



PRESS RELEASE

BALTIMORE, May 18, 2010. The Board of Directors of the Fund for Educational Excellence (the “Fund”) today announced that Roger Schulman has been named Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore-based local education fund, effective June 2010. Mr. Schulman brings to the Fund almost 20 years of experience in urban education in Baltimore City and other major urban districts. Fund board chair and DLA Piper partner Jim Mathias commented on the board’s decision. “We are delighted to welcome Roger Schulman to the Fund. His deep knowledge of and commitment to improved teacher effectiveness will benefit the Fund as we continue our efforts to enable educational excellence for all of Baltimore’s students. Roger brings to the Fund his perspective from working with local education funds and school systems throughout the country. Virtually everyone with whom we spoke about Roger emphasized his positive energy and his passion for public school children.”

Mr. Schulman came to Baltimore City 18 years ago for a two-year assignment with Teach for America (TFA) at West Baltimore Middle School. He later served as TFA’s Executive Director for Baltimore. Since 2000, he has worked with The New Teacher Project (TNTP), both in Baltimore and around the country, to promote teacher recruitment and training. “Baltimore has become my home, and the improvement of Baltimore’s public school system is the central focus of my professional life,” Mr. Schulman said. “I am honored to have the opportunity to sharpen that focus at the Fund. We will build upon the Fund’s proud tradition and strive to expand the organization’s positive influence on education in Baltimore City. I am excited to work with Dr. Alonso and his staff, as well as local and national foundations, to sustain the momentum and creativity they have brought to Baltimore City Schools.”

As a Senior Partner at TNTP, Mr. Schulman was responsible for launching its Staffing Initiatives business line. He started with a pilot program that initially operated only within Baltimore City Public Schools and helped grow it into one of the organization’s core services nationally. The program now works with 250 schools in 11 urban districts across the country. Mr. Schulman has worked directly with superintendents and other district leaders to market and negotiate TNTP’s contracts while maintaining collaborative working environments.

Dr. Andres Alonso, CEO of the Baltimore City Public Schools, commented: “I know Roger and admire his work. He and I share a strong passion for urban education, and I welcome the opportunity to join forces with him to build on the City Schools’ successes and to address the next set of challenges.” Dr. Alonso’s enthusiasm is shared by Michelle Rhee, the Chancellor for D.C. public schools, who has known Mr. Schulman since their stint together as TFA teachers. “Roger Schulman is an extraordinary champion for urban education reform and our nation’s neediest students. He is an ideal new leader for the Fund.”

Mr. Schulman was selected as Fund CEO from a pool of over 80 applicants from around the country. He succeeds Lisa M. Wright, who has been an integral part of the Fund’s senior leadership since 1998. Ms. Wright became Fund CEO in December 2007 and has built a strong platform of key relationships and fiscal responsibility for the Fund. She has positioned the organization as a key partner to Baltimore City Public Schools and other community-based organizations throughout the City. Additionally, Ms. Wright helped cultivate new support for Baltimore City’s education reforms from national foundations and partners. “I am excited to watch Roger take the Fund to the next level. I am confident that he will do a terrific job.”

Founded in 1984 as a partnership of businesses, parents, educators, and community leaders, the Fund for Educational Excellence is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is *to attract critical resources and support their effective implementation to achieve educational excellence for all students in the City Schools.*

To learn more about the Fund, please visit its website at www.ffee.org.

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