



DC Public Education Fund and Partners Host Fundraiser for Empowering Males of Color

Event raising critical start-up dollars for all-male public school

For Immediate Release

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Washington, D.C. – With a mission of breaking negative stereotypes, building positive school culture and climate, and promoting self-esteem and higher achievement, Urban Prep Academies (Urban Prep) remains a leader in transforming the lives and futures of young men of color. Established in 2002 by education entrepreneur Tim King, alongside influential African-American business and civic leaders, the work of Urban Prep is grounded in its motto, *We Believe*, and promotes a call to action for others to join in making a better way for young men of color. Believing in students' potential and ability and believing in Urban Prep, the unique nature of an all-boys public school continues reshaping the conversation around what is possible when you...*Believe*.

District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser, with representatives from District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), DC Public Education Fund (DC Ed Fund) President and Executive Director Jessica Rauch, and Urban Prep President and CEO Tim King convened on July 16, 2015, for a fundraising breakfast, highlighting the *Empowering Males of Color Initiative*, with a focus on supporting Urban Prep DC. McKinley Technology Education Campus provided the event space, welcoming sixty attendees to their state-of-the-art middle school. Central to the mission of Urban Prep, the *Empowering Males of Color Initiative* serves to meet the needs of young African-American and Latino males in Washington, D.C.

Philanthropic partners allow DCPS to move quickly, developing transformative programs to improve the educational outcomes of DCPS students. "As our schools continue to improve, it's important that we make critical investments to capture those who might fall through the cracks – our young males of color. We thank Urban Prep President and CEO Tim King for his partnership as we move closer to our goal of opening an all-male school that will help us close the achievement gap," said Mayor Muriel Bowser. "The incredible philanthropic support we've received will support our bold effort to ensure pathways to the middle class for all District youth." Urban Prep President and CEO Tim King further noted that the 100 percent college acceptance rate among his graduates was no coincidence. "If you want the dance to change, you have to change the music," added Mr. King. "Urban Prep DC is top of mind and with leadership from Mayor Muriel Bowser and Chancellor Kaya Henderson, and multiple partners and donors; the District will make this investment happen. Believing makes all the difference."

The impact of the *Empowering Males of Color Initiative* will be felt in every Ward and in every school. In partnership with Darryl Wiggins, DC Ed Fund tapped a *Committee of 100*, select donors charged with committing \$2,000 each, to reach a fundraising goal of \$200,000. This event also celebrated the fundraising to-date, totaling over \$2.3 million. DC Ed Fund is excited about these partnerships and bringing the *Empowering Males of Color* work to the next level.

The generosity and time of the *Committee of 100* is tremendously valuable to the *Empowering Males of Color Initiative*. Members include:

Terry Albert, Neil Albert, Ghermay Araya, Emmanuel Bailey, Keith Battle, Sekou Biddle, Buwa Binitie, Marvin Bowser, Max Brown, Charlotte Ducksworth, Ed Gund, Everett Hamilton, Traci Higgins, Chico Horton, James Hudson, Bryan Irving, David Jannarone, Tony Johnson, Milton Morris, Diane Ross, Rob Seabrooks, Benjamin Soto, Jason Turner, and Tony Wash

For more information on *Empowering Males of Color*, please visit <http://www.dceducationfund.org/our-work/priority-initiatives/>.

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