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Council of the Great City Schools
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Second Round of Senior Urban Education Research Fellowships Announced *Latest awards focus on better preparing students for high school, college*

WASHINGTON, June 17 – The Council of the Great City Schools has selected three distinguished education researchers to pursue rigorous, policy-relevant research projects in collaboration with big-city school districts.

The three senior researchers, who represent the second round of the Council's Senior Urban Education Research Fellowship program, will receive funding for projects beginning this summer. They are:

- Dr. James Rosenbaum, Northwestern University. *Does Postsecondary Advising Improve Student Motivation and Progress in High School?*
- Dr. Becky Smerdon, Academy for Educational Development (AED). *High School Ready? A Study of Middle School Students in the District of Columbia and their Transitions to High School.*
- Dr. John Tyler, Brown University. *Using Student Performance Data to Inform Instructional Practice: Lessons from Cincinnati.*

Two of the projects expand on the theme of the development and evaluation of student tracking systems and the use of this data to tailor instruction and interventions. Dr. Smerdon will embark on a collaborative research partnership with the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) to examine middle school student characteristics and their transition to high school in order to create both an indicator of high school readiness and a high school readiness report card for schools serving middle grades. Working with Cincinnati Public Schools, Dr. Tyler will focus on "data-driven instruction" by evaluating the implementation and usage of a web-based, student performance tracking system designed to use benchmark assessment data to improve teaching and learning throughout the district.

The third project, conducted by Dr. Rosenbaum, will be a study utilizing rich student and teacher survey data available from the Consortium on Chicago School Research to assess the impact on student outcomes of a Chicago high school advisory program that uses college counselors to increase students' and teachers' focus on college readiness and promote college preparation and attendance.

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 in September of 2006 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 addressing the challenges and decisions urban school districts face in the reform of secondary education.

This is the second of three rounds of fellowship awards, 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 final round of fellowship awards will be available in fall 2008 at <http://www.cgcs.org/research/fellowship.aspx>.**