



NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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For Immediate Release
Thursday, June 3, 2004

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THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS HOLD EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE *Ohio Mayors to Discuss Changing Role of Mayors in Education Reform*

Washington, D.C. – On the heels of the anniversary of the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education, The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) Vice President Akron (OH) Mayor Don Plusquellic led a contingent of Ohio mayors in the first in a series of education roundtables themed “Strong Schools Make Strong Cities.”

As part of USCM’s *Mayors’ Initiative for Leadership in Education* (MILE), this session, held on the campus of Ohio State University, provided mayors from some of Ohio’s largest cities an opportunity to focus on one of the most critical issues facing urban America, and expand and improve mayoral involvement in education both in their respective cities as well as the state of Ohio.

USCM’s incoming President, Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic stated, “This group has the potential to be a significant force at both the local and state levels. We have a unique opportunity to break new ground by creating a model that can be applied in other states and cities.”

Host Mayor Michael Coleman said, “We all have a responsibility, as Mayors, parents and community leaders, to do our best for our kids. Education is the most important tool we have to ensure the future of our children and our cities, and that makes education everybody’s business.”

The mayors discussed the status of public education in Ohio in the context of national statistics, as well as their experiences – both challenges and lessons learned -- with local mayoral involvement. In addition, they highlighted issues that are critical to community participation and determined next steps for future roundtables. A network of education policy advisors from each of the participating cities was created; and key stakeholders from each city and the state of OH will be invited to participate in the next meeting to be held later this year in Akron.

Participants included Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic, Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman, Canton Mayor Janet Weir Creighton, Cincinnati Mayor Charles Luken, Dayton Mayor Rhine L. McLin, Toledo Mayor Jack Ford, Susan Zelman, Ohio State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Susan Bodary, Executive Assistant for Education, Office of OH Governor Bob Taft, and Executive Director of the Council of Great City Schools Michael Casserly.

The roundtable was made possible by the following sponsors: The Knowledge Works Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, The Cleveland Foundation, the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, and the Columbus Foundation.

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