

For Immediate Release

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Distinguished Achievement Awards Presented at this Evening's Legislative Meeting Celebrate District Partnership, Parent Engagement and Student Participation

PITTSBURGH August 22, 2007 – Tonight the Board recognized individuals in three categories: partnerships, parent engagement and student participation. All honorees received Distinguished Achievement Awards for their efforts.

Pittsburgh Public Schools Celebrates 15-Year Partnership with Allegheny County Bar Association

The Board presented the Allegheny County Bar Association with a Distinguished Achievement Award honoring its 15-year partnership with the District to offer internships to students through its Minority Summer Law Internship Program. Allegheny County Bar Association President, Ken Gormley and Minority Summer Law Internship Program Coordinator, Marlene Ellis accepted the award.

The internship program, created in 1993 by the Allegheny County Bar Association, provides students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools an opportunity to obtain work experience and insight into the skills and education needed for a career in the legal field. The Bar Association, in coordination with the Pittsburgh Public Schools, selects 25 to 30 minority students to participate in the program each year. Students must have completed their junior year of high school in order to participate in the program. Students involved in the program are paid \$2,000.00 for eight weeks of work in area law firms and legal organizations.

All student participants receive business attire purchased by the Allegheny County Bar Association consisting of shirts, pants or skirts that they are required to wear to work. Since the program's inception, law firms and legal organizations have contributed close to \$1 million dollars to provide internships to Pittsburgh Public Schools incoming seniors. To date, close to 450 minority high school students have participated in the program.

District Receives Excellent Federal Review of Its Head Start Program

Pittsburgh Public Schools parents who dedicated their time as members of the District's Head Start Policy Council received Board recognition for their work on the 2007 Federal Head Start Review. The Federal Administration for Children and Families conducted an on-site monitoring review of the District's Head Start Program on March 18, 2007. Every three years, monitoring reviews are organized into sections and based on its review of over 1700 items only one item required correction. The Pittsburgh Public Schools Head Start Program had no areas of noncompliance in its Health Services, Nutritional Services, Safe Environments, Disability Services, Mental Health Services, Family and Community Services, Transportation Services, Education and Early Childhood Development Services and Fiscal Management.

Members of the Head Start Policy Council Executive body accepted the District's Distinguished Achievement Award. They are Robert Samuel, Henry Strothers, Denine Hornezes, Melissa Stutsman, Etta Walls, Michelle Balfe, Vivian Herman, Elizabeth Strickland and Celeste Benzo-Slaughter.

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Three Incoming 9th Graders Receive iPods for Efforts to Recruit Classmates to Participate in 9th Grade Nation Experience

Alison Buckley of Pittsburgh Allderdice, Breonna Whitaker of Pittsburgh Langley and Tyree Brown of Pittsburgh Oliver each received an iPod this evening for their efforts to recruit classmates to participate in this year's 9th Grade Nation Experience. To increase attendance, students were asked to bring another 9th grade student with them who may not have initially decided to participate. The incentive for doing this was a chance to win an iPod.

The 9th Grade Nation Experience provided an opportunity for all incoming high school freshmen to interact with their classmates of the graduating class of 2011, have some fun, learn about high school life and discuss graduating plans for the future. Nearly 800 members of the 9th Grade Nation participated in a variety of activities both on and off their respective school campuses. In addition, each of the ten high schools traveled to Camp Guyasutta where students participated in trust-building activities and learned not only a little about themselves, but a lot about each other.

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