

August 7, 2009

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## 230 Emerging Leaders Join Movement to Transform Urban Education

*Applications for National Education Pioneers Fellowship Program Doubled in Past Year*

**Oakland, CA** – From August 11<sup>th</sup> to August 19<sup>th</sup> in six urban centers across the nation, 230 professionals studying business, law, policy and education will join Education Pioneers’ network of alumni working to transform urban education. The national organization prepares high-achieving graduate school students for careers in education through a selective urban education fellowship program and customized alumni support.

“We develop a pipeline of passionate and highly-skilled leaders to increase the impact of top education reform organizations serving students in the neediest urban centers across our country,” said Scott Morgan, founder and CEO of Education Pioneers. “Great leaders can serve as powerful change agents by starting and supporting education organizations that unleash the potential of our nation’s students.”

Education Pioneers recruits graduate students from top universities like Harvard, Stanford and Columbia. Over the course of the past year, applications to its Fellowship program doubled, from 859 to 1,793. Education Pioneers selected 230 Fellows from this applicant pool to join its 2009 Fellowship program. Nearly 50% of Fellows chosen through the rigorous selection process had two or more years of private sector experience. The 10-week Fellowship program includes experience managing a critical project for a school, district or education organization and intensive training on complex issues in urban education. Seventy percent of program alumni go on to work full-time in the education sector.

“This year we had breakthrough recruiting results that enabled us to meet the talent needs of more than 100 leading education reform organizations across the nation,” said Morgan. “We’ve seen strong demand for our program because an increasing number of young professionals from diverse backgrounds realize they can have successful careers in the field of education.”

# Education Pioneers

TALENT TO TRANSFORM

Between August 11<sup>th</sup> and August 19<sup>th</sup> in New York City, Boston, Washington, DC, Chicago, Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area, Education Pioneers will recognize the impact of its Fellows and alumni at the organization's annual Showcase event, sponsored nationally by MetLife Foundation. The local Showcase events will feature speakers like Paul Reville, Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Tony Smith, Oakland Unified School District's new Superintendent.

"Education Pioneers is a tremendous source of talent for schools, districts and education organizations," said Don Shalvey, Senior Education Program Officer for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and founder and former CEO of Aspire Public Schools. "When Aspire needed to fill an important staff position, Education Pioneers' network of alumni was one of our top hiring resources."

## **About Education Pioneers**

Education Pioneers, a national non-profit organization, recruits talented leaders from business, education, law and public policy to launch careers in the field of education. Through its Fellowship and Alumni Programs, Education Pioneers trains and connects a new generation of leaders poised to offer fresh perspectives and creative solutions to our nation's most critical urban education issues. Showcase events will be held on August 11<sup>th</sup> in New York City, August 12<sup>th</sup> in Boston, August 13<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC, August 18<sup>th</sup> in Chicago and August 19<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. More information about Education Pioneers and the 2009 Showcase events can be found at [www.educationpioneers.org](http://www.educationpioneers.org).

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