

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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EPLC & IEL Present National Educational Leadership Awards

(HARRISBURG) On March 21, 2004, the Pennsylvania chapter of the Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) and its national partner, the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL), presented four awards at the annual Pennsylvania Education Policy and Leadership Conference.

IEL's National Leadership Award was presented to Dr. Helen S. Faison, Director, Pittsburgh Teachers Institute, Chatham College, and to Ronald Cowell, President, The Education Policy and Leadership Center, in appreciation of their effective contributions to the improvement of American education and to the continued strengthening and growth of educational leaders. Betty Hale, IEL President, said that, "IEL is committed to creating human and social capital and using it to improve outcomes for children and youth. Dr. Faison's career, which has spanned the four decades of IEL and EPFP's existence, exemplifies our mission, and we honor her unwavering commitment."

Hale added, "IEL is pleased to confirm with this award its own and the nation's deep respect for Ron's vision, courage, competence and compassion in the service of schoolchildren in Pennsylvania and across the nation."

The Pennsylvania EPFP's Distinguished Alumni Service Award was presented to James R. Weaver, President, Pennsylvania State Education Association, and Tomi Waters Boylstein, Past President of the Pennsylvania PTA (Pennsylvania EPFP Class of 2001-2002 and 2000-2001, respectively). Both were recognized for their distinguished service to American education and to the Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP).

National EPFP director Hunter N. Moorman, noted, "We are privileged to have program alumni of the caliber of Tomi Waters Boylstein and James Weaver. Their dedication and accomplishments reflect the finest values of EPFP and its Fellows and alumni in Pennsylvania and across the nation. Both are leaders whose work has had and continues to have a major impact on the education and well-being of children."

Established in 1964, EPFP has graduated more than 5,500 Fellows who are leaders in K-12 and higher education organizations, foundations, and agencies, at the federal, state, and local levels. The 11 state sites conduct programs tailored to local needs and conditions,

while collective goals and objectives, a common curricular framework, two annual national meetings, and a network of 22 coordinators provide programmatic connections across the EPFP.

The Pennsylvania EPFP is sponsored by The Education Policy and Leadership Center. Applications for the 2004-05 EPFP class are being accepted now. For program information or an application, contact EPLC at (717) 260-9900 or visit www.eplc.org/leadership.html.

Dr. Helen S. Faison - IEL National Leadership Award

A lifelong leader, mentor, and role model, Helen currently serves as the Director of the Pittsburgh Teachers Institute at Chatham College. She was employed for 43 years by the Pittsburgh Board of Education in a variety of instructional and administrative roles, including service as interim Superintendent. She belongs to many professional and civic organizations including the Board of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, the Negro Educational Emergency Drive, The Education Policy and Leadership Center, and the Buhl Foundation.

Ronald Cowell - IEL National Leadership Award

Ron's dedication to improving education policy through his current role as president of The Education Policy and Leadership Center is rooted in the broad range of experience he garnered during more than two decades of public service. Ron served for 24 years in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and 12 years as majority or minority chair of the House Committee on Education. During that time he also served on the boards of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) and Pennsylvania's Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention Programs. At the national level, Ron serves as a member of the board of directors of the Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities and on several K-12 and higher education advisory committees. He also has served on the National Education Goals Panel, as past Vice-Chair of the Education Commission of the States, former chair of the Government Affairs Committee of the National Association of State Boards of Education, and former chair of the Education Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Tomi Waters Boylstein - EPFP Class of 2000-2001

EPFP Distinguished Service Alumni Award

An ardent advocate for children, Tomi has contributed many years of volunteer service to education. She served as President of the Pennsylvania PTA and currently sits on the Board of Directors of the National PTA. She served three terms as a local school board member in the Apollo-Ridge School District. When she is not busy with volunteer service, Tomi is an educator and planner for the Southwest Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center, where she directs the organization's education activities in seven western Pennsylvania counties.

James R. Weaver - EPFP Class of 2001-2002

EPFP Distinguished Service Alumni Award

Jim's service to education and children began over 30 years ago as a Social Studies teacher in the State College Area School District. He currently is in his first term a President of the Pennsylvania State Education Association. He has been an outspoken advocate for adequate

and equitable state funding of public education and for providing support to schools and teachers in their quest to provide each child with a high quality education.

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