



**FORMER SUPERINTENDENT ARLENE ACKERMAN  
HEADS BROAD SUPERINTENDENTS ACADEMY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

**CONTACT: Erica Lepping**  
**310-954-5053**

LOS ANGELES – Arlene Ackerman, who has led some of the largest urban school districts in the country, has been named superintendent in residence of the Broad Superintendents Academy, the Broad Center for the Management of School Systems announced today.

In this new position, Ackerman will provide practical advice, insights and coaching for participants of the Broad Superintendents Academy, a 10-month executive management program that trains top executives from military, business, non-profit, government and education backgrounds to lead urban public school districts. The academy is the only program in the country that recruits and trains non-traditional candidates to become superintendents.

“Arlene brings a critical real-world experience to the Broad Superintendents Academy,” said Eli Broad, founder of The Broad Foundation, which funds The Broad Center. “We are training many non-traditional candidates who are leaders in their fields, but they need and will draw on Arlene’s expertise and advice as they transition into careers as urban school district superintendents.”

Ackerman, 60, served as superintendent of the San Francisco Unified School District from 2000 to 2006. Under her leadership, San Francisco had the highest student achievement of any urban school system in California in 2004, 2005 and 2006. During her tenure, test scores for the district’s African-American, Latino and English Language Learners students improved. Ackerman was named Superintendent of the Year for 2004-05 by the National Association of Black School Educators. From 2005-2006, she served as chair of the Council of Great City Schools, which is comprised of the country’s largest urban school districts.

Previously, Ackerman served as chief academic officer of the District of Columbia Public Schools in 1997 and was named superintendent in 1998. While at DCPS, Ackerman improved the district’s student achievement for three consecutive years, ended social promotion, and implemented weekend classes for struggling students.

Ackerman's educational experience started in the classroom as an elementary and middle school teacher, as well as a middle school principal. Ackerman has served as a faculty member and mentor superintendent for The Broad Superintendents Academy since 2002.

"I'm thrilled to work with seasoned leaders who have a passion to lend their experience to what I believe is the most important job in our country – school superintendent," Ackerman said. "The Broad Superintendents Academy is a unique program that has built a track record of success in training and placing graduates in some of the country's top urban school districts."

Since the program started in 2002, 33 graduates of The Broad Superintendents Academy have served as superintendents, and another 26 have gone on to hold senior school district executive positions.

As superintendent in residence, Ackerman will facilitate the academy's professional development sessions, participate in recruitment and selection activities for future cohorts, and provide executive coaching to alumni who have taken leadership positions in large urban districts.

Ackerman will work closely with Tim Quinn, managing director of The Broad Superintendents Academy, and with Christina Heitz, who has joined the academy as senior director.

Ackerman also currently serves as the Christian A. Johnson Professor of Outstanding Educational Practice at Columbia University. She is a member of the Council of the Great City Schools Executive Committee, the Bay Area United Negro College Fund Board of Directors, Reading is Fundamental, Inc.'s National Advisory Council, and the National Alliance of Black School Educators. She also was appointed to the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and to The Teaching Commission.

Ackerman received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Harris Stowe Teachers College, a master's degree in educational administration and policy from Washington University, and a master's degree and doctorate of education in administration, planning and social policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Heitz, the academy's new senior director, joins from The Broad Foundation, where she worked on a national campaign to raise public awareness about the current crisis in education. Prior to her work with Broad, Christina was an early leader in the marketing of broadband Internet, having held key roles at AT&T, start-up Northpoint Communications, and SBC Communications. Heitz started her career as a marketing manager with Ralston Purina. Heitz has a bachelor's degree in economics from Duke University and an MBA from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University.

The Broad Center for the Management of School Systems is funded by The Broad Foundation, a Los Angeles-based national venture philanthropy established in 1999 by Eli and Edythe Broad. Eli Broad is a renowned business leader who founded two Fortune 500 companies, SunAmerica, Inc. and KB Home. The Foundation's mission is to improve urban K-12 public education through better governance, management, labor relations and competition. For more information, go to [www.broadcenter.org](http://www.broadcenter.org) or [www.broadfoundation.org](http://www.broadfoundation.org).

#####