



## Notable News

On **Thursday, February 11, 2010**, Chicago Elev8 will be holding its first annual convening at Marquette Middle School. The Chicago Elev8 Convening will bring together all staff, partners, and key stakeholders to discuss successes and challenges, and share information about how Chicago Elev8 is developing and evolving.

Elev8 Chicago's 2010 Legislative and Advocacy Shared Priorities will be announced and ratified at the convening as well.

## Upcoming Events

**January 22** – 8:30 am – Federation Advocacy Training @ Lyric Opera House, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

**January 25** - 3:00 pm – Elev8 Directors Meeting @ Ames Middle School

**February 11** – Elev8 Chicago Convening @ Marquette Middle School

## Chicago Elev8 Executive Directors Travel to Washington, DC to Advocate for Elev8

On December 15 and 16, 2009, Ramon Gardenhire, Elev8 Advocacy Project Manager, Federation for Community Schools and Jennifer Doeren, Senior Program Officer for Policy, Elev8 Public/Private Ventures, accompanied a team from Chicago to advocate in Washington, DC on behalf of Elev8 and the Full Service Community Schools Act, and other specific pieces of legislation that directly impact Elev8.

The team from Chicago included:

- **Nancy Aardema**, Executive Director, Ames Middle School /Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA)
- **Jeff Bartow**, Executive Director, Marquette Elementary School /Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP)
- **Luis Bermudez**, Project Director, Orozco Academy/The Resurrection Project (TRP)
- **Sandra Del Toro**, Project Director, Marquette Elementary School/Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP)
- **Bernita Johnson Gabriel**, Executive Director, Reavis Elementary School/Quad Cities Development Corporation
- **Tenisha Jones**, Project Director, Perspectives-Calumet Charter School/Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GADC)
- **Carlos Nelson**, Executive Director, Perspectives-Calumet Charter School/Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GADC)
- **Susan Yanun**, New Communities Director, Ames Middle School /Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA)

While in Washington, the team met with a number of influential elected officials, policymakers, and national advocacy organizations as part of our efforts to advance the Elev8 policy agenda. These meetings included the following: **National Council of Raza; Department of Education, Office Full Service Community Schools; Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Innovation Partnerships; Washington DC Office of the State of Illinois; Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pension Committee; Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL); Senator Roland Burris; Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ); Representative Luis Gutierrez (D-IL); Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL); Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD);**

This trip provided a wonderful opportunity, advance the Elev8 and community school policy agenda. By meeting with Congressional staff, national advocacy organizations, and leaders in education reform; the participants were able to continue to advance the unique role that community schools and Elev8 play in helping to reshape how education can help students thrive, families succeed, and communities grow stronger.

These meetings built upon the infrastructure that has been laid through in-depth discussions with community and advocacy leaders that have been done

throughout the year.

## Elev8 Chicago Advocacy Team Finalizes 2010 Legislative and Advocacy Shared Priorities

On Wednesday, January 6, 2010, the Elev8 Chicago Advocacy Team finalized its 2010 Legislative and Advocacy Shared Priorities. The Advocacy Team is comprised of representation from the Elev8 community-based organizations, the schools, statewide advocacy partners, and school-based health centers.

The 2010 shared priorities are a direct result of numerous meetings with the Elev8 Executive Directors and reflect shared legislative and policy issues that emerged from these discussions.

As a result of these meetings, the following share priorities were articulated and adopted to help achieve the goal of producing lasting change and sustainability for Elev8 Chicago in 2010 through advocacy:

1. Advocate for a **\$2 million** Congressional appropriation funding stream to directly support existing and new programming for Elev8.
2. Advocate for inclusion of new funding to support Elev8 through the **reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (formerly known as No Child Left Behind) by Congress.** ESEA will be the driving force in addressing education funding and reform and will be structured to incorporate various pieces of pending legislation that support Elev8, among them “Keeping Parents and Communities Engaged Act,” “Full Service Community Schools Act,” and “Success in the Middle.” Passage of the ESEA will help to sustain and support the academic, social supports, and parental engagement work that Elev8 conducts.
3. Advocate for a **\$5 million** funding stream to directly support existing and new full-service community schools in Illinois, such as Elev8 schools.
4. Advocate the Illinois General Assembly for the passage of a responsible budget that supports the social supports that many of the Elev8 communities depend upon. Specifically, maintaining funding for the Illinois “All Kids Insurance Program,” with emphasis on ensuring that non-documented individuals continue to have access under the program.

## Federation Holds Its Annual Advocacy Day Training

Friday, January 22, 2010, the Federation for Community Schools will hold its Annual Advocacy Training Day. The training provides an opportunity for individuals that work for, partner with, or simply care about community schools a chance to come develop or hone the advocacy skills needed in order to advocate for community schools with elected officials, policy makers, and the media. Below is an outline of the day’s tentative agenda. If you would like to

RSVP for this event please contact Anita Banerji at [anita@ilcommunityschools.org](mailto:anita@ilcommunityschools.org) or by telephone at (312) 629-4990.

**Advocacy Training Day Agenda**  
*Stakeholder Meeting—January 22, 2010*

**Objective of the day:** *To educate our members about community school policies that we will be advancing in 2010, as well as to provide hands-on training of "how to" do specific advocacy activities.*

**Time:** 8:30am – Noon

**Venue:** 6<sup>th</sup> floor theater and conference rooms of Lyric Opera Building, 20 N. Wacker Drive.

**Agenda**

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|-------------------|--|
| 8:30am – 8:45am   | Registration   |
| 8:45am - 9:15am   | Welcome/review of last session's successes   |
| 9:15am - 10:30am  | 9:15 – 9:40 am <u>National Overview:</u> Federal Legislation and Policy<br><br><b>Panel Topic:</b> How do you make a difference from afar<br><br>Invited Panelist: <b>Scott Kagawa</b> , Outreach Coordinator, Office of Senator Roland Burris; <b>Jennifer Doeren</b> , Senior Program Officer for Policy, Elev8 Public/Private Ventures and <b>Nancy Ronquillo</b> , President and CEO, Children's Home + Aid Society of Chicago<br><br><u>Federal Level Q &amp; A 9:40 – 9:50am</u> |
| 9:50 – 10:20am    | <u>State Overview:</u> State Legislation and Policy<br><br><b>Panel Topic:</b> How do you maximize efforts at the State level<br><br>Invited Panelists: <b>Phil Milisk</b> , Government Affairs Consultant; <b>Suzanne Strassberger</b> , Vice President Government Affairs and Strategic Initiative, Metropolitan Family Services<br><br><u>State Level Q and A 10:20 – 10:30am</u>   |
| 10:30am - 11:30am | <b>"How To Advocacy"</b> <u>Breakout Sessions:</u><br><br><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How to host a community school site visit for policy makers.</li><li>2. How to inform and rally community stakeholders around policy Initiatives.</li><li>3. How to engage students and parents in advocating for community school-supportive policies.</li><li>4. How to share community school success stories so policy makers listen and learn from them.</li></ol>             |
| 11:30am           | Adjournment  |

For questions or more information, please visit our Web site at [www.ilcommunityschools.org](http://www.ilcommunityschools.org) or call us at (312) 629-4990