

The Links and The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Present The No Child Left Behind Act: Is It On The Right Path Or Path To Nowhere?

(Washington, DC – February 19, 2007). One of the leading African-American women’s public service organizations, in partnership with one of the leading African American think tanks, announces a major public policy forum entitled The No Child Left Behind Act: Is it on the Right Path or Path to Nowhere? on February 27, 2007, 8:00-11:00 am at The National Press Club.

The Links, Incorporated and Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies will bring together leading thinkers in education and business to examine the impact of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and its impact on the drop out crisis and the increasing rates of incarceration for young people of color generally and young men of color in particular. Participants in the public policy forum include the Special Advisor to Secretary of Education, Mr. Henry L. Johnson; Dr. Gwendolyn B. Lee, National President of The Links, Inc.; Ralph Everett, Esq. National President, Joint Center; Stacey D. Stewart , President & CEO, The Fannie Mae Foundation; Dr. Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools; Dr. Badi Foster, President, The Phelps Stokes Fund; Ms. Rebecca Pringle, Executive Committee, National Education Association; and Janet B. Walker, Esq., Executive Director, The Links, Inc. and Ms. Amy Wilkins, Vice President, The Education Trust.

The forum will also discuss possible modifications to NCLB to more effectively achieve its goals and objectives in minority communities.

“The members of The Links, Incorporated are concerned about inequities in public education for our African American youth. We are studying The No Child Left Behind Act along with the leading African American think tank, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, to determine whether or not the law addresses these inequities,” said Dr. Gwendolyn B. Lee, National President, The Links, Inc.

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The Links, Incorporated, founded in 1946, is one of the oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry. The Links, Inc. has a membership of nearly 12,000 professional women of color serving in 273 chapters in 42 states, the District of Columbia, Germany, South Africa and the Bahamas. Through its philanthropic arm, The Links Foundation, Incorporated, the organization has contributed more than 22 million dollars to charitable causes since its founding. In 2006, members contributed more than 500,000 documented hours of hands-on service hours to assist communities throughout the United States, Africa and in developing countries. Washington, DC is the site of the national headquarters. To learn more about The Links, Incorporated, visit the website at www.linksinc.org.

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies informs and illuminates the nation's major public policy debates through research, analysis, and information dissemination in order to: improve the socioeconomic status of black Americans and other minorities; expand their effective participation in the political and public policy arenas; and promote communications and relationships across racial and ethnic lines to strengthen the nation's pluralistic society. To learn more about Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, visit the website at www.jointcenter.org.

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