FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

If we want to end violence, or reduce number of youth who fail to finish high school, in Chicago and other cities, we need to build more support programs for youth and families in high poverty neighborhoods.

Tutor/Mentor Leadership and Networking Conference offers opportunity for business and non profit leaders to learn how to do this.

WHAT: This semi-annual conference brings together non-profit leaders that operate volunteer-based tutoring and mentoring programs, with leaders from business, health, legal, and media communities. It shares ways volunteer-based tutoring and mentoring programs can help at-risk youth navigate the challenges of their neighborhoods while also preparing for college and careers in the 21st century.

This conference focuses on actions that volunteers, leaders and individual citizens can take on a year-round basis to make mentor-rich programs more available to youth in neighborhoods with too much poverty, and too many poorly performing schools. Please visit www.tutormentorconference.org/agenda.asp for the conference program.

WHO: Leaders from Chicago area tutoring and mentoring programs such as Family Matters, Breakthrough Urban Ministries, Chicago Lights at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Cabrini-Green Tutoring Program, Cabrini Connections, and leaders from more distant programs, such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley and the Milwaukee Housing Authority, and will attend. So will representatives from local media, The Center for What Works, and colleges and universities. In an economy where many non profits are struggling to find financial support, these strategies can open new streams of support for single organizations, and for citywide networks of programs.

Keynote speakers inclue:

Thursday, May 27, Morning Welcome Keynote Speaker
Professor James Garbarino, Loyola University-Chicago, author of “Lost Boys,” on Violence and Young Men

12:00 pm - 1:15pm - Lunchtime Keynote Speaker
Bill Curry, Breakthrough Urban Ministries, The Breakthrough Model for Tutoring and Mentoring
Friday May 28 - Welcome Keynote Speaker
Catherine Gottfred, Leap Learning Systems, Youth Brain Development and Literacy

12:00 pm - 1:15pm - Lunchtime Keynote Speakers
Prof. Deanna Wilkinson, Associate Professor of Human Development and Family
Science, Ohio State University

WHEN: Thursday and Friday May 27 and 28, 2010. Registration both mornings is from
8-9am.

WHERE: Loyola University Chicago's Lakeshore
campus, in the Simpson Hall Multi-Purpose Room, 6333
N. Winthrop Ave., Chicago, IL 60661,

WHY: Media reports highlight the negative impact of poverty and violence on inner city
kids and learning. Leaders are looking for solutions to complex problems. This
conference brings together people and organizations who are already “in the trenches”
working to help youth stay in school, graduate from high school, go to college or a
vocational school, and be in school or be starting a career by the age of 25. While
research shows that “At-risk youth in tutoring and mentoring programs are also less
likely to drop out of school, become pregnant, become addicted to drugs, join gangs, or
end up in jail” this conference focuses on strategies and actions that make tutor/mentor
programs more available in all neighborhoods where they are needed.

About Tutor/Mentor Connection
This conference has been organized by the Tutor/Mentor Connection every six months
since May 1994. It is part of a year-round strategy aimed to help volunteer-based
tutoring/mentoring programs reach more youth in high poverty neighborhoods of
Chicago and other cities. The Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC) was formed in 1993 by
Cabrini Connections, a comprehensive, volunteer-based, one-on-one tutoring/mentoring
program serving teens in the Cabrini-Green area of Chicago. The leaders of Cabrini
Connections realized that for their own program to get the continuous resources needed
to impact youth and volunteers, the city would need an infrastructure and leadership
strategy helping all poverty neighborhoods have tutor/mentor programs. The T/MC was
created as a resource for such leadership. For more information, please visit
www.tutormentorconnection.org

About the Tutor/Mentor Conference
As part of this effort to support tutoring and mentoring programs, the Tutor/Mentor
Connection started the semi-annual Tutor/Mentor Leadership and Networking
Conference in 1994. In the past, prominent keynote speakers and attendees have included
then-State Senator and now-president Barack Obama, Congressman Luis Gutierrez,
Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and former CEO of Chicago Public Schools, Paul
Vallas. For more information, or to register, please visit www.tutormentorconference.org.
Scholarships and group discounts are available.