

Appleseed This Week

eNewsletter - November 12, 2009



A nonprofit network of 16 public interest justice centers in the U.S. and Mexico, Appleseed is dedicated to building a society in which opportunities are genuine, access to justice is universal and equal, and government advances the public interest.

New Ways to Contribute!

You can now redeem your unused credit card rewards points for a cash donation to Appleseed. [Click here to learn more.](#)

And don't forget, Appleseed is now a member of the United Way of the National Capital Area and the Combined Federal

Thanking Appleseed Advocates! Join us for our volunteer appreciation event on Nov. 19! [Click here for details.](#)

UPDATE: It Takes a Parent

Joining a number of top advocates who seek closer cooperation between parents and schools, Edwin Darden, Appleseed's Director of Education Law & Policy, was among the presenters at last month's National Summit on Minority Parent Engagement, hosted by the National Education Association (NEA) and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF).

Darden attended the two-day summit in Los Angeles as an ambassador of Appleseed's expertise on parent involvement issues, particularly those relating to communities of low-income and second-language families. As a member of the Federal Background panel, Darden presented on the parent involvement provisions included in the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the Appleseed recommendations for improvement of those provisions.

The platform provided Appleseed with an opportunity to highlight its accomplishments in the field; currently, Appleseed is coordinating parent involvement efforts in five states. Darden also described the organization's federal priorities for such items as professional development for teachers and administrators and stressed the importance of stepped up federal monitoring.

The NEA is planning a national meeting involving all constituencies for the fall of 2010 and has already indicated that Darden will be invited to participate in that gathering.

In further support of Appleseed's Parent Involvement project, Darden will meet this week with two representatives from the U.S. Department of Education, both of whom work on parent

Campaign. Please make a note of the Appleseed designation numbers below.

**UNWCA: 9369
CFC: 10758**

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involvement issues. With the reauthorization of NCLB expected by many pundits to rise to the top of the agenda in early 2010, Appleseed hopes to generate discussion on how parents and community groups can have more of an equal partnership with schools.

Finally, Darden has, along with colleague Louise Weiner, submitted a proposal to the Coalition of Community Schools to co-present at its annual meeting in April. These "community schools," which combine a stellar learning environment with a variety of social and health services desperately needed in struggling neighborhoods, were [recently extolled](#) by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan during a visit by former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

To read more about Appleseed's Education Law & Policy program, [click here](#).