



**THE DELAWARE VALLEY MINORITY STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT CONSORTIUM AND COLLEGE BOARD
2009 LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM**

**CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAPS:
A CONTINUING SCHOOL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP IMPERATIVE**

MAY 14, 2009

**Sheraton Philadelphia University City Hotel
Philadelphia, PA**

8:15-9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST Hotel Lower Level

9:00-9:15 a.m. WELCOME Ben Franklin Ballroom

Dr. Robert L. Jarvis, Director, Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium and Co-Director, New Jersey Network To Close the Achievement Gaps; Penn Center for Educational Leadership Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania

Robert Alig, Regional Vice President, Middle States Regional Office, College Board

9:15-10:15 a.m. KEYNOTE ADDRESS Ben Franklin Ballroom

PURSUING EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE: TEN PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES THAT PROMOTE ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

Dr. Pedro Noguera, Professor of Teaching and Learning & Executive Director, Metropolitan Center for Urban Education Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development at New York University



10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS Ben Franklin Ballroom

A CONTINUING DIALOG WITH PEDRO NOGUERA

Continue the conversation with Dr. Noguera regarding his extensive and expansive work in systemically attending to the “underperformance” of our students of color throughout the country. Learn more about critical research, technical assistance, and professional development activities focused on addressing the challenges to schools/districts in reform efforts to attend to their achievement gaps.

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COLLABORATION FOR PROMOTING EQUITY AND CLOSING THE GAPS **University 1**

*Dr. Robert L. Jarvis, Director, Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium
Dr. Roseanne Nyiri, Superintendent, Springfield Township School District (Pennsylvania)
Dr. Christopher McGinley, Superintendent, Lower Merion School District (Pennsylvania)*

In its 5th year, the Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium has become an influential tri-state collaborative of 27 regional school districts and three county Intermediate Units that are focused on improving the engagement and academic success of all of the districts’ students of color. What critical questions do district and school leaders need to ask of their staff and constituents? Hear the important leadership lessons we are coming to better understand that are essential for systemically raising the achievement of all students and at the same time closing our pervasive racial achievement gaps.

**LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM URBAN AND SUBURBAN
SUPERINTENDENTS WHO ARE WALKING THE EQUITY WALK**

University 2

Dr. William Johnson, Superintendent, Rockville Centre Schools (New York)
Dr. Judith Johnson, Superintendent, Peekskill City Schools (New York)

Come hear from two exceptional school district leaders, one from an urban setting and the other from a suburban setting, who have both been recognized as *New York Superintendents of the Year* for their exceptional work in developing systems that work for all students. They both share unwavering goals of high achievement and attainment of high standards for all students in their charge, and will reveal their shared, as well as unique, leadership challenges for the development of district policies and practices that respond to the unique assets and educational & political challenges of their very different communities and constituents.

**CREATING A COLLEGE-GOING CULTURE FOR
MINORITY STUDENTS IN OUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

William Penn 1

Dr. Shelly Schneider, Superintendent, Millville Public School District (New Jersey)
Beth Davis, Literacy Coach, Lakeside Middle School (New Jersey)

The Millville Public School District of New Jersey will discuss how through the implementation of the AVID program and the organization of our Ladies and Gentlemen's Club, the secondary schools have created a college-going culture that provides a rigorous curriculum and promotes leadership among our students. The mission of AVID is to ensure that all students will complete a rigorous college preparatory path and become educated and responsible participants and leaders in a democratic society. College For Every Student (CFES) is a non-profit organization committed to raising the academic aspirations and performance of underserved youth so that they can prepare for, gain access to, and succeed in college.

ALL THAT IS KNOWN: COMBATING 21ST CENTURY ISSUES

William Penn 2

Connie Leech, Executive Director of Integrated Literacy, Rochester City School District (New York)
Mary Kay Diminio-Lara, SpringBoard Instructional Coordinator, Rochester City School District (NY)

School districts must be open to addressing the critical social issues that impede students' ability to learn in ways that result in higher levels of student engagement, greater interest in literacy, and increased student achievement. District leaders must incite their teachers and students with new passion and provide opportunities that acknowledge the potentials and threats of their community. This session will focus on how a community-based and socially relevant literary experience can empower students as learners, and help break the cycle of violence in school communities. Participants will be provided with process steps and materials that any district can adapt to create their own community-based movement.

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

LUNCH AND LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ben Franklin Ballroom

**THE CRITICAL ROLE OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT LEADERSHIP IN
CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAPS**



*Dr. Deborah Jewell-Sherman, Senior Lecturer, Harvard Graduate School of Education, and
Former Superintendent for Richmond (Va.) City Public Schools*

1:30 -1:45 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS

Ben Franklin Ballroom

Catherine Nti, Senior Director, K-12, Middle States Regional Office, College Board