Freedom of Information Act detailing the military's abuse of prisoners held in Iraq, Guantánamo and Afghanistan. Laura has also helped survivors of Augusto Pinochet's regime in Chile bring human rights lawsuits in U.S. courts, an issue that is close to her heart, since Laura and her family immigrated to the United States from Argentina in the early 1980's. Laura is a graduate of Tufts University, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and the American University's Washington College of Law.

Youth Performance

"The good news is we have a golden opportunity in the next few months to get it right."

Rev. Gregory G. Groover, Boston School Committee Chairperson
quoted in Boston Globe on June 4, 2009

Boston Children's Chorus

Contact: Isabelle Darling
Manager of Programs and Community Impact

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The **Boston Children's Chorus** (BCC) is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic arts education organization that purposefully unites area children ages 7-18 across differences of race, religion and economic status. Our singers transcend social barriers in a celebration of shared humanity and love of music. Through intensive choral training and high-profile public performance experiences (locally, throughout the U.S. and around the world), they learn discipline, develop leadership skills, and proudly represent the city of Boston as ambassadors of harmony. We were founded in 2003 by Hubie Jones, whose vision was to inspire diverse audiences with the power of children singing, both through their sound and in their message. The BCC's mission is to harness the power and joy of music as a catalyst to unite our city's diverse communities and inspire social change. The BCC is uniquely rooted in its mission to create a world-class children's chorus that will also serve as a catalyst for community-building and social healing. Our singers' racial, ethnic and socioeconomic diversity, and the diversity of our performances and audiences, also sets us apart. Through key partnerships and collaborations with dozens of community-based organizations, schools, arts organizations and religious institutions, we are determined to create a lasting social and cultural legacy for the children, families and communities of Greater Boston.

Related Resources

"The good news is we have a golden opportunity in the next few months to get it right."

Rev. Gregory G. Groover, Boston School Committee Chairperson
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Mapping Opportunity in Boston

People, Place, and Opportunity: Planning for the Commonwealth's Economic Rebound - an analysis of geographic opportunity in Massachusetts (The Kirwan Institute, 2009), *available at* http://www.mlac.org/pdf/Geography%20of%20Opportunity_MA_full%20report.pdf.

Public Health and Spatial Inequality in Boston - Children: Review of Select Findings in the National Health Interview Survey (James Jennings and Gia Barboza, 2009), *available at* <http://www.tufts.edu/~jjenni02/pdf/childrenHealth.pdf>.

Place-based Service Delivery & Strategic Collaboration in Boston's Distressed Neighborhoods: Framework for Planning and Action (James Jennings, 2009), *available at* <http://www.tufts.edu/~jjenni02/pdf/place-based.pdf>.

Student Assignment Models

Still Looking to the Future: Voluntary K-12 School Integration, A Manual for Parents, Educators, & Advocates - provides an overview of student assignment models nationwide (The Legal Defense and Education Fund & The Civil Rights Project, 2008), *available at* http://www.civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/deseg/Still_Looking_to_the%20Future_Integration_Manual.pdf.

Using Regional Coalitions to Address Socioeconomic Isolation: A Case Study of the Omaha Metropolitan Agreement - describes a new model under development in Omaha, NE (The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, 2009), *available at* http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org/assets/documents/publications/OmahaMetroAgreement_Smaller.pdf.

K-12 Diversity: Strategies for Diverse & Successful Schools - demonstrates how opportunity mapping might be used in the student assignment context (The Kirwan Institute, 2007), *available at* http://4909e99d35cada63e7f757471b7243be73e53e14.gripelements.com/pdfs/KIAltSchoolStrategiesVersion3July31_2007.pdf.

Integration Defended: Berkeley Unified's Strategy to Maintain School Diversity - describes the student assignment model in Berkeley, CA, which may be helpful for districts across the country that want to keep the benefits of integrated schools (The Warren Institute and The Civil Rights Project, 2009), *available at* http://www.civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/deseg/integration_defended_report_2009.pdf.

Magnet Schools, Charter Schools, and Regional Approaches

Crossing the Line and Closing the Gap: Interdistrict Magnet Schools as Remedies for Segregation, Concentrated Poverty and Inequality - discusses two magnet programs in Connecticut (The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute, 2009), *available at* http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org/assets/documents/publications/Wadhwa_CrossingtheLine.pdf.

Turnaround Schools That Work: Moving Beyond Separate but Equal - analyzes a variety of "turnaround" strategies, and describes why magnet schools are an important component of reform (by Richard Kahlenberg, The Century Foundation, 2009), *available at* <http://www.tcf.org/publications/education/turnaround.pdf>.

Exploring Equity-Minded Approaches to Student Assignment and School Reform

CHHIRJ Briefing Statement and Recommendations: Use Charter Schools to Reduce Segregation (The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, 2009). This web page includes a collection of resources related to the role charter schools play in improving educational outcomes: <http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org/News/Item.aspx?id=100082>.

Charters Must Commit to Diversity (Susan Eaton and Gina Chirichigno, The Boston Globe, 2009), *available at* http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/07/19/charters_must_commit_to_diversity.

Equity Overlooked: Charter Schools and Civil Rights Policy - a recent analysis of charter schools (The Civil Rights Project, 2009), *available at* <http://www.civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/deseg/equity-overlooked-report-2009.pdf>.

Schools Without Diversity: Education Management Organizations, Charter Schools, and the Demographic Stratification of the American School System (Education and the Public Interest Center & Education Policy Research Unit, 2010), *available at* <http://epicpolicy.org/files/EMO-Seg.pdf>

Greater Hartford Schools of Choice 2009-2010 - a catalog with information about the magnet schools operating in Hartford as part of the *Sheff v. O'Neill* case (Regional School Choice Office, 2009), *available at* <http://magneteducation.org/documents/GreaterHartfordSchoolsofChoiceCatalog.pdf>.

Interconnected Policy Solutions: Housing, Health, and Beyond

Bringing Children Together: Magnet Schools and Public Housing Redevelopment - offers suggestions on how to link school, housing and justice reinvestment policies (The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice and Poverty and Race Research Action Council, 2009) *available at* <http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org/assets/documents/publications/BringingChildrenTogether.pdf>.

The National Summer Learning Association has produced several briefs that discuss why and how the achievement gap widens during the summer, including:

- **More Than a Hunch: Kids Lose Learning Skills Over the Summer Months** (National Summer Learning Association, 2009), *available at* http://www.summerlearning.org/resource/collection/CB94AEC5-9C97-496F-B230-1BECDFC2DF8B/Research_Brief_04_-_Cooper.pdf
- **Summer Can Set Kids on the Right—or Wrong—Course** (National Summer Learning Association, 2009), *available at* http://www.summerlearning.org/resource/collection/CB94AEC5-9C97-496F-B230-1BECDFC2DF8B/Research_Brief_02_-_Alexander.pdf

Getting Under the Skin: Using Knowledge about Health Inequities to Spur Action - this brief translates knowledge from the so-called “social determinants of health” arena into a useable form, and explores how to best use this knowledge to lobby for, and create policy and programming changes on the ground in, communities of concentrated disadvantage (The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice and Poverty and Race Research Action Council, 2009), *available at* http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org/assets/documents/publications/UndertheSkin_OnlineVersion.pdf.

New Homes, New Neighborhoods, New Schools: A Progress Report on the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program (Poverty and Race Research Action Council and The Baltimore Regional Housing Campaign, 2009), *available at* <http://www.prrac.org/pdf/BaltimoreMobilityReport.pdf>

"The good news is we have a golden opportunity in the next few months to get it right."

Rev. Gregory G. Groover, Boston School Committee Chairperson
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The Benefits of Diversity and the Harms of Racial and Socioeconomic Isolation

Diversity Matters: Why We Should Create and Sustain Diversity in Schools (Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, 2009), *available at* http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org/assets/documents/publications/CHHIRJ_DiversityMatters_Brief.pdf

The Childhood Opportunity Gap (Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, 2010), *available at* http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org/assets/documents/publications/CHHIRJ_Opportunity%20Gap.pdf.

School Integration and Asian Americans: Opportunities for Communities and Districts to Promote Racial Diversity - a fact sheet produced by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) and Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), *available at* http://www.caasf.org/PDFs/AALDEF_CAA_School_Integration_Fact_Sheets_090607.pdf.

Social Science Findings About Integration Fact Sheet - summarizes research findings about the benefits of diverse schools (The Civil Rights Project, 2009), *available at* <http://civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/policy/SSTalkingPoints.pdf>.

Framing, Policy, and Organizing Resources

Reaffirming the Role of School Integration in K-12 Public Education Policy: A Conversation Among Policymakers, Advocates and Educators - a collection of resources from a recent conference on federal education policy and school diversity efforts can be found at <http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org/Events/Event.aspx?id=100099>. Post-conference policy recommendations can be found at <http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org/assets/documents/news/Coalition%20Statement-%20Post%20Conference.pdf>.

The Sheff Movement coalition - a network of parents, citizens, educators and others that is working to increase support for quality educational opportunities for children in Connecticut. Learn more at <http://sheffmovement.org>.

The FrameWorks Institute has produced several publications related to how education reform is perceived and discussed, both by individuals and the media, including:

- **Research on How to Talk About American Education**, *available at* <http://www.frameworksinstitute.org/education.html>.
- **Research on How to Talk About Race**, *available at* <http://www.frameworksinstitute.org/race.html>.
- **Changing the Public Conversation on Social Problems: A Beginner's Guide to Strategic Frame Analysis**, *available at* <http://sfa.frameworksinstitute.org>.

Where a Diverse Community Comes Together to Make Schools Better for All - discusses how Study Circles have been used to improve education and communication in Montgomery County, MD schools (Everyday Democracy, 2006), *available at* <http://www.everyday-democracy.org/en/Resource.101.aspx>.

Transportation Fact Sheet - addresses the role of transportation in public schooling (The Civil Rights Project, 2009), *available at* http://www.civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/policy/court/crp_fact_sheet_transportation.pdf.

Exploring Equity-Minded Approaches to Student Assignment and School Reform

Supporting Schools That Prepare Children for the Real World: Legal and Policy Recommendations to Support and Sustain School Diversity (Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, 2009), *available at* http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org/assets/documents/publications/CHHIRJ_GovtRole_Brief.pdf.

Learning Together: Discussing the Supreme Court's School Diversity Cases - talking points that explain the Supreme Court's ruling in the Seattle & Louisville cases (The Opportunity Agenda, 2007), *available at* http://opportunityagenda.org/files/field_file/School%20Integration%20Talking%20Points.pdf.

The Integration Report - a bi-weekly update on the status of integration in our nation's schools. You can sign up to receive this newsletter at <http://theintegrationreport.wordpress.com>.

Healing Our Communities

Our Schools, Our Town - a twenty five minute video created by the Montclair Council of PTAs about the history of Montclair, NJ's magnet system. The film is a great introduction to Montclair's public schools. The film is available at <http://www.montclairpta.org>.

The Levine Museum of the New South created the exhibit **COURAGE: The Carolina Story That Changed America**, which tells the story of how citizens of Clarendon County, SC worked together to begin the process that ended legal segregation in American schools. Information is available at http://www.museumofthenewsouth.org/about_us/museum_news/ExecSumm.pdf.

In 2009, the Boston Museum, Facing History & Ourselves, and Mass 2020 sponsored **Boston in Crisis: Choice & Challenges in the 70's**, a summer institute focused on the history of school desegregation in Boston. Information is available at <http://www.bostonmuseum.org/deseginst.html>.

Education and Civil Rights: School Desegregation in Boston - a history unit about the conflict over how to resolve racial segregation in Boston's public schools in the 1960s and 1970s (Facing History and Ourselves, 2008), *available at* <http://www.facinghistory.org/resources/units/education-civil-rights>.

Acknowledgments

Exploring Equity-Minded Approaches to Student Assignment and School Reform

Event Organizers

This event was sponsored, planned, and organized by staff members from: the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School (Gina Chirichigno and Susan Eaton), The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of the Boston Bar Association (Rahsaan Hall) and The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (Laura Rótolo). The Institute on Urban Health Research at Northeastern University joins us as a cosponsor.

Acknowledgments

The event organizers would like to express profound gratitude to the many people who assisted in making this Summit possible. Given the magnitude of this undertaking, we apologize in advance for anyone who may have been omitted from this list. We wish to acknowledge the following individuals and institutions for their exemplary efforts in support of the *The Golden Opportunity Summit: Exploring Equity-Minded Approaches to Student Assignment and School Reform*:

Past and Present Supporters of CHHIRJ's Diversity Work

The Ford Foundation
The Safeco Insurance Foundation
Open Society Institute, Equality and Opportunity Fund

Event Planning & Logistics

Boston Public Schools
Devon Davidson, *ACLU Volunteer*
Aileen Ochoa, *Institute on Urban Health Research at Northeastern University*

Harvard University

Drew Gilpin Faust, *President of Harvard University*
Dean Martha Minow, *Harvard Law School*

Working Lunch

Boston Public Schools
Bakers' Best, Inc.

Graphics, Layout, and Printing

Gina Chirichigno, *CHHIRJ*
Rick Joly, *Goodway Graphics*
April Rutledge, *Goodway Graphics*

Venue Collaborators

Damon Cawley, *CityYear*
Hubie Jones, *CityYear*
Charlie Rose, *CityYear*

Student & Community Groups

Isabelle Darling, *Boston Children's Chorus*

Additional Support

Kelly Garvin, *CHHIRJ*
Amy Reichbach, *Public Counsel*

Exploring Equity-Minded Approaches to Student Assignment and School Reform

Josephine McNeil

Executive Director

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Josephine McNeil is the Executive Director of Citizens for Affordable Housing in Newton Development Organization, Inc. d/b/a CAN-DO. CAN-DO is a community-based nonprofit housing development organization with a mission to create affordable housing in the City of Newton. Her tenure with CAN-DO has spanned thirteen years. She was one of the organizing members in 1994 and the first President of its Board of Directors until 1999 when she was hired as its part-time Executive Director in 1999 and in 2000 her duties were extended to a full-time position. Josephine brings to her position knowledge of real estate development with a focus on affordable housing, as well as knowledge and skills in structuring affordable housing projects gained from her prior positions. Prior to her appointment as Executive Director, she ran her own affordable housing and economic development firm. Her background includes employment as a real estate attorney for the Boston law firm Brown Rudnick Freed and Gesmer and a position as Senior Project Manager for a real estate developer whose focus was on affordable housing. During her tenure as Executive Director, CAN-DO has developed thirty-five of the organization's thirty-seven units of housing serving a diverse population. Thirty of the units are deed-restricted to ensure that they remain affordable. An additional two units are in the predevelopment phase. Josephine's work in the area of affordable housing is widely recognized in the community. She received the Human Rights Award from the Newton Human Rights Commission in 2001. In 2002 she was selected as one of the subjects in the 2002 Portrait Project Subjects by the Newton Women's Commission as well as the recipient of the Robert Swett Award in recognition of her efforts to develop affordable housing in the City of Newton. In October of 2006, she was designated as a Star and presented with an award from the Newton Community Service Center as part of its annual Night of Thousand Stars Benefit. She was awarded the City of Newton's Mayor's Medallion Award in 2009. She was also honored as one of the "Women of Justice" by Mass lawyer's Weekly and the Women's Bar Association. Josephine is a graduate of Vassar College and the Boston College Law School. After law school she served a two-year clerkship at the Massachusetts Appeals Court and was admitted to the Massachusetts's Bar in 1989.

Robert Principe

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Robert Principe is in his fifth year as Director of Educational Leadership in Beaver Country Day's Hiatt Center for Social Justice Education. His work supports school-wide diversity and inclusion initiatives and multicultural curriculum development. He came to Beaver having done years of multicultural education work in higher education and diversity training in the business sector. Robert was also a founding member of the Worcester ALANA Students Support Network and taught English as a Second Language for four years at Quinsigamond Community College.

Saturday March 27, 2010
Lavine Civic Forum City Year
287 Columbus Ave • Boston MA, 02116