



**For Immediate Release**

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**The Renaissance Schools Fund grants more than \$1.6 million to support the launch of 10 innovative, new public schools through Chicago's Renaissance 2010 initiative**

Chicago, IL (1/05/09) – The Renaissance Schools Fund (RSF) announces it has awarded \$1.67 million to support the start-up of 10 new public schools to open in fall of 2009 and 2010, for a total of more than \$27 million awarded to date. These schools are among the newest cohort approved to open through Chicago's Renaissance 2010 initiative, an effort to launch new public schools of exceptional quality in underserved communities by 2010. To date, RSF has raised \$50 million and seeded the launch of 53 new Chicago public schools.

“For the last four years, we have been investing in the opening of new school models because we believe all children in Chicago should have access to a high quality education,” said Donald G. Lubin, Chairman of the Renaissance Schools Fund. “Through our investments, we have been able to offer parents greater choice, to stimulate innovation and inspire change system-wide.”

Each school can receive a maximum of \$500,000 from the Renaissance Schools Fund in the first two and a half years of its life, divided into three phases (incubation, ramp-up year 1, and ramp-up year 2.) This current round of incubation funding will support schools over the next nine to twelve months as they prepare to open. RSF targets its funding to catalyze innovation by supporting: creative programming, interim assessments, community outreach, planning teams, specialized staff, and professional development.

“Members of Chicago's business community have come together with foundations, universities, families, and educators in an unprecedented way to open new schools in our most challenged communities,” said Phyllis Lockett, President & CEO of The Renaissance Schools Fund. “New schools are infusing unique intellectual capital into our system, are raising the bar for the district and are preparing Chicago children to set and exceed high expectations.”

Among those schools receiving an RSF incubation grant are:

**Career Academy for Advanced Technology** is a computer science and IT career and college preparatory high school that will focus on preparing students for careers in network/data systems, programming and software engineering, interactive media, and database management. It is designed by **Chicago LEADS (Leading Economic Advancement, Development, and Sustainability)**, an initiative established in January 2008 by Mayor Daley to align workforce development, education, and economic development to better meet the needs of Chicago businesses, residents, and communities.

**Northwestern Settlement Grammar School** campus, launched by **The Noble Network of Charter Schools** in partnership with **Bain & Company** and the **Northwestern University Settlement Association (NUSH)**, is the network's first elementary school and aims to prepare students for the rigors of high school study.

**South Shore Fine Arts Academy**, a pre-K through 8 school at capacity, is the replication of the high performing South Loop Elementary School. It will offer an extended school day and school year and an arts-infused curriculum, including partnerships with the **Art Institute**, the **South Shore Cultural Center**, and **A.R.T. (Art Resources in Teaching)**. **The Boeing Company** invested \$1 million in a partnership with RSF, called the **Performance Pipeline Program**, to replicate high performing existing Chicago schools. This is the second such replication, the first was of Disney II Magnet School, which opened last fall.

Like those schools cited above, many of the new RSF-funded schools offer innovations such as: an extended instructional day and school year, smaller classes, more professional development for staff, regular interim assessments targeted at improving instruction, and high degree of parent engagement. For instance, on average, a student who attends an RSF-supported school from kindergarten through twelfth grade receives 5.3 years more core subject instruction time than his or her CPS counterparts.

Schools supported through the latest round of RSF incubation grants are:

#### Elementary Schools

- Chicago International Charter Schools, Altgeld Gardens Campus
- LEARN Charter School 2009
- Northwestern Settlement Grammar School
- South Shore Fine Arts Academy

#### High Schools

- Career Academy for Advanced Technology
- Chicago Bulls College Prep, A Campus of Noble Street Charter School
- Chicago High School for the Arts
- Expeditionary Path to Innovative Change (EPIC) Academy
- Muchin College Prep, A Campus of Noble Street Charter School
- Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men, East Garfield Park Campus

**The Renaissance Schools Fund (RSF)** was established by Chicago's business community as the independent fundraiser and strategic partner to Renaissance 2010. Operating on a venture philanthropy model, RSF has raised \$50 million, helped to launch 53 new public schools, has created capacity building programs to develop a pipeline of new school entrepreneurs, support the growth of strong schools and inform parents of their options. Learn more at [www.rsfcicago.org](http://www.rsfcicago.org).

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