



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
Community and Education Partnerships

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SECRETARY OF EDUCATION ARNE DUNCAN INVITED TO 9th ANNUAL
CONFERENCE FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND
EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS**

Washington, DC – The National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) announced today that Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, has been invited to participate in its 9th Annual Conference July 19-22, 2009 in San Francisco, CA. Secretary Duncan has been asked to speak about the historic impact that NCCEP and GEAR UP have had and continue to have on our nation's education system. The meeting will convene for three and a half days of concurrent sessions, speakers, and networking opportunities for the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) and college access community.

Newly announced keynote speakers include Tony Wagner and Dr. Laura Rendón. Wagner has served as Co-Director of the Change Leadership Group at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, completed over thirty-five years of service in education, and authored multiple publications. Wagner will address attendees during the Monday lunch plenary. Dr. Rendón, Chair of NCCEP's Board of Directors and Chair of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Iowa State University, will address the conference Tuesday morning.

Sean Covey, author of the international bestseller *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, will give the keynote address Wednesday morning. Covey is popular among all age groups as a speaker on leadership. He serves as Senior Vice President of Innovations and Products at FranklinCovey, an organization devoted helping individuals and organizations achieve greatness.

“This meeting marks the 10th anniversary of NCCEP's founding and we are looking forward to celebrating this milestone,” said Peter J. Stephens, Executive Vice President of NCCEP. “We are excited to continue our tradition of offering strong plenary speakers and informative sessions.”

Other highlights include the Youth Leadership Summit report presentation and over 150 peer-led concurrent sessions. Product demonstrations, program Gallery walk, and networking receptions are also a part of the agenda. The U.S. Department of Education will hold four pre-conference sessions specific to GEAR UP grantees on Sunday, July 19.

The conference is generously sponsored by CoBro Consulting; CollegeEd, a College Board program; ACT, Inc.; GEAR UP for Excellence; Quantum Learning Network; Intellectual Transition Facility; and Texas Instruments.

For more information and to register for the conference, please visit www.edpartnerships.org.

About NCCEP: *NCCEP maintains offices in Washington, DC, and Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and leads education reform efforts in both countries. NCCEP works with education partnerships funded by the U.S. federal government, the government of Mexico, public and private foundations, and corporations from both the United States and Mexico. For more information about NCCEP, please visit www.edpartnerships.org.*

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