

GESU's 12th Annual Symposium

Transforming Inner-City Education

**Faith-based Schools? Charter Schools?
Renaissance Schools? Magnet Schools?**

Is There One Answer?



November 2, 2009
PROGRAM

We offer special gratitude to the
sponsors of the 12th Annual Gesu
Symposium on Inner City Education:

Thank you!

**Cozen O'Connor
Leonard & Susan Klehr
SCP Partners**

We also **thank** our Trustees;
Principal Sister Ellen Convey, IHM; the Gesu
Gospel Choir directed by H.L. Ratliff; and the
Gesu School staff, teachers and students.

Gesu School

Gesu School is an independent Catholic school that provides a high-quality, faith-based education to the children of North Philadelphia in the Jesuit and IHM traditions.

- 460 students, pre-K through grade 8, attend Gesu School.
- 95% of students are non-Catholic.
- More than 70% of students qualify for free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch programs.
- Over 90% of Gesu alumni graduate from high school in four years, well above the city's average on-time graduation rate of 51%.

With the help of numerous friends and supporters, Gesu Works!

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 12th Annual Gesu Symposium on Inner-City Education!

Many injustices, especially in education, drove the creation of this Symposium in 1997. We hoped for a forum where substantive issues and challenges related to inner-city education could be discussed as building blocks for us all. And we are proud of the many topics covered and the many prestigious panelists who have participated.

Interestingly, the title of the first Gesu Symposium was “Are Faith-Based Schools an Answer?” And here we are today asking “Is There One Answer?” In fact, many approaches work in successful schools with committed teachers and leaders – charter schools, magnet schools and faith-based schools.

Our panelists today will tackle the challenges from some different perspectives. We thank them, and we will all benefit from their experiences.

Here at Gesu School, every hour and every day, social justice in education drives what happens. First, we set high behavior expectations for our children. Although that is an ongoing process, we also set academic expectations appropriate and achievable for each child. Since our admissions policy is not selective but rather first-come, first-served – with highest priority for this underserved zip code, we do not “cherry pick” our students.

Yet, we get outstanding results! Our students go on to worthy high schools – and over 90% graduate on time in four years, as opposed to the City’s dismal statistic of 51%. In addition, about 60% of our alums go on to higher education, preparing for or already working in careers such as business administration, marriage and family therapy, speech pathology, teaching, nursing and forensics.

We thank you for attending today, and we ask that you share your ideas that work, as we try to do.

With thanks for your interest and commitment,



Winston J. Churchill, *Chairman*
Gesu School



Christine S. Beck, *President*
Gesu School

PROGRAM

Prelude

Gesu Gospel Choir

Welcome

Ivory Thomas, *Gesu School 5th Grader*

Panel Discussion

Winston J. Churchill, *Moderator*
Christine S. Beck
Dr. John J. DiIulio, Jr.
Honorable Bruce W. Kauffman
Dr. Jane Dammen McAuliffe
Benjamin W. Rayer

Reception

PANELISTS

Winston J. Churchill, *moderator*



Win Churchill has been managing general partner of SCP Partners, a family of venture capital funds, since its inception in 1996. He has over 25 years of experience in private equity investment. From 1989 to 1993 he served as Chairman of the Finance Committee of the \$50 billion Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System. Mr. Churchill is director of a number of companies, both public and private.

Mr. Churchill serves as the Board Chairman for both Gesu School and the Gesu Institute, as well as Young Scholars Charter School. He is also a trustee of Immaculata University, American Friends of New College Oxford, England and a former trustee of Fordham

University and Georgetown University.

Mr. Churchill received his B.S. degree in physics, *summa cum laude*, from Fordham University in 1962, his M.A. degree in economics from Oxford University in 1964, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar, and his J.D. degree from Yale Law School in 1967.

Christine S. Beck



Chris Beck has been President and CEO of Gesu School since June 2003, and previously served on the Board of Trustees from 1996 to 2003. In 2007 Gesu completed a \$12 million campaign, which included a \$6 million expansion project, dedicated in September 2006.

Mrs. Beck has held volunteer leadership positions in varied non-profit organizations. In recognition of her efforts to create opportunities for underserved youth, she has received numerous prestigious awards, at both the national and regional levels.

Currently, Mrs. Beck serves on the Boards of Saint Joseph's Preparatory School and Arthur Ashe Learning Center, Inc., as well as the Advisory Board of Arthur Ashe Youth Tennis and Education.

She holds a B.A. degree, with Honors, from Queens University of Charlotte and an M.A. degree from Bryn Mawr College, both in German literature. She is married, has three sons and is a member of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church.

Dr. John J. DiIulio, Jr.



John J. DiIulio, Jr. is the Frederic Fox Leadership Professor at the University of Pennsylvania where he heads the Fox Leadership Program. Before coming to Penn, he was a professor and research center director at Princeton University. He received a doctorate in Political Science from Harvard University and majored in Economics at Penn. He has authored over a dozen books including *Godly Republic: A Centrist Blueprint for America's Faith-Based Future* (University of California Press, 2007) and (with James Q. Wilson) *American Government: Institutions and Policies, 11th edition* (Cengage, 2009).

Dr. DiIulio has founded nationally-recognized programs to reduce youth violence, promote literacy, and mentor the children of prisoners. In 2001 he served as first director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. He has been deeply involved in post-Katrina recovery efforts in New Orleans, and in myriad efforts to save, support, and strengthen Catholic schools that serve low-income children and families.

Involved with North Philadelphia's Gesu School since 1997, Dr. DiIulio credits the Gesu as "a model inner-city school" and "model for all sacred places that serve civic purposes."

Honorable Bruce W. Kauffman



Honorable Bruce W. Kauffman has recently retired from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania where he served from 1998 until July of 2009. Before joining the federal bench, Judge Kauffman served as Chairman of the Dilworth Paxson law firm for sixteen years. From 1980 until 1982, Judge Kauffman served as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and from 1995 until 2001, he was an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Judge Kauffman is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Yale Law School, a Member of the American Law Institute, a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Judge Kauffman is now Co-Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Elliott Greenleaf law firm.

Dr. Jane Dammen McAuliffe



Dr. Jane Dammen McAuliffe became the 8th president of Bryn Mawr College in July 2008. She is also a Professor in the History Department of Bryn Mawr. Previously, she had served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Georgetown, Chair of the Department for the Study of Religion and Professor of Islamic Studies in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto, and Professor and Associate Dean at Emory University. She received her B.A. in Philosophy and Classics from Trinity College, Washington, D.C. and her M.A. in religious studies and Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from the University of Toronto.

Dr. McAuliffe is an internationally known scholar of Islamic studies. She has written or edited four books, published dozens of articles and recently completed the six-volume *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an* (Brill, 2001-2006), the first such reference work in Western languages. Dr. McAuliffe's work has been supported by prestigious fellowships, including those from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Mellon Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, and Guggenheim Foundation. She was elected to the American Philosophical Society in 2007 and to the Council on Foreign Relations in 2009.

She has served on the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with Muslims as well as on the boards of the American Academy of Religion, of which she was president in 2004, and Trinity University.

Benjamin W. Rayer



Mr. Rayer is the Chief Charter, Partnership and New Schools Officer at the Philadelphia School District. In this capacity, he manages 100 schools enrolling more than 50,000 students. Prior to joining the School District, Mr. Rayer was the President and Chief Operating Officer of Mastery Charter Schools. In this role, he was responsible for managing the day to day operations and finances of a charter school system operating high achievement high schools in underserved communities.

Prior to working for Mastery, Mr. Rayer was a Director of The Broad Center for the Management of School Systems, where he currently teaches courses focused on leadership development, finance and operations of urban public school systems.

Previously, Mr. Rayer was a senior consultant at Public Financial Management, providing capital funding advice and management consulting services to governmental entities and school districts across the United States. He also served as the Special Assistant to the Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia, taught 5th grade in the Long Beach Unified School District and worked for an international consumer lending corporation.

Mr. Rayer holds a B.S. degree in Policy Analysis from Cornell University, an M.G.A. degree from the University of Pennsylvania and is a 2002 graduate of the Broad Center's Urban Superintendents Academy training program.

Gesu School Board of Trustees

Winston J. Churchill, *Chairman*

Christine S. Beck, *President / CEO*

J. Gordon Cooney, Jr., Esq., *Co-Vice Chairman*

Robert M. McAlaine, *Co-Vice Chairman*

Keith M. Pension, *Secretary*

Barbara Renninger, *Treasurer*

John E. Backe

Scott A. Beaumont

Edward F. Beckett

Letitia Biddle

Judith Bigley '72

Bernadette Briscoe

Tempest Bryant '03

Rev. George W. Bur, SJ

Robert Bynum

Rev. William Byron, SJ

Kathleen M. Cannon

Roger Carolin

Joseph J. Cathcart

Ellen Churchill

James L. Crawford, Jr.

Gerard J. Davies

Thomas A. Decker, Esq.

John J. DiIulio, Jr., Ph.D.*

Sr. John Evelyn DiTrollo, IHM

Vivienne Lambert Ehret

Leon Ellerson

Rosemary Español, CFM

Sr. R. Patricia Fadden, IHM, Ed.D.

Robert A. Fox

Peter G. Gould

Sr. Margaret Gradl, IHM

James F. Higgins '45

Philip J. Kendall

Leonard M. Klehr, Esq.

Lisa Korn-Blank

Nyree S. Lyons, RN, '95

Byron A. McCook, Ph.D., '73

Tashon McKeithan

H. Scott Miller

Peter S. Miller

Peter C. Morse

Hon. Michael A. Nutter

Mark B. O'Brien

Kay O'Grady

Kenneth Phelan

Stephen S. Phillips

Louis R. Pichini

Steve S. Piltch

Julia Rafferty, Esq.

Rev. Daniel Ruff, SJ

Ralph S. Saul

Susan Shea

Daryl J. Shore '94

Boreta Singleton

Babette Snyder

Mark I. Solomon

Randi Zemsky

*Advisory Trustee

Sr. Ellen Convey, IHM, *Principal*

Rev. Neil Ver'Schneider, SJ, *Assistant Principal*

Sr. Patrica McGrenra, IHM, *Assistant Principal*

Past Symposia

2008 Transforming Inner-City Education: Lessons in Leadership

2007 Inner-City Education: What's Old? What's New? What's Next?

2006 Transforming Inner-City Education: Can an Early Start Change the Outcome?

2005 How Colleges and Universities Can Partner with Faith-Based Communities to Serve Urban Children in Need

2004 Transforming Inner-City Education: Lessons from the Entrepreneurs

2003 Educational Reform: What's Next?

2002 Children Learning Amid Stress

2001 Research and Roadblocks to Developing Young Readers

1999 The Urban Child in Peril: Can Literacy Change the Outcome?

1998 Do Faith and Vouchers Mix?

1997 Inner-City Education: Are Faith-Based Schools an Answer?



Gesu School

1700 W. Thompson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19121

215-763-9077 • www.GesuSchool.org