

GESU's 11th Annual Symposium

Transforming Inner-City Education



LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

In Memory of Tim Russert, the Symposium's first Moderator



October 31, 2008
PROGRAM

We offer special gratitude to the **sponsors** of the 11th Annual Gesu Symposium on Inner City Education:

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Thank you!

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.

- 460 students, pre-K through grade 8, attend Gesu School.
- 99% of students are African-American.
- 95% of students are non-Catholic.
- More than 70% of students qualify for free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch programs.
- Over 91% 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,

Welcome to our 11th Annual Gesu Symposium on Inner-City Education!

Since we began this symposium in 1997, Gesu School has continued to thrive. With a strong commitment to mission and with attention to vision, resources, leadership and a solid team, we empower at-risk children to create positive results, against all odds.

Thus, we can celebrate that "Gesu Works!"
And we can say, "Here is social justice in action."

Many educational experts and political leaders, including our own Mayor Michael Nutter, have acknowledged Gesu's success. With the Mayor's encouragement, we plan to initiate a communication network among educational and political leaders in North Philadelphia to address – with creativity and commitment – the challenges of improving the quality of education for our youth in Philadelphia.

Let's explore how we can work together!

Let's open a positive dialogue – among leaders of public and charter and faith-based schools – to share what works!

Together, let's figure out how we can give every child the necessary tools to live a successful, productive life!

To help these efforts, we are honored to have an exceptional group of educational panelists, each one of whom is a distinguished leader whose experience can help us tackle the challenges of raising the bar of success in inner-city education.

With thanks for your help and interest,



Winston J. Churchill, *Chairman*
Gesu School



Christine S. Beck, *President*
Gesu School

Transforming Inner-City Education: LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

Program

Prelude

Gesu Gospel Choir

Welcome

Imani Briscoe
Gesu School 8th Grader

Panel Discussion

John J. DiIulio, Jr., Ph. D., *Moderator*
Christine S. Beck
Lars Beck
Winston J. Churchill
Stedman Graham
Marc Mannella
Rev. Joseph M. McShane, S.J.
Daniel R. Porterfield, Ph.D.

Reception

SYMPOSIUM PANELISTS



John J. DiIulio, Jr., Ph.D., *Moderator*

John J. DiIulio, Jr. is Frederic Fox Leadership Professor of Politics, Religion and Civil Society and Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, where he also serves as Director of the Robert A. Fox Leadership Program. On leave from Penn in 2000-2001, he served as Assistant to the President of the United States and as first Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives.

Dr. DiIulio is author, co-author or editor of over a dozen books, the most recent of which include *Godly Republic: A Centrist Blueprint for America's Faith-Based Future* (University of California Press, 2007) and *American Government: Institutions and Policies* (with James Q. Wilson, Houghton Mifflin, 11th edition, 2007). He currently serves on Gesu School's Board of Trustees.

Dr. DiIulio has a bachelor's degree in political science and in economics and a master's degree in political science-public policy from Penn. He completed his doctorate at Harvard University.



Stedman Graham

Stedman Graham is chairman and CEO of S. Graham & Associates (SGA), a management and marketing consulting company that specializes in the corporate and educational markets. Clients have included Merrill Lynch, Wells Fargo, CVS Pharmacy, Manpower, Harvard and Wharton business schools and the U.S. Department of Education.

As a businessman, educator and speaker, he presents, consults and conducts training with corporations, organizations and nonprofits on the topics of maximizing leadership, achieving success, growing a business, embracing diversity, achieving optimal health, and personal and professional branding. His corporate seminars are driven by his proprietary Nine-Step Success Process™ which teaches people how to understand who they are and develop a vision for their lives, and provides a continuous approach for growth, learning and maximizing personal and professional potential.

Graham has authored ten books, including two New York Times bestsellers, *You Can Make It Happen: A Nine-Step Plan for Success* and *Teens Can Make It Happen: Nine Steps to Success*. His latest release is entitled *Diversity: Leaders not Labels*. Actively involved in education, Graham has taught at Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management and the University of Illinois-Chicago. He also serves as an adjunct or distinguished professor at several other universities across the country.

Graham has shown a lifelong commitment to youth and community. In 1985, he founded AAD Education, Health and Sports, a nonprofit organization of athletes and other civic leaders committed to developing leadership in underserved youths. An organization with over 500 professional athletes, AAD has served over 15,000 students through education and scholarships. Graham serves on several boards, which include the national board of Junior Achievement (JA) and the 7-Eleven Education Is Freedom Foundation, and he is a member of the Economic Club of Chicago.

Graham holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Hardin-Simmons University. He received a master's degree in education from Ball State University and an honorary doctorate in humanities from Coker College, where he is also a distinguished visiting professor.

Christine S. Beck

Chris Beck has been President & CEO of Gesu School since June 2003, and previously served on the Board of Trustees from 1996 to 2003. In 2007 Gesu completed a \$12 million campaign, which included a \$6 million expansion project, dedicated in September 2006.

Mrs. Beck has held volunteer leadership positions in varied non-profit organizations. In recognition of her efforts to create opportunities for underserved youth, she has received numerous prestigious awards, at both the national and regional levels.

Currently, Mrs. Beck serves on the Boards of Saint Joseph's Preparatory School, Gesu Institute and Arthur Ashe Learning Center, Inc., as well as the Advisory Board of Arthur Ashe Youth Tennis and Education. She holds a B.A. degree, with Honors, from Queens University of Charlotte 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.

Lars Beck

Lars Beck has served as the CEO of Young Scholars Charter School since 2005, having previously worked with the school's Board on expansion efforts. Now in its 9th year, Young Scholars is a North Philadelphia school educating approximately 200 6th – 8th graders. The school's mission is to prepare its students to succeed academically in the best high schools and colleges, and to provide its students with the life skills required to become productive members of their communities.

Mr. Beck's prior experience includes management and marketing of both not-for-profit and for-profit companies, including Labatt Breweries of Canada, Labatt USA, Advantage International, and Advisory Publications. Mr. Beck was also the founder of the Boulder, Colorado chapter of StandUp For Kids, a national non-profit outreach program for homeless kids.

Mr. Beck is a graduate of Duke University, where he was a four-year member of the varsity tennis team. An avid lover of exercise and the outdoors, Mr. Beck has completed two Ironman Triathlons and serves as the Race Director for the Philadelphia Insurance Triathlon, one of the country's largest triathlons. Recently married, Mr. Beck lives in Narberth with his wife.

Winston J. Churchill

Win Churchill has been managing general partner of SCP Partners, a family of venture capital funds, since its inception in 1996. He has over 25 years of experience in private equity investment. From 1989 to 1993 he served as Chairman of the Finance Committee of the \$50 billion Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System. Mr. Churchill is director of a number of companies, both public and private.

Mr. Churchill serves as the Board Chairman for both Gesu School and the Gesu Institute, as well as Young Scholars Charter School. He is also a trustee of Fordham University, Georgetown University, Immaculata University and American Friends of New College Oxford, England.

Mr. Churchill received his B.S. degree in physics, *summa cum laude*, from Fordham University in 1962, his M.A. degree in economics from Oxford University in 1964, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar, and his J.D. degree from Yale Law School in 1967.

Marc Mannella



Marc Mannella is the Executive Director of KIPP Philadelphia Schools. Mr. Mannella founded KIPP Philadelphia Charter School (KPCS) in 2003 and served as school leader for the school's first five years. KPCS now serves 330 students in grades 5-8, all of whom are climbing the mountain to college, and under Mr. Mannella's leadership KPCS has become the highest performing Charter middle school in the city.

Before founding KPCS, Mr. Mannella taught middle school and high school science in both Baltimore and Philadelphia. A Teach For America Alumnus, Mr. Mannella has also served as an Alumni Recruiter and co-leader of the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter.

Mr. Mannella received a bachelor's degree in biology and psychology from the University of Rochester, and a master's degree in educational leadership from National-Louis University in Chicago.

Rev. Joseph M. McShane, SJ



The Reverend Joseph M. McShane, SJ, has served as the President of Fordham University since 2003, after serving as the President of the University of Scranton from 1998-2003. Previously, Fr. McShane served Fordham University as dean of Fordham College at Rose Hill, a professor of theology, and a member of the Board of Trustees. As President, Fr. McShane has led Fordham University through a major strategic planning process and spearheaded an historic expansion project for its Lincoln Center and Rose Hill campuses. His goal is to make Fordham University the preeminent Catholic university in the United States.

Fr. McShane presently serves on the boards of Santa Clara University, the Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities, and Canisius High School in Buffalo. In June 2008 he was appointed to the Commission on Metropolitan Transportation Authority Financing by New York's Governor.

A native of New York City, Fr. McShane entered the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) in 1967 and was ordained a priest in 1977. He received bachelor's and master's degrees from Boston College, and holds a Ph.D. degree in the history of Christianity from the University of Chicago. He earned M.Div. and S.T.M. degrees from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley.

Daniel R. Porterfield, Ph.D.



Daniel R. Porterfield, Ph.D. is Georgetown University's Senior Vice President for Strategic Development. Also an assistant professor in the English Department, Dr. Porterfield regularly teaches courses on human rights, education, and social justice.

For four years, Dr. Porterfield served as a senior aide to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala. In 1995-96, he helped develop the Secretary's "Safe Passages" initiative, which assisted parents and other adults in protecting their children from substance abuse and other risks. Dr. Porterfield also founded Georgetown University's D.C. Schools Project and After School Kids Program, two on-going social justice projects that allow several hundred students a year to work with immigrant children and at-risk youth.

A Rhodes Scholar and a Mellon Fellow, Dr. Porterfield earned his bachelor's degree at Georgetown University and his Ph.D. at The City University of New York Graduate Center. He is the 2008 recipient of the Georgetown College Edward Bunn, S.J., Award for Faculty Excellence.

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Gesu School

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Past Symposia

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?

