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**18 Urban Public Charter Schools Recognized
For Driving Breakthrough Gains in Student Achievement**

*Educators at winning schools to receive incentive awards
in exchange for sharing their effective practices*

NEW YORK (March 9, 2011) – The Effective Practice Incentive Community (EPIC), a national initiative of New Leaders for New Schools, announced the winners today of this year’s EPIC awards honoring high-need urban charter schools driving dramatic student achievement gains. Individual principals, assistant principals, teachers and instructional aides at these schools will be given awards totaling an estimated \$1.8 million in exchange for sharing their effective practices. Through this innovative program, New Leaders for New Schools learns from the successes of these groundbreaking schools and also shares that knowledge with other educators so that they can impact student achievement.

“We are so excited to recognize these schools for their strong results in raising the achievement of their students,” said Jean Desravines, Chief Executive Officer of New Leaders for New Schools. “A vital element of the EPIC program is that schools are rewarded for the act of sharing the effective practices that are driving results for students. Through EPIC, we are able to provide school leaders across the country with knowledge about the practices they can use and the actions they can take to create breakthrough gains for students in their schools.”

Using a value-added model to analyze performance data from 175 charter schools across the country during the 2009-2010 school year, EPIC identified 18 schools that have made the most dramatic gains in student achievement. The value-added model was created specifically for the EPIC charter school program and is the only cross-state value-added comparison of charter schools. All participating schools serve high-need populations. On average, more than 75% of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

With today’s awards included, the EPIC Charter initiative has distributed nearly \$6.4 million to over 1,500 educators to date. This year, award-winning schools span 14 cities in six states and the District of Columbia. Of the 18 award-winning schools, eight have won previous EPIC Awards. Two schools, **Community Day Charter Public School**, Lawrence, MA, and **Match Charter Public High School**, Boston, MA, have won EPIC awards in all four years of the program. A full list of the award winners is below.

According to a recent survey conducted by Rockman et al, the majority of EPIC-award winning school leaders (82%) felt that EPIC incentives are a factor in retaining highly effective teachers. Most teachers (72%) and school leaders (71%) said that winning an award encouraged them to reflect on their practice and how they might improve. These findings are from survey responses from 58 EPIC award-winning school leaders and 131 award-winning teachers from 2009-2010.

EPIC investigates and documents effective practices from award-winning schools that are then made available on the EPIC Knowledge System, a powerful web-based professional development resource documenting the real-life practices of urban district and charter schools driving significant achievement gains.

EPIC's National Charter School Consortium, currently in its fourth year, is made up of 175 eligible schools in 23 states and the District of Columbia. In its first three years, the EPIC National Charter School Consortium awarded more than \$4.8 million to over 1,200 educators in 47 schools in 13 states. The EPIC program is also active in Memphis City Schools, D.C. Public Schools, and Denver Public Schools. EPIC is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF), school district and charter school partners, and private philanthropic funders. More information can be found at www.nlms.org/epic/charters.

New Leaders for New Schools is working to address the national crisis in urban public education by selecting and preparing outstanding leaders and supporting the performance of the urban public schools they lead at scale. New Leaders for New Schools has set clear goals and strategies to help schools led by New Leader Principals succeed while also supporting the success of our partner school systems and, over time, education practitioners and policymakers nationwide. Our strong focus on our mission and long-term goals is allowing New Leaders for New Schools to make a powerful contribution toward our vision that one day every student will graduate from high school ready for college, career, and citizenship. Additional information on New Leaders for New Schools can be found at www.nlms.org.

2011 EPIC CHARTER SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS

GOLD-GAIN SCHOOLS

Schools are listed alphabetically. Gold-gain schools are the highest ranking schools in the value-added analysis completed by Mathematica Policy Research.

School	Location	Total Award Amount+	Principal
Camino Nuevo Charter Academy-Harvard Site	Los Angeles, CA	\$124,000	Heather McManus
Columbus Collegiate Academy*	Columbus, OH	\$42,000	Andrew Boy
MATCH Charter Public School***	Boston, MA	\$84,000	Jorge Miranda
Red Bank Charter School	Red Bank, NJ	\$100,000	Meredith Pennotti

SILVER-GAIN SCHOOLS

Schools are listed alphabetically. Silver-gain schools are the next highest ranking schools in the value-added analysis completed by Mathematica Policy Research

School	Location	Total Award Amount+	Principal
Achievement Preparatory Academy	Washington, D.C.	\$34,000	Shantelle Wright
Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public School	Adams, MA	\$78,000	Benjamin Klompus
Boston Collegiate Charter School**	Boston, MA	\$165,000	Kathleen Sullivan
City on a Hill Charter	Roxbury, MA	\$74,000	Paul Hays

Public School			
Community Day Charter Public School***	Lawrence, MA	\$131,000	Mary Chance
Denver School of Science and Technology Middle School at Stapleton	Denver, CO	\$72,500	Rich Harrison
Freire Charter School	Philadelphia, PA	\$93,500	Kelly Davenport
Mastery Charter Shoemaker Campus**	Philadelphia, PA	\$108,000	Sharif El Mekki
Mastery Charter Thomas Campus*	Philadelphia, PA	\$129,000	Matt Troha
Propel McKeesport Charter School**	Pittsburgh, PA	\$83,500	Tina Chekan
Propel Montour Charter School	Pittsburgh, PA	\$107,500	Justin Aglio
The Neighborhood House Charter School	Dorchester, MA	\$147,500	Kevin Andrews
University Heights Charter School	Newark, NJ	\$61,000	Misha Simmonds
West Denver Prep: Federal Campus*	Denver, CO	\$58,000	Katie Holz-Russell

+ Estimated award amount. Award amounts are estimated because they are based on the number of eligible staff at each school. New Leaders for New Schools is currently collecting these final numbers.

*Two-time EPIC award winner

**Three-time EPIC award winner

***Four-time EPIC award winner

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