

NEWS RELEASE -

June 7, 2005

Contact:

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Twenty-Six Graduate from Nationally Recognized Education Leadership Program

(Harrisburg) - The Education Policy and Leadership Center congratulates the 2004-2005 participants in the Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) on their graduation. Twenty-six participants completed this rigorous ten-month professional development program on June 7, 2005.

EPFP Fellows develop a broadened understanding of the policy process and education policy issues and improve communication and decision-making skills. Through a partnership with the U.S. Army War College, Fellows also enhance strategic leadership skills.

"This program has not only provided me the impetus to become more proactive in the development of policy for Higher Education but has re-kindled my motivation as a public servant," said graduate Aimee Alapack, Assistant Vice President, Technology Services Research and Policy Analysis for AES/PHEAA.

Class member Alexander Grande, Assistant Professor of Educational Administration at Gwynedd-Mercy College, said, "The EPFP program and cohort model has been one of the most significant and relevant educational experiences I have had in my educational career of over 40 years. Being surrounded by colleagues whose expertise spans political, educational, social and civic acumen and advocacy has enabled each participant to self-reflect on their ability to become real change agents for beneficial social and political policy. I am honored and privileged to have had the opportunity to participate in such a synergistic program."

Members of the 2004-2005 graduating class represent diverse sectors from state government to higher education to the U.S. Military. These graduates join 113 Pennsylvania EPFP alumni and more than 5,000 EPFP alumni from other states.

The EPFP is available in Pennsylvania through The Education Policy and Leadership Center. The nationally-recognized Education Policy Fellowship Program was established 40 years ago by the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, D.C.

The Education Policy and Leadership Center is currently accepting applications for the 2005-2006 class of the Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program. Applications and a program schedule are available at www.eplc.org/fellows.html.

A list of 2004-2005 EPFP graduates is attached.

2004-2005 Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program Graduates

Aimee Alapack

Assistant Vice President, Research and Policy Analysis, Technology Services
AES/PHEAA

Col. Charles D. Allen

Director, Leader Development
Department of Command, Leadership & Management, U. S. Army War College

Darcy Brenner-Smith

Director of Business Affairs
Palmyra Area School District

Dr. Bernard R. Brogan

Professor, Widener University

James Buckheit

Executive Director
State Board of Education
Pennsylvania Department of Education

Cassie Budzilek

Educational Consultant
PA Training & Technical Assistance Network

Dr. Thomas Chapman

Assistant Superintendent--Secondary Education
Pocono Mountain School District

Lynn M. Cromley

Director, Center for Schools and Communities
Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit

Cecil R. Crouch, III

Educational Consultant
PA Training & Technical Assistance Network

Col. Mark James Eshelman

Instructor, Department of Command, Leadership & Management
United States Army War College

Jeff Foreman

Chief of Staff
PA House of Representatives

Dr. Alexander Grande, III

Asst. Prof. of Educational Administration
Gwynedd-Mercy College

Paul L. Johnson

Member, Board of School Directors
Coatesville Area School District

Dr. Mary Margaret Kerr

Associate Professor of Education & Child Psychiatry
University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Denise G. Meister

Associate Professor of Education
The Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg

Christine Munchak

President
Pennsylvania PTA

Joanna Papada

Vice President of Operations
Manchester Craftsmen's Guild

Dr. Donna L. Patterson

Associate Dean & Director of Field Services
Clarion University of Pennsylvania
College of Education & Human Services

Dr. John W. Riegel

Assistant Superintendent
Manheim Township School District

Janis Risch

Communications Director
Good Schools Pennsylvania

Ann Schweighofer

Instructional Support Teacher
Wayne Highlands School District

Dina Vargo

Project Manager
A+ Schools

Richard C. Walton

Principal
Berwick Area Senior High School

Leigh N. Whitaker, Esq.
Executive Director
Office of Governmental Relations
School District of Philadelphia

Col. George J. Woods
Instructor, Department of Command, Leadership & Management
United States Army War College

David Zolkowski
Principal, Lincoln Elementary School
Bethel Park School District