

Cambridge College Welcomes 2007 Schott Fellows

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On Tuesday, January 23rd, Cambridge College welcomed 11 educational leaders who will spend the next year pioneering for change in Massachusetts. Cambridge College held a reception in honor of the 2007 Schott Fellows, a diverse group of senior leaders in early care and education in Massachusetts, who will strengthen public policy and education for children in the Commonwealth.

“We are very excited to have our new class,” says Dr. Valora Washington, Executive Director of the Schott Fellowship Program. “We are encouraged that the 2007 Fellows will really make a difference in the lives of children in the areas of healthcare, assessment and immigration.”

This year-long fellowship program is designed to develop a cadre of senior leadership in early care and education and engage new people, organizations and communities in the universal early education movement. The 2007 Schott Fellows are Sonia Carter from Dorchester, Jeannie Parkus from Somerville, Pamela Tames from Lexington, Phyllis Hardy from Ashland, Vanessa Otero from Chicopee, Susan Werley from South Boston, Ronna Schaffer from Attleboro, Jennifer Amaya-Thompson from Brighton, Adrienne Welch from Randolph, Mary Police from Worcester, and Barbara Kozma from Osterville.

“Schott Fellows are ‘architects for change’ for children and families in the Commonwealth,” says Dr. Washington. “This fellowship is a hands-on experience that will provide development of policy skills and a learning community for child advocates and educators who want to make a difference in the availability and quality of the preschool years.”

At the reception, Cambridge College President Mahesh C. Sharma encouraged the new Fellows to consider the two kinds of languages for children to learn: literacy and numeracy. President Sharma added that there is not enough emphasis placed on numeracy in the preschool years, and this is something for the Fellows to take into consideration during their research.

This year, the Schott Fellows will be working in the fields of healthcare, immigration and assessment. In order to get an understanding of immigrant children, the Fellows will be studying child and family life of Puerto Rican communities in both Boston and Cambridge College’s San Juan, Puerto Rico Regional Center.

The Schott Fellowship is funded by the Schott Foundation for Public Education as well as other private, public and community foundations, and is administered through Cambridge College.