



For more information, contact:
Kate Hoagland
Ash Institute
617-495-4347
kate_hoagland@harvard.edu

D.C. SEED SCHOOL WINS GOVERNMENT AWARD

Nation's First Urban Public Boarding School Wins \$100,000 Award

Cambridge, Mass., – July 27, 2005 – The SEED School has won the prestigious Innovations in American Government Award. The Innovations Award is a program of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government. One of six award winners, the School will receive a \$100,000 grant to support replication of its significant and creative efforts.

The SEED School is the only urban public school in the country to provide a college preparatory boarding school education to underserved youth. The School--located in southeast D.C.--educates 320 urban youth in grades seven through twelve whose challenging circumstances might otherwise prevent them from fulfilling their academic and social potential.

"The SEED School provides both a strong academic program and an environment that's conducive to learning and personal growth," said Gowher Rizvi, Director of the Ash Institute. "The 24-hour-a-day program integrates academic training with life skills to provide a quality education and prepare students for success."

The 2004 graduates from the SEED School had a 100% college acceptance rate and are all enrolled in colleges and universities across the country. "SEED graduates were accepted at many of the nation's most competitive universities, including Cornell, Duke, Georgetown, Princeton, Stanford, and the University of Pennsylvania," added Patricia McGinnis, President and CEO of the

Council for Excellence in Government. “This is all the more impressive in a city that had a 63% high school graduation rate and a 30% college attendance rate in 2003.”

The SEED School (www.seedfoundation.com) was one of more than 1,000 applicants for the 2005 Innovations in American Government Award. Eighteen finalists delivered a public presentation before the National Selection Committee at Harvard University on May 11, 2005. The Committee, chaired by David R. Gergen of the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard, included former Maryland Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, former San Diego Mayor Susan Golding, former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste, and former Congressman William Clinger. The award was presented today in Washington D.C.

For 18 years, the Innovations in American Government Award has recognized quality and responsiveness at all levels of government, honored government efforts that are creative, effective and address significant problems, and has fostered the replication of innovative approaches to the challenges facing government. The award is a program of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, and is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation (www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu) at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government fosters excellence in government around the world in order to generate and strengthen democracy. Through its awards program, research, publications, curriculum support, and global network, the Institute champions critical milestones in creative and effective governance and democratic practice.

The Council for Excellence in Government (www.excelgov.org) is a national, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to improve government performance by strengthening results-oriented management and creative leadership in the public sector, and to build understanding by focusing public discussion on government’s role and responsibilities.

For more information on the Innovations in American Government program and this year’s award winners, please visit www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu or www.excelgov.org.

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