

MEDIA ADVISORY
May 15, 2009

CLOSE THE GAP: EDUCATION EQUALITY DAY MAY 16 at the WHITE HOUSE ELLIPSE

Call to Action on the 55th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education; New Speakers and Participants Added!

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Fifty-five years after the landmark Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education overturned segregation in public schools, our nation's public education system continues to deny African American, Latino, and Native American students good teachers and schools. This creates an achievement gap that makes education equality the civil rights issue of our time.

WHAT: Event and Interview Opportunities with civil rights leaders and education reformers issuing a call to action to begin eliminating the racial and ethnic achievement gap in public education.

CO-SPONSORS: Education Equality Project
National Action Network
United Negro College Fund
National Council of La Raza

WHO:

Secretary Arne Duncan, Department of Education

Reverend Al Sharpton, President of National Action Network and EEP co-founder

Joel Klein, New York City Schools Chancellor and EEP co-founder

Dr. Michael Lomax, UNCF President & CEO

Raul Yzaguirre, Civil rights activist and former president and CEO of the National Council of La Raza from 1974 – 2004

Adrian Fenty, Mayor of Washington D.C.

Kevin Chavous, Noted attorney, author and national school reform leader

Newt Gingrich, Former Speaker of the House

Michael Lomax, President and CEO of the United Negro College Fund

Dennis Van Roekel, President & CEO, National Education Association

Jason Kamras, 2005 National Teacher of the Year

Jordan Coleman, Student Speaker and voice of Tyrone the Moose on "The Backyardigans"

Delia Pompa, Vice President for Education at the National Council of La Raza

Lisa Keegan, Education consultant and advocate for education reform

Minnijean Brown - Trickey, Member of the Little Rock Nine

Roy Romer, Chair of Strong American Schools, former governor of CO and Superintendent of LAUSD

Marlene Canter, Los Angeles Unified School District School Board Member

Bill Coleman, Distinguished attorney and public servant; lead strategists and coauthor of the legal brief in Brown v. Board of Education; second African American Cabinet member in U.S. history

Hilary Shelton, Vice President for Advocacy/Director NAACP Washington Bureau

Wade Henderson, President & CEO, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

Ernest Logan, President of Council of School Supervisors & Administrators

Martin Perez, President of Latino Leadership Alliance

(more)



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WHEN: Saturday, May 16, 2009 at 10am

WHERE: White House Ellipse

CONTACT: For press credentials, please contact Karen Vander Ark at karen@varpartners.net by 5pm EDT Wednesday, May 13.
To schedule an interview, please contact Melissa Ratcliff at melissa@varpartners.net by 5pm EDT Thursday, May 14.
For information on a press availability by Reverend Sharpton, contact Rachel Noerdlinger at revalmedia@yahoo.com.

ABOUT EDUCATION EQUALITY PROJECT

The Education Equality Project is leading a civil rights movement to eliminate the racial and ethnic achievement gap in public education by working to create an effective school for every child. www.edequality.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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