Unfinished Business: Keeping the Promise of Brown v. Board of Education

May 10, 2004
The Charles Sumner School, Washington, DC

10:00 – 10:10 WELCOMING REMARKS
Sponsoring Organizations

10:10 – 10:30 THE HONORABLE CHAKA FATTAH,
United States Congressman, 2nd District of Pennsylvania

10:30-10:40 INTRODUCTION BY MODERATOR
WENDY PURIEFOY, President, Public Education Network

10:40 – 11:10 DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT: THEN, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE
HAROLD “BUD” HODGKINSON, Demographer & Author

11:10-12:20 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: The call for equal educational opportunities in the Supreme Court’s decision in Brown v. Board of Education mandated racial desegregation of our public school system. Those efforts continue today. Other strategies for integration also have been pursued in an effort to create equal educational opportunities, including those focused on housing integration and socioeconomic diversity. Additional policy initiatives – often neutral with respect to integration -- draw inspiration from Brown by claiming equal educational opportunities as the ultimate goal. These include private school choice, fiscal equity, standards and accountability. The panel will offer advocates of six strategies a chance to articulate 1) how their ideas are connected to Brown; and 2) why their strategy offers hope for the future in pursuing the dream in Brown. The panelists include:

JOHN BRITTAINE, Professor of Law, Texas Southern University
DAVID RUSK, former Mayor, Albuquerque; Author and Consultant
RICHARD KAHLENBERG, Senior Fellow, Century Foundation
JIM FERG-CADIMA, Attorney, Mexican American Legal Defense Fund
JEANNE ALLEN, President, Center for Education Reform
ROSSI RAY-TAYLOR, Executive Director, Minority Student Achievement Network

12:20-12:30 CLOSING REMARKS: WENDY PURIEFOY