

# Appleseed This Week

## Georgia Appleseed Forum Highlights Growing Interest in Parental Involvement

**September 27, 2007** - Nearly 175 educators, policy makers, public officials and concerned parents attended a "Knowledge Forum" last week on Parent Involvement Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) hosted by **Georgia Appleseed**. The panel discussions featured **U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson** (R-Ga.), an original author of NCLB while serving as a congressman and currently a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee; former **Georgia Governor Roy Barnes**, co-chair of the Aspen Institute Commission on NCLB; and **Dr. Joyce Epstein**, a nationally recognized expert on parent involvement from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.



*Sen. Johnny Isakson with Georgia Appleseed Executive Director Sharon Hill.*

**Edwin Darden**, national education policy director for Appleseed and the moderator of the event, said the forum was an "ideal vehicle for raising awareness and understanding of the need for parents to be connected and involved in their children's education, while also highlighting the work Georgia Appleseed has done to bring about change." This included a discussion of the Center's current project to develop a parental involvement curriculum for school administrators. Several other Appleseed centers are considering similar forums on parental involvement, including **Connecticut Appleseed**, which is planning an event in the spring.

Among the highlights of last week's forum was an announcement by panel member and Georgia education official **Dr. Diane Bradford** that a new Parent Outreach Office is being formed under the Georgia Department of Education Center on School, Family and Community Partnerships. Bradford, deputy superintendent of the Georgia Office of Education Support and Improvement, said the Parent Outreach Office will provide school districts throughout Georgia with tools and resources to meaningfully and effectively engage parents.

**Sharon Hill**, Georgia Appleseed's executive director, said the creation of the office is a vital step in bringing parent involvement to the top of the state's education reform agenda. "We at Georgia Appleseed are clearly in step with what's going on statewide, recognizing the critical importance of parent involvement and working cooperatively at every level to focus attention on development of effective parent engagement strategies and resources," Hill said.

The Knowledge Forum was taped at the studios of Georgia Public Broadcasting and can be viewed via web cast on [Georgia Appleseed's web site](#). A white paper based on the forum is also being compiled by **Rob Rhodes**, a partner at the **Holland & Knight** law firm, and will be available on the Georgia Appleseed website in the next few weeks.

**For more information on Appleseed, visit [www.appleseednetwork.org](http://www.appleseednetwork.org). To support the work of Appleseed, donate [here](#).**

injustices in their communities. Appleseed works to build a just society through education, legal advocacy, community activism and policy expertise, addressing root causes and producing practical solutions. As one of the nation's largest legal pro bono networks, Appleseed Centers work both independently and collectively, bringing their own experiences to create local solutions that are nationally relevant. We connect the top private practice lawyers, corporate counsel, law schools, civic leaders, and other professionals to tackle problems locally, at their root cause.

