

Leader in Education Honored with President's Award at Whittier Street Health Center's Annual Meeting

ROXBURY, MA (December 16, 2008) – In an evening filled with reflection and inspiration, Dr. John H. Jackson, President and CEO of The Schott Foundation for Public Education, was honored with the President's Award at Whittier Street Health Center's 2008 Annual Meeting.

The evening began with the introduction of Whittier's 2009 slate of board, including the announcement of Debra B. Miller as Community Board Chair. In addition to Debra Miller as Board Chair, other board members announced for 2009 include: Sally H. Jenks as the Secretary, True-See Allah, Omolara Bankole, Pastor Gerald Bell, Zainab Elmi, James Harder, Vernon Nelson, Vianka Perez-Belyea, Makia Powers and Gerrold Walker.

After the announcement of Debra Miller, Frederica Williams highlighted Whittier's work over the past year in addressing serious community health risks. Specifically, Ms. Williams expanded on Whittier's work in addressing childhood obesity, diabetes, community violence and chronic illnesses affecting Roxbury. According to Ms. Williams, "regular use of primary care and preventative action are the key to building a healthier community. We help patients understand how their actions today affect their health tomorrow and we give them the tools to make their personal health a primary focus of their lives." Ms. Williams elaborated "due to the multitude of social barriers and disparities that affect one's ability to tackle health disparities, at Whittier we are committed to helping community members overcome all barriers to care, including socioeconomic, cultural and linguistic barriers to ensure good health."

The evening concluded with the presentation of the President's Award to Dr. Jackson and a call to action by Dr. Jackson to institute a grassroots level movement to create greater educational advancement and opportunity for our youth. According to Dr. Jackson, in order to achieve this movement, we will need to demand greater accountability from our leaders and elected officials and allow for us to embrace new perspectives on creating an "opportunity frame."

About Dr. Jackson

Dr. Jackson is the President and CEO of The Schott Foundation for Public Education. In this role, Dr. Jackson leads the Foundation's efforts to ensure a high quality public education for all students regardless of race or gender. Dr. Jackson joined the Schott Foundation after seven productive years in leadership positions at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He served as the NAACP Chief Policy Officer and prior to that as the NAACP's National Director of Education.

Dr. Jackson also served as an Adjunct Professor of Race, Gender, and Public Policy at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute. In 1999, President William Jefferson Clinton appointed Dr. Jackson to serve in his administration as Senior Policy Advisor in the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Jackson possesses a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Xavier University of Louisiana; A Master of Education in Education Policy from the University of Illinois' College of Education; and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Illinois' College of Law. In addition, Dr. Jackson received a Master of Education and Doctorate of Education in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Dr. Jackson is currently serving on the Obama-Biden transition team as a member of the President-Elect's 13-member Education Policy Transition Work Group.

About Whittier Street Health Center

Whittier Street Health Center (www.wshc.org) is a Joint Commission accredited, private, non-profit, independently licensed community health center dedicated to providing high quality, reliable and accessible primary health care and support services for diverse populations to promote wellness and eliminate health and social disparities. Serving more than 12,000 clients with approximately 60,000 clinic visits and 20,000 community outreach visits annually, Whittier has a patient base which is ethnically and racially diverse and includes significant numbers of individuals from Roxbury, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, the South End and Greater Boston. Whittier provides a comprehensive array of 30 healthcare programs and services designed to meet the primary health care, behavioral health, and social needs of the community.

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