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## **Council Hosts National Summit on African American Males With U.S. Department of Education**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27 – Following President Obama’s recent executive order creating a White House initiative focusing on African-American education, the Council of the Great City Schools and the U.S. Department of Education today held a National Summit on Educational Excellence and Opportunity for African American Males.

“We were excited to partner with the Council of the Great City Schools on the Summit on Educational Excellence and Opportunity for African American Males,” U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said. “The summit couldn’t have come at a more important time, as we continue working to close persistent gaps in achievement and opportunity.

“This Administration is committed to making a difference and ensuring that all students get the education they need to thrive and succeed tomorrow,” he added. Secretary Duncan moderated the summit’s town hall discussion.

“This important summit will not – and should not – be the end of discussions on the important issue of improving educational opportunities for our African American male students,” Council Executive Director Michael Casserly stressed, noting that the nation’s primary coalition of large urban school districts has prepared a number of resources “that might help inform the discussions at this meeting and beyond.”

A groundbreaking report by the Council in late 2010 – *A Call for Change: The Social and Educational Factors Contributing to the Outcomes of Black Males in Urban Schools* -- revealed that too many young black males in America were not realizing their full potential.

After releasing its report, the Council called for the summit and commissioned a series of “solution briefs” from some of the nation’s leading scholars, who highlighted their strategies at the summit to improve educational outcomes for African American males. The Council released a preliminary action plan at the summit based on the briefs.

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**Streamed video of the summit:** <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/education-department>. Follow us on twitter using the hashtag #blackmalesummit.