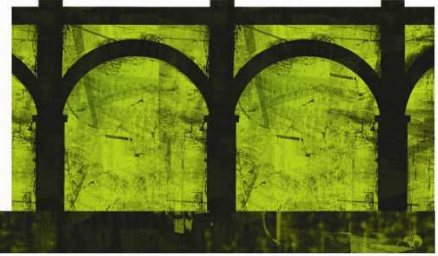


# the partnership for better education



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2006

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## **Syracuse 'Partnership for Better Education' announces expansion of programs in city schools; new institutional partners**

At an event held this afternoon at Henninger High School, Syracuse University Chancellor and President Nancy Cantor and Syracuse City School District (SCSD) Superintendent Daniel G. Lowengard announced the expansion of the "Partnership for Better Education," --the collaborative alliance founded between SU and SCSD--to include several area colleges and universities as partners in the program.

Joining the Partnership are the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, LeMoyne College, Onondaga Community College and SUNY Upstate Medical University. The addition of the new partnering institutions facilitates the expansion of Partnership programming into additional city schools. Building on the success of the pilot program launched in August 2005 in Nottingham High School, the Partnership will now offer programs to students in Corcoran, Henninger, Fowler and Central Technical high schools, and in the elementary and middle schools that feed into them.

Last fall, the Partnership was launched between SU and SCSD to assist area students in pursuing higher education by providing new opportunities for quality instruction and by improving students' access to the arts and creative resources for study.

"With the marked success of the SU/SCSD pilot program last year, we now have a model for coordination between higher education and public schools that allows for many future collaborations," says Cantor. "I'm thrilled to welcome our new institutional partners into the program. With this growing network of collaborative scholarship, Syracuse's public school students will have access to the educational resources that inspire creative thinking and innovation early in their education."

Also at today's event, the Partnership unveiled its new Web site for students, parents and Partnership members, found at: <http://partnership.syr.edu>. The site includes photos and information on current projects; upcoming events; the Partnership Strategic Plan; partnering institutions; and ways to become involved.

The Partnership is designed to complement the collective and individual efforts by many local institutions in support of SCSD. It will systematically find matches between needs within SCSD curriculum and institutional areas of strength in the arts, literacy, science and technology, engineering and math.

Among the new programs that will be introduced into the SCSD schools this fall are:

- Commitment to the smaller learning communities with a focus on literacy, science, math, technology and the arts; creating curricula through projects involving SU and SCSD faculty, utilization of on campus experiences related to the initiatives so that students come to campus.
- Early college experiences for high school students.
- Coordination of our pipeline programs, guiding the identified smaller learning communities' cohort of students to participate in pipeline programs.
- Commitment to enhancing availability of excellent teachers for teaching in urban schools particularly SCSD. To this end, the School of Education is announcing a scholarship program that reduces the cost of earning a master degree in science, math, literacy and special education by one-third. This is available to full-time students. It is also available to part-time masters student who are employed in the Syracuse City School District.

In this, the second year of the Partnership, SU will continue to coordinate the comprehensive and systematic structure for designing, implementing, organizing and evaluating the joint activities involving these institutions and SCSD. One of the many examples of the success of the pilot program was the "Adolescent Literacy Project," collaboration between SU's School of Education Reading and Language Arts faculty and SCSD-wide teachers and students in a series of meetings structured around the work of urban activist Luis J. Rodriguez, one of the nation's leading Chicano writers. High school students worked with Rodriguez's texts, wrote their own poetry and were able to attend a special lecture by Rodriguez on the SU campus where he spoke of the importance of creative activities and expression as a means to community building and violence prevention. The "Adolescent Literacy Project" has led to the publication of an anthology of 90 student poems and photography titled "Soul Talk 2006," soon to be released.

Additionally, in the Spring 2006 semester, SU students enrolled in a Community, Literacy, and Photography course--team-taught by Judith Meighan and Doug DuBois of VPA, in collaboration with Mary Lynn Mahan, the art teacher at Edward Smith Elementary School-- worked with fifth-grade students at Edward Smith on Literacy Through Photography projects, which resulted in more than 80 images taken by city schoolchildren that explored their families, their communities, and their dreams. A display of these photos-- enriched by the students' writings--was later mounted in SU's Robert B. Menschel Photography Gallery. A selection from the exhibit was on display at today's event. This program will be expanding into Nottingham High School and Levy Middle School in 2006-2007, with the addition of graduate students from SU's Creative Writing Department.

"Through the expansion of the Partnership, we have built a bridge that now crosses wider boundaries," said Horace Smith, Ph.D., associate vice president for Undergraduate Studies and Retention. "By sharing and coordinating physical, cultural and intellectual resources, we can more effectively reach our city students and provide better access to quality instruction, engagement and academic success."

*Partnership for Better Education is supported in part through grants from the Burton Blatt Institute, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Verizon Foundation.*

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