



LEVEL PLAYING FIELD INSTITUTE

Media Contact

Heather Barber
+415 946 3080
heather@lpfi.org
www.lpfi.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Robert Schwartz Appointed Executive Director of Level Playing Field Institute

San Francisco, April 7, 2010 – Level Playing Field Institute (LPFI) announces the selection of Robert Schwartz as Executive Director of their Bay Area-based education and workplace fairness organization. Robert is a seasoned educator and leader who brings with him dedication and experience creating solutions to mitigate education inequity. He will lead LPFI to increase the breadth and depth of its impact.

In announcing the selection, LPFI Founder and Board Member, Freada Kapur Klein stated: “Robert is exactly what LPFI needs at this moment in time. He is a passionate, experienced leader who can help execute LPFI's goal of dramatically increasing the number of underrepresented students of color pursuing STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) studies. We chose Robert - after a national search that yielded nearly 100 stellar candidates - because of his unwavering commitment to helping students achieve academic success and develop their enormous potential.”

Robert spent the last three years as Chief Academic Officer for Inner City Education Foundation (ICEF) Public Schools in South Los Angeles, leading the strategic expansion of the academic program from three schools with 500 students to fifteen schools with almost 4,000 students. As instructional leader, Robert facilitated the complete curricular design of the charter organization's rigorous academic program focused solely on preparing students to attend and compete academically at the top colleges and universities.

Prior to serving as ICEF's CAO, Robert was the founding principal at ICEF's flagship high school. There he led the growth of the high school from 93 9th graders to 375 students in grades 9-12. Under Robert's direction ICEF graduated 100% of students from its first three graduating classes with 97% accepted to four-year universities.

Robert began at ICEF as a middle school science teacher where he was twice named teacher of the year and lead teacher in his second year. Prior to that, he was a Teach for America Corps Member where he spent seven years at his initial placement site in East Los Angeles, becoming science department chairperson after his second year. He led a reform of the science department spurred on by a three-year grant from the California Department of Education. During his seven years as a science teacher, ten of his

students placed in the LA County Science Fair, with three students taking the top prize and moving on to compete at the state level.

LPFI's Education Program Director Jarvis Sulcer praised the selection, noting: "Robert brings experience at every level – classroom, administrative and scaling - and he acquired that experience serving African American and Latino/a students. This coupled with his sincere dedication to the motivated students we serve will ensure LPFI's success."

Robert graduated cum laude from Binghamton University with a double major in Biology and Classical Languages, and he earned his MA in Urban Education Policy Planning and Administration and Ed.D. in Urban Educational Leadership at the Rossier School of Education at University of Southern California. His dissertation looked at inequity for students of color and their lack of access to 21st century skills in the classroom, and was nominated for 2010 dissertation of the year. In 2009, Robert was named to the African American Achievement Commission by the California State Board of Education. He is married and has four year old twins.

About Level Playing Field Institute

Level Playing Field Institute (www.lpfi.org) is a Bay Area-based non-profit organization that works to increase fairness in education and the workplace by administering education programs and conducting workplace research aimed to identify and remove barriers to full participation. LPFI is funded by private donors, foundations and corporate giving.

LPFI runs two education programs, the Summer Math and Science Honors (SMASH) Academy for high-achieving low-income high school students of color in the Bay Area and the Initiative for Diversity in Education and Leadership (IDEAL) Scholars program for low-income underrepresented students at the University of California at Berkeley. Our vision is that all students, regardless of socio-economic status, have the opportunity to apply to and graduate from top colleges and universities.

LPFI's workplace fairness program develops tools and research to mitigate bias in the workplace for women, people of color, and gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender professionals and to reframe the discussion about workplace diversity to focus on fairness.

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