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Council of the Great City Schools
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. ♦ Suite 702 ♦ Washington, D.C. ♦ 20004
<http://www.cgcs.org>

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CONTACT: Henry Duvall
(202) 393-2427

First Round of Senior Urban Education Research Fellowships Announced

Prominent Researchers Will Work Hand in Hand with Urban School Districts

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18 – The Council of the Great City Schools has selected three senior education researchers to pursue rigorous, policy-relevant research projects in collaboration with big-city school districts in the Council’s newly created Senior Urban Education Research Fellowship program.

The three senior researchers to be funded for projects in the first round of fellowships are:

- Dr. Kenji Hakuta, Stanford University. *Technology-Supported Tools to Enhance Science Instruction and Learning for English Language Learners in Middle Schools: A Collaborative Project with the San Francisco Unified School District.*
- Dr. Robert Meyer, University of Wisconsin-Madison. *Accountability and Performance in Secondary Education in the Milwaukee Public Schools.*
- Dr. Catherine Snow, Harvard University. *Collaborating with the Boston Public Schools to Develop and Evaluate Word Generation.*

Two of the projects are interventions aimed at improving instruction at the secondary education level. Dr. Snow’s project in Boston will be a rigorous efficacy trial of a school-wide intervention designed to teach academic language through classroom discussion, debate, and persuasive writing. Dr. Hakuta’s project in San Francisco will attempt to improve instruction in middle school science by providing new technology-based tools that give teachers the capacity to analyze the academic language in the curriculum and to adapt instructional support to match the language proficiency of students.

The third project, conducted by Dr. Meyer in Milwaukee, proposes to develop an early-warning system, based on estimates of a value-added model of student outcomes, to identify students at risk of dropping out of school or performing below proficiency on state assessments.

The U.S. Department of Education awarded the Council of the Great City Schools, a coalition of the nation’s large urban public school systems, more than \$2.5 million last September to establish the fellowship program, which aims to facilitate significant, on-going partnerships between the research community and urban school districts and to produce a set of high quality studies that yield reliable guidance regarding the challenges and decisions urban school districts face in the reform of secondary education.

This is the first of three rounds of fellowship awards, to be awarded annually to three researchers with at least 7-10 years of experience and an established track record of working with urban school districts. **A request for proposals for the second round of fellowship awards is now available at <http://www.cgcs.org/research/fellowship.aspx>, and applications are due on November 19th, 2007.**

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