

Gesu's 13th Annual Symposium
on Transforming Inner-City Education

Closing the College Gap:

What Can Universities, Schools and Communities Do?



November 1, 2010
PROGRAM

We offer special gratitude to the **sponsors** of the 13th Annual Gesu Symposium on Inner-City Education:

Thank you!

Cozen O'Connor
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Pennsylvania

We also **thank** our Trustees;
Principal Sister Ellen Convey, IHM; the Gesu Gospel Choir directed by H.L. Ratliff; and the Gesu School staff, teachers and students.

Gesu School

Gesu School is an independent Catholic school that provides a high-quality, faith-based education to the children of North Philadelphia in the Jesuit and IHM traditions.

- 455 students, pre-K through grade 8, attend Gesu School.
- 95% of students are non-Catholic.
- More than 70% of students qualify for free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch programs.
- Over 90% of Gesu alumni graduate from high school in four years, well above the city's average on-time graduation rate of 51%.

With the help of numerous friends and supporters, Gesu Works!

Dear Friends,

As we keep searching for ways to improve our country's education quality and equality, it's interesting to recall why and how this symposium tradition began 13 years ago. As several of us were meeting in Ralph Saul's office with a view from center city north all the way to this neighborhood, we were discussing fund development for Gesu School. Then as now, the motivation was not only to sustain Gesu's mission but also to serve as a resource and model for other schools fighting the same battle.

Win Churchill—with his characteristic creative vision—proposed that Gesu School begin an annual symposium on inner-city education. The first annual, he made clear.

With John DiIulio's help, Tim Russert moderated the first symposium panel that addressed "Are Faith-Based Schools An Answer?" The walls of our basement were draped in blue, and the panelists sat on high stools, *à la Meet the Press*.

Since then, topics have included vouchers, literacy, stress, reform, entrepreneurs, early education, leadership and the many forms of current reform efforts in city schools. Fast forward now to 2010 as we consider the higher education issue.

At Gesu, we believe that an outstanding elementary education provides the cornerstone that gives children the tools they need to succeed. If children don't learn to read at grade level by 3rd or 4th grades, research shows how hard it is for them to catch up and achieve to their ability.

However, too many elementary schools are failing in our cities. If students enter high school ill-prepared, how could it be surprising that only 50% graduate from high school? And then how do we close the college gap? How can we give more talented students, especially those with few resources, the opportunity for higher education?

Of course, that is today's topic. We are honored that recognized experts in this field have joined our panel today, and we thank you for joining us.

With warm regards,



J. Gordon Conney, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Christine S. Beck
President and CEO

PROGRAM

Prelude	Gesu Gospel Choir
Welcome	Taahira Davis, <i>Gesu School 8th Grader</i>
Opening Remarks	J. Gordon Cooney
Panel Discussion	Dr. John DiIulio, Jr., <i>Moderator</i> Christine S. Beck Dr. Wanda D. Bigham John Bridgeland George W. Bur, SJ Eric J. Furda Richard D. Kahlenberg
Closing	Semaj McDowell, <i>Gesu School 8th Grader</i>
Reception	

Dr. John J. Dilulio, Jr., *Moderator*



John J. Dilulio, Jr. is the Frederic Fox Leadership Professor at the University of Pennsylvania where he heads the Fox Leadership Program. Before coming to Penn, he was a professor and research center director at Princeton University. He received a doctorate in political science from Harvard University and majored in economics at Penn. He has authored over a dozen books including *Godly Republic: A Centrist Blueprint for America's Faith-Based Future* (University of California Press, 2007) and (with James Q. Wilson) *American Government: Institutions and Policies, 11th edition* (Cengage, 2009).

Dr. Dilulio has founded nationally-recognized programs to reduce youth violence, promote literacy, and mentor the children of prisoners.

In 2001 he served as first director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. He has been deeply involved in post-Katrina recovery efforts in New Orleans, and in myriad efforts to save, support, and strengthen Catholic schools that serve low-income children and families.

Involved with North Philadelphia's Gesu School since 1997, Dr. Dilulio credits the Gesu as "a model inner-city school" and "model for all sacred places that serve civic purposes."

PANELISTS

Christine S. Beck



Chris Beck has been President & CEO of Gesu School since June 2003. She previously served on the Board of Trustees from 1996 to 2003. Under her leadership, Gesu completed a twelve million dollar campaign, completed a major renovation, and the school's endowment increased from \$5 million to almost \$13 million. The silent phase of another major campaign has already begun.

Mrs. Beck has held many volunteer leadership positions, and, most notably, co-founded the Arthur Ashe Tennis and Education Center in Philadelphia. In recognition of her commitment to inner-city youth, she has received numerous local and national awards. Most recently, she was awarded the 2010 Immaculata Medal from Immaculata University.

Currently, Mrs. Beck serves on the Boards of Saint Joseph's Prep and the Arthur Ashe Learning Center in New York City, as well as the Advisory Board of the Arthur Ashe Youth Tennis and Education Center.

She holds a B.A. degree, with Honors, from Queens University of Charlotte, where she is an inaugural member of the Athletic Hall of Fame, and an M.A. degree from Bryn Mawr College, both in German Literature. She is married, has three sons and is a member of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Wanda D. Bigham



Wanda D. Bigham is a consultant to higher education and pre-collegiate institutions regarding leadership, strategic planning, development, international education and exchanges, and governance. Previously she served as the Associate General Secretary (Interim) for the General Board of Higher Education, responsible for the Division of Higher Education, and as Assistant General Secretary, Office of Schools, Colleges, and Universities, for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. She served ten years as president of Huntingdon College and six years as president of Marycrest College, and has worked at numerous other colleges and universities in various administrative roles.

On multiple occasions, Dr. Bigham has testified before subcommittees on appropriations of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives regarding funding of selected higher education programs that serve low-income and first generation youth. She is president of the board of the National Association of Schools and Colleges of the United Methodist Church, the Asia Pacific Federation of Christian Schools, and the University Senate of the United Methodist Church. She has served on numerous other higher education and community boards, and she is currently on the board of the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities.

Author of numerous academic articles on education and recipient of multiple honors and awards, Dr. Bigham earned her Ed.D. at the University of Kentucky, her M.H.E. and M.M. at Morehead State University and her B.M.E. at Murray State University.

John Bridgeland



John Bridgeland is CEO of Civic Enterprises, a public policy development firm working on a variety of social issues, and is a key leader in research and policy on America's high school dropout crisis. Author of the acclaimed report, "The Silent Epidemic," Bridgeland was featured in the *TIME Magazine* cover story "Dropout Nation" and two Oprah Winfrey shows on the subject. He led the National Summit on America's Silent Epidemic, has prompted legislative work on the issue, and has authored ten reports on the crisis. He is co-authoring a forthcoming report on the role of faith-based institutions in closing the college completion gap.

Mr. Bridgeland also serves as Vice Chairman of Malaria No More and Senior Advisor to the U.N. Special Envoy on Malaria, two organizations working together to eliminate malaria deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2015. Previously, he was Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council and USA Freedom Corps, overseeing all service and faith-based initiatives. He was selected Nonprofit Times Executive of the Year for co-leading Service Nation, which led to the passage of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act.

Mr. Bridgeland earned his degree in government, with honors, from Harvard University and his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law. He currently serves on 12 nonprofit boards.

George W. Bur, SJ



Rev. George W. Bur, S.J., the 31st President of St. Joseph's Prep, has been a leader in educational access for the poor and has spent most of the past two decades in North Philadelphia.

For nearly 20 years, Fr. Bur served Gesu School, first as Assistant Pastor and Pastor of the Gesu Parish, and then as President of the resurrected Gesu School from 1993-2003 after the parish closed due to dwindling membership. Fr. Bur skillfully managed the transition of Gesu School from an Archdiocesan school to a fully independent institution. That transition included the establishment of a governing board and a rigorous development program.

After stepping down from his position at Gesu School in 2003, the Jesuits appointed Fr. Bur as rector of the Jesuit Community at Saint Joseph's University. While in that position, Fr. Bur also served as a special assistant to the Rev. Timothy Lannon, President at Saint Joseph's University, initiating a program called Ignatian College Connection (ICC), which had a goal of making Saint Joseph's University more attractive as a college choice for local minority students.

Fr. Bur was named President of his *alma mater*, St. Joseph's Prep, in 2008. At that time, he helped put the finishing touches on the Campaign for the Prep, which funded the renovation of the old Jesuit residence into an academic facility. He has also launched a campaign to revamp the science wing and began "Magis: Go Further Still," a plan for 2010-16 that will address many needs within the Prep community.

Eric Furda



Eric J. Furda, a 1987 Penn graduate, was appointed Dean of Admissions at the University of Pennsylvania on July 1, 2008. Previously, he served as vice president for alumni relations and executive director of undergraduate admissions at Columbia University.

Upon Mr. Furda's appointment to his current position at Penn, former Provost Ronald Daniels commented, "Eric has a deep appreciation of the importance of inclusion and diversity in admission programs, and shares the University's commitment to increasing access to Penn for talented students from diverse backgrounds, both in this country and around the world."

Mr. Furda began his career in admissions at Penn, as regional director from 1987 to 1991. He joined Columbia's admissions office in 1991, holding increasingly responsible positions. He has a B.A. in international relations from Penn, and a M.A. in education from Teachers College at Columbia University. While an undergraduate, he was a four-year letter winner in lightweight football and currently serves on Penn's Sprint Football Advisory Committee.

Richard D. Kahlenberg



Richard D. Kahlenberg is a senior fellow at The Century Foundation and writes about education, equal opportunity, and civil rights. Previously, he was a fellow at the Center for National Policy, a visiting associate professor of constitutional law at George Washington University, and a legislative assistant to Senator Charles S. Robb (D-VA).

Mr. Kahlenberg is the author of four books, including: *Tough Liberal: Albert Shanker and the Battles Over Schools, Unions, Race, and Democracy* (Columbia University Press, 2007); *All Together Now: Creating Middle-Class Schools through Public School Choice* (Brookings Institution Press, 2001); and *The Remedy: Class, Race, and Affirmative Action* (Basic Books, 1996). In addition, he is the editor of seven Century Foundation books, including most recently: *Affirmative Action for the Rich: Legacy Preferences in College Admissions* (2010); *Rewarding Strivers: Helping Low-Income Students Succeed in College* (2010); *Improving on No Child Left Behind: Getting Education Reform Back on Track* (2008); and *America's Untapped Resource: Low-Income Students in Higher Education* (2004).

Mr. Kahlenberg's articles have been published in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New Republic*, and elsewhere. He has appeared on ABC, CBS, CNN, FOX, C-SPAN, MSNBC, and NPR. Kahlenberg graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard College in 1985 and *cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 1989.

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Past Symposia

2009 Transforming Inner-City Education: Faith-Based Schools? Charter Schools? Magnet Schools? Renaissance Schools? Is There One Answer?

2008 Transforming Inner-City Education: Lessons in Leadership

2007 Inner-City Education: What's Old? What's New? What's Next?

2006 Transforming Inner-City Education: Can an Early Start Change the Outcome?

2005 How Colleges and Universities Can Partner with Faith-Based Communities to Serve Urban Children in Need

2004 Transforming Inner-City Education: Lessons from the Entrepreneurs

2003 Educational Reform: What's Next?

2002 Children Learning Amid Stress

2001 Research and Roadblocks to Developing Young Readers

1999 The Urban Child in Peril: Can Literacy Change the Outcome?

1998 Do Faith and Vouchers Mix?

1997 Inner-City Education: Are Faith-Based Schools an Answer?

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