

From: The National Urban Alliance for Effective Education



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For Immediate Release

Columbus Elementary School Teachers Awarded Certification in Instrumental Enrichment!

"I'm extremely proud of the Columbus staff members and administration for their commitment to the empowerment of their scholars. Belief and hard work matter, and the combination of our people and I.E. is making a difference!" – Dr. John Ramos, Superintendent, Bridgeport School District.

Bridgeport, Connecticut, March 10th - Teachers in Columbus Elementary School will be celebrated in their milestone achievement of certification in the world-renowned Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment (IE) program. As Part of the district's professional development partnership with the National Urban Alliance, select teachers have participated in a rigorous two-year training course in IE. The certificate presentation ceremony will take place **Thursday March 25th, 2010 at Columbus Elementary School 160 Iranistan Avenue - Bridgeport, CT 06604 beginning at 12pm.**

The Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment (FIE) is a classroom curriculum designed to enhance the cognitive functions necessary for academic learning and achievement. The fundamental assumption of the program is that intelligence is dynamic and modifiable, not static or fixed. The belief is that talent and intelligence is a process which can be guided and developed by good teaching; not as something we have inherited and derived solely from our genes, but as something we can do and improve through deliberative practice. Designed as a two- or three-year program in three levels, FIE consists of fourteen instruments, which are taught through a multi-level certification process.

The purpose of the Bridgeport/NUA partnership is to reverse student under-achievement by "painting a portrait of possibilities" that involves raising expectations, revisiting learning and teaching, and reinforcing the district's mission to insure that all students are college ready upon graduation. Columbus 2008 - 2009 data suggests 5th grade students have made a 26% gain in math and a 20% gain in reading.

The goal of the partnership is to provide a series of research-based professional development activities for teachers and administrators that are designed to build a common set of understandings regarding learning and teaching, to introduce powerful pedagogy that transforms learning, and to develop a district-wide set of expectations and experiences, a common language of learning and teaching, and a shared vision that propels learning.

The professional development activities supporting these goals include highly interactive large group conference-style sessions, as well as site visits in which participating teachers observe demonstration lessons, co-teach, and participate in peer-to-peer coaching, as well as instruction in Instrumental Enrichment. Columbus Elementary School teachers and staff are the pilot program for NUA's implementation of IE in Connecticut. Other national sites include: Albany, New York and East Allen County, Indiana.

For more information about IE, the NUA, contact pr@nuatc.org or call 516.802.4192

The NUA's mission is to substantiate an irrefutable belief in the capacity of all school children to achieve the high intellectual performance demanded by our ever-changing global community. Our focus is teacher and administrator quality through professional development, which incorporates current research from cognitive neuroscience on learning, teaching, and leading. In partnership with school districts, NUA engages the community to recognize their role in the development of the learning potential of its children.