



Fairfield County Community Foundation

with the Connecticut Center for School Change presents

The 2009-10 Urban School Leaders Fellowship

Building the capacity of tomorrow's school leaders today

"I've had an 'Ah-ha!' moment after every session."

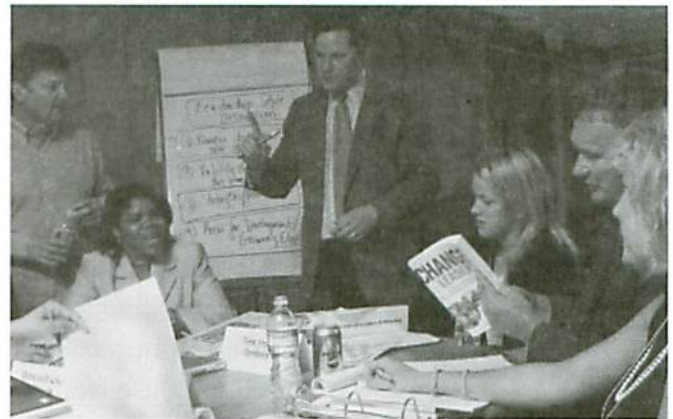
—Fellow from Bridgeport

"After this, I'll never be the same. I will never look at classrooms through the same eyes."

—Fellow from Norwalk

"The curriculum is thoughtful, intelligent and well thought out for adult learning. It's impressive."

—Superintendent Joshua Starr
Stamford Public Schools



A fellowship program that prepares the future leaders of public schools in Bridgeport, Danbury, Norwalk and Stamford with real-world training

Program Schedule

13 Days Total

Summer Institute Dates

June 29, 30, July 1 and July 8, 9, 2009
Location: Norwalk area

School Year Dates

Eight full days, with dates and locations to be determined at the Summer Institute



Fairfield County Community Foundation thanks the
GE Foundation

for making this program possible in part through a grant

The 2009-10 Urban School Leaders Fellowship

The Urban School Leaders Fellowship is a program for school-based administrators and educators in Bridgeport, Danbury, Norwalk and Stamford with an 092 endorsement on their teaching certificate (or are eligible for an 092), and a strong desire to become a principal.

Summer Institute

June 29, 30, July 1 and July 8, 9, 2009 in the Norwalk area

School Year

Eight full days, with dates to be determined at the Summer Institute

About the Fellowship

The Urban School Leaders Fellowship was created by the Fairfield County Community Foundation in response to the expressed leadership needs of urban school districts in Fairfield County. The program will help develop a larger pool of diverse, highly-qualified, effective and entrepreneurial leaders committed to making a positive and lasting impact upon student achievement.

About the Program

Strong school leaders can mobilize communities of professionals, transform culture and influence student academic achievement. Research indicates that among schoolhouse factors, talented and knowledgeable building principals are second only to great teachers for ensuring student success.

As districts struggle to help all students master increasingly challenging standards, our schools require resourceful and capable leaders. Urban schools especially need leaders who can foster new organizational focus and dramatic changes in teaching and learning to close achievement gaps, and provide all students with lifelong opportunities.

This cohort-based and job-embedded leadership development program seeks to identify and develop an elite cadre of future building leaders. The fellowship will use Connecticut's Common Core of Leading as the curriculum framework. Special attention is given to the domains of Systems Thinking and Teaching and Learning, two competency areas essential for practicing transformative leadership.

This program will model what we know about how adults learn best. Through case studies, project-based learning and action research, Fellows will develop strategies and skills to lead an urban school that improves student learning. Each Fellow is expected to conduct a mutually agreed upon project within his or her district related to instructional improvement.

Fellows will be able to participate in a professional learning community with colleagues from their district and a network of fellows from other districts.

In the next five years, nearly half of principals leading Bridgeport, Danbury, Norwalk and Stamford public schools will retire or change careers. There are few qualified candidates to replace them.

The futures of 60,000 children are at stake. This could be an educational crisis. We view it as an exciting opportunity.

**—Fairfield County
Community Foundation**

"I went by my school this morning and I just stood outside for a moment. It didn't feel like the same school—meaning I know that I am not the same."

—Fellow from Danbury

About the Faculty

- **Laura Boutilier**, Program Coordinator, CT Center for School Change and former Assistant Superintendent, Rocky Hill, Connecticut
- **Dr. Salvatore Corda**, Superintendent, Norwalk, Connecticut
- **Cynthia Fernandes**, Executive Director of Learning and Teaching, Bridgeport, Connecticut
- **Dr. William R. Glass**, Associate Superintendent, Danbury, Connecticut
- **Dr. Winifred Hamilton**, Deputy Superintendent, Stamford, Connecticut
- **Dr. Richard W. Lemons**, Director, Institute for Urban School Improvement, University of Connecticut
- **Larry Schaefer**, Program Coordinator, CT Center for School Change, and former Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent, Milford, Connecticut

Should You Apply? Yes, Providing You...

- Are a current assistant principal or other education leader in Bridgeport, Danbury, Norwalk and Stamford with an 092 endorsement on your teaching certificate, or eligible for an 092, and
- Are passionate about leading a public school in Bridgeport, Danbury, Norwalk and Stamford, and
- Are eager to participate in a cutting-edge learning community, and
- Want to improve your school leadership skills using the best of adult learning theories

Stipend

Each Fellow will receive a \$2,000 stipend upon successful completion of program requirements. The stipend will be paid in two installments: \$600 in July 2009 and \$1,400 in June 2010, contingent on session participation and completion of the leadership project.

How to Apply for the Urban School Leaders Fellowship

Download an application from www.fccfoundation.org or www.ctschoolchange.org. Applications should be emailed to USLF@ctschoolchange.org. **Application deadline is Thursday, April 9, 2009.** Application review will begin on April 13. Responses will be sent to participants beginning April 14. Applications will continue to be accepted on a space available basis until May 1.

More Information

Larry Schaefer
lschaefer@ctschoolchange.org, or

Laura Boutilier
lboutilier@ctschoolchange.org

Connecticut Center for School Change
151 New Park Ave., Suite 203
Hartford, CT 06106

Phone 860.586.2340, Fax 860.586.7360, Website www.ctschoolchange.org

"I learned so much about myself, leadership, and improving student achievement. I don't think my 092 course work inspired me as much as our sessions did."

—Fellow from Stamford

"I have developed an ability to clearly articulate what I consider quality teaching."

—Fellow from Norwalk

"I now know what my role is as a leader and have a better understanding of how to lead others to change."

—Fellow from Bridgeport

Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. The Foundation has awarded over \$100 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond.

Through competitive grants, the Foundation supports local nonprofits with effective programs for education and youth development, economic opportunity (including affordable housing, workforce development and economic security for women), health and human services, arts and culture, environmental protection and increasing efficiencies at nonprofit organizations. The Foundation also develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues.

The Urban School Leaders Fellowship is one component of the Foundation's School Leadership Initiative, a strategy for narrowing the achievement gap in Fairfield County's urban public schools.

The Connecticut Center for School Change consults with school districts to improve student outcomes. The Center's goal is to help all districts teach all students to achieve at high standards.

The Center believes school improvement can be achieved through strong leadership, hard work, organizational focus and program coherence. It supports comprehensive reform through grants, technical assistance, leadership development programs, conferences/seminars, research and application of best practices.

The three major components of the Center's work include leadership development programs, financial support and technical assistance to school districts, and research and formulation of public policy options for state and local appointed and elected officials.

The Center's work marries theory with practice, hands-on, field-based activities with academic research, and local experience and knowledge with national expertise.

Institute for Urban School Improvement, Neag School of Education, University of Connecticut is a research and development center dedicated to understanding and supporting the improvement of urban schools in Connecticut and across the nation.

The Institute supports research on urban school improvement, the achievement gap and urban school leadership. In addition, the Institute supports the implementation of evidence-based practice in schools through the CommPACT Schools Initiative, ATLAS Communities and Accelerated Schools plus.

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Sponsors and Supporters

Fairfield County Community Foundation is pleased to recognize and thank these generous companies, private foundations and fundholders for their sponsorship of Fellows and support of this program.

Fellow Sponsors

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"I want to let everyone know how much I value this program. After each session I feel more comfortable (and competent) in my role as an instructional leader. Thank you all very much."

—Fellow from Danbury