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**NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATIONAL ACCESS HOSTS INAUGURAL
CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATORS AND NON-PROFIT LEADERS FROM ACROSS
THE COUNTRY**
Conference Focuses on Best Practices & Sharing Insights to Increase Educational Access

BOSTON, April 2, 2009 – The National Partnership for Educational Access (NPEA) hosts its inaugural conference later this month at The Charles Hotel in Cambridge, Mass. from April 30-May 1, 2009 to promote collaboration amongst education-focused leaders who work to increase educational access for underrepresented students. Conference attendees will network with colleagues from across the country, compare best practices in the field of educational access, learn from experts, share expertise and brainstorm new strategies. NPEA is an initiative of The Steppingstone Foundation, a Boston-based non-profit focused on preparing urban schoolchildren for educational opportunities that lead to college.

NPEA members, school and non-school based programs, independent schools, higher education staff, educational non-profits, and interested individuals will attend and participate in discussions on management, student services, research, policy and evaluation.

“For our first conference we are thrilled with the number and quality of the attendees and speakers we’ve attracted this year,” said NPEA director Karin Elliott. “Our participants are excited for the opportunity to meet in person and collaborate on our shared goals to increase educational access for students and assist more students on the road to college.”

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Speakers Include:

- **Stephanie Bell-Rose**, President of The Goldman Sachs Foundation and Managing Director, Goldman, Sachs & Co.
- **Nicholas C. Donohue**, President and CEO of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation
- **Dr. Ronald Ferguson**, Co-Chair and Director of the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University.
- **Ron Fairchild**, Executive Director of the National Center for Summer Learning
- **Thomas H. Parker**, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, Amherst College
- **Rick Weissbourd**, Lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Kennedy School of Government

ABOUT THE STEPPINGSTONE FOUNDATION

Founded in 1990, The Steppingstone Foundation is a nonprofit organization that develops and implements programs which prepare urban schoolchildren for educational opportunities that lead to college. Through The Steppingstone Academy in Boston, and affiliate programs in Hartford and Philadelphia, Steppingstone has served 1,475 students in grades five through 12 since 1990. For additional information, please visit www.tsf.org.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

Launched in 2007 by The Steppingstone Foundation, the National Partnership for Educational Access (NPEA) is a membership organization for programs committed to increasing educational opportunities for motivated, underserved students across the U.S. Currently serving over 100 members in 21 states, NPEA is working toward a day when all students have equal access to high-quality secondary and post-secondary education. NPEA has been made possible through the support of Bank of America Charitable Foundation, The Esther A. & Joseph Klingenstein Fund, The Goldman Sachs Foundation, and The J.C. Kellogg Foundation. More information can be found at <http://www.educational-access.org>.

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: The complete conference agenda is found at <http://www.educational-access.org/events.php>