



News for Immediate Release

Sept. 1, 2010

Montgomery County Education Equity Summit Set for Sept. 25

Event to Highlight Strategies for Advancing Equal Opportunity, Academic Excellence

Harrisburg – The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission urges parents, educators and community leaders to register for and attend the Montgomery County Education Summit, to be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 25 at Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell.

“Our goal is educational equity and achievement for every child,” Commission Chairperson Stephen A. Glassman said. “Whether you are a parent, educator, student, or business or community leader, you have a role to play in making that goal a reality.

“This summit will bring the leadership of 23 county school districts together with national and regional leaders in education, civil rights, and social change,” Glassman added. “We hope to forge a plan of action for working as a community to close the achievement gap between white and minority students and eliminate barriers to positive change.”

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Mark Lamont Hill, associate professor of English education and anthropology at Columbia University, and award-winning newspaper columnist and social critic. Other speakers and panelists will include Dr. Maurice Hall, associate professor of communication and culture at Villanova University; school district superintendents Dr. Vincent Cotter of Columbia, Dr. Bradley C. Landis of Pottsgrove, Dr. William Lessa of Hatboro-Horsham and Dr. Michael J. Pladdus of Upper Dublin and others.

Parents will have opportunities to interact in smaller group settings with superintendents and others from their own school districts, and learn from successful practices and programs in other districts and around the state and nation. Students from across Montgomery County will share their perspectives in “Student Voices,” an original video production that will debut at the event.

“This summit represents an extraordinary opportunity for school leaders, parents, students, and members of the community to come together and plan for how we will improve the lives of all our children in our schools for the future,” summit speaker and co-organizer Dr. Maurice Hall said.

The summit is sponsored by the Montgomery County Advisory Council to the Pa. Human Relations Commission in partnership with Montgomery County School District Superintendents Council, Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, Montgomery County Community College and the Fair Housing Rights Center of Southeastern PA.

The summit is free, but registration is limited. Register online at www.phrc.state.pa.us or by phone at 215-576-7711, ext. 12. Call in advance to request special accommodations for physical disabilities or language translation.

Media contact: Shannon Powers, 717-783-8266

###