FROM THE DIRECTOR

2003 CAHN FELLOW AND RETIRING P.S. 130M PRINCIPAL LILY WOO TAKES THE HELM OF THE CAHN FELLOWS PROGRAM

Thanks to Chuck Cahn, I now have the honor of being the new director of the amazing and prestigious Cahn Fellows Program! Over the past few months, I've had the pleasure of speaking to many Cahn Alumni who have shared their sentiments as to how valuable their Cahn Fellows experience was for them. I am looking forward to working closely with the 2014 cohort to make their experience in the program just as rewarding.

One of the big goals we have for this year is to really strengthen the Cahn Alumni Network and to offer more opportunities for Alumni to network and interact with each other. We currently have about 250 alumni, with quite an impressive list of members who have since moved up from the principalship into more influential leadership roles in public education - not only in New York City but in other cities and states as well. The success of our alumni, along with the expansion of the program in Newark and Chicago, is helping our program to become more nationally recognized. It is our hope that this network of school leaders will not only serve as a valuable resource for all Cahn Fellows, but also to be able to positively and significantly impact educational policy and practice on the local, state, and national levels.

In addition, we are looking into possible opportunities of supporting the Cahn Allies who had worked so closely with the Fellows on their projects while in the program. Many have expressed a great interest in continuing their connection with the program so that they can continue to hone their skills as school leaders and potential heads of Schools. More on this later as things develop.

We are relying on the help of all members of the Cahn Fellows, past and present, to make this program a continued success. If you can help in any way, please let me know by contacting me at lily.woo@tc.columbia.edu. Any and all suggestions and input are welcomed!

Thank you in advance and I look forward to working with all of you!

All the Best,

Lily

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Lily Woo’s P.S. 130M and Cahn Legacy

I found myself yearning for opportunities for professional growth and conversations that would challenge my work further and was missing the collegiality and support that I so enjoyed in the smaller setting of my old school district meetings. Then along came the invitation to be a part of the Cahn Fellows Program.

The experience of being in a cohort of outstanding principals with the opportunity to hone my leadership skills with the help of the talented staff at Teachers College was incredible, as were the lessons learned from Gettysburg and the Summer Leadership Institute.

I was able to re-examine my role as a school leader and to reflect on all of the things that impacted my daily decision-making and interactions with my staff, school community and colleagues in a different light.

The renewed energy and the things I learned rekindled my desire to remain as principal and helped me to complete 10 more successful years at the school!

This year, after almost 40 years in public education (of which 24 years were as principal of one school), I decided it was time for a change, and maybe, some rest as well (as principals, all of you know the job is a 24/7, non-stop position!).

It was my good fortune that I have always stayed in contact with Chuck and many of the Cahn alumni. He offered me the dream job of working with the finest principals in New York City (and now in Newark and Chicago as well) at a time when I was trying to figure out what I wanted to do next.

As I step into this new capacity as director, I am in awe of the company that I represent and keep. Having been in your shoes, I am fully aware and appreciative of the struggles that each of you go through each day and the long hours that you keep as you provide for the needs of all of your students and school communities. The Cahn Fellows Program network is a highly selective collection of the system’s top principals that can serve as one more invaluable support system that you can call on and hopefully will help you through your toughest days. We hope that you will take advantage of it!

Note:
Lily’s school community is planning her retirement celebration for Friday, November 7th from 6pm to 10pm at the Jing Fong Restaurant, 20 Elizabeth Street, in Chinatown.

Anyone interested in attending can contact PS 130’s Parents Association for info at PS130MPA@YAHOO.COM or 212-226-8072, x1010.
In the beginning of the Cahn Fellows Program in 2003, Fellows were asked to work with new principals on projects that addressed common issues in both schools.

The first cohort of 2003 Cahn Fellows selected other school principals to serve as their Cahn Ally. I was lucky to have P.S. 51 Principal Nancy Sing Bock work with me.

In 2005, Nancy became a Cahn Fellow in her own right as a successful, high-performing principal.

Cahn Fellows now select an aspiring school leader within their building to be their Cahn Ally for their fellowship year.

Working with Allies on a project is important work that builds relationships and skills for school leaders.

As my Cahn Ally, Nancy and I have maintained a great relationship as colleagues over the years. Shortly thereafter, I proudly recommended her application to the Cahn Fellows Program.

In 2005, Nancy became a Cahn Fellow in her own right as a successful, high-performing principal.
“Inquiry” has always been at the heart of the Cahn Fellows Program. As partners and mentors to the principals, my TC faculty colleagues and I try to support your efforts to be reflective about your professional work and look beyond the surface at what’s going on in your schools and how things might be improved.

Inquiry and reflection are key elements of continuous improvement, learning organizations, and professional learning communities. Whatever your favorite terminology is, if we want schools to keep moving forward, it’s a good thing for school leaders and others to reflect and look more closely.

John Q. Easton, Director of the Institute of Education Sciences at the U.S. Department of Education, often refers to this kind of research as “shining a light.” Researchers certainly don’t have all the answers themselves, but if they positive and negative aspects of can illuminate what’s happening in “data-driven” practice in schools, they can work as partners with hand help identify genuine ways leaders and teachers to help solve teachers can be reflective about their teaching and responsive to student needs.

Because Cahn Fellows and Allies are already well acquainted with the----

For the last year, I have been so lucky good instructional plans.

My graduate students and I are alsoand expertise with each other. inquiring about how school principals, But they are able to do this mainly coaches, and other leaders can support because the principal has teachers’ efforts to plan instruction supported them by hiring a very talented set of subject area coaches.

In another project, a master’s student in education policy benefited greatly from working with several Cahn Fellows last year on a small project to understand teacher turnover and attrition better.

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Sharing the Gettysburg battlefield experience in July with the 2014 Cahn Fellows cohort really allowed me to learn the essence of the organization in a very short time. Leadership and passion immediately came to the surface as we simulated a march through one of the battlefield sites.

I have spent 20 years working in K-12 education and mostly think of professional development and collaboration being conducted in classrooms, auditoriums and libraries. The bus and the battlefield caused great ideas to be shared immediately.

The incredible balance of great leadership and innovative thinking while showing humility and open-mindedness by the Fellows was very inspiring to me. In rejoining the cohort on Day 9 of the 10-day Summer Leadership Institute, I was impressed to see that what I expected to be more than 20 weary souls were actually as inspired as on Day 1.

I look forward with great anticipation to see the continuation of great teamwork and collaboration as we begin the 2014-15 school year together.
CAHN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: RAHESHA AMON, 2007 CAHN FELLOW

SOUTH BRONX ACADEMY CO-FOUNDER RAHESHA AMON
NOMINATED FOR DAILY NEWS HOMETOWN HERO AWARD

The 2007 Cahn Fellow Raises the Education Bar and Prepares Students for College

By NY Daily News Reporter Jason Bisloff / Photo by Nancy Siesel

Rahesha Amon, the 42-year-old co-founder of Frederick Douglass Academy III and 2007 Cahn Fellow, ensures that students get personalized help with university applications and aid forms, as well as field trips to colleges in the area. Amon’s long term thinking has earned her a nomination for a Daily News Hometown Heroes in Education award.

Rahesha Amon saw students ill-prepared for college, so she opened a school dedicated to higher learning. She co-founded Frederick Douglass Academy III in the South Bronx because students there needed extra help preparing for higher education.

“A child’s zip code should not prevent their opportunity to attend the university of their choice,” said Amon, 42, who has been an administrator at the school since 2000.

The school emphasizes lessons beyond typical academics, such as community service and etiquette training. Those skills prove invaluable for students at the school in the poorest district in the country, Amon said.

“We know that the way to change the trajectory of these families is through education,” she said.

The curriculum at the school focuses on college preparation. Each student is given personalized help with college applications and financial aid forms. Students take field trips to colleges in the area.

For her dedication to offering quality education and opportunity for all students in New York City, Amon is nominated for a Hometown Heroes in Education award.

When she founded the school near Crotona Park, she named it after the Frederick Douglass Academy in Harlem as an homage to the work of Lorraine Monroe, who is credited with turning that school around in the 1990s.

“It felt good to create something from scratch,” she said.
CAHN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ALAN MATHER

2012 Cahn Fellow, Principal, Lindblom Math & Science Academy, Chicago

Mather was instrumental in the seven-year, $2 Million contract Lindblom signed with Baxter International to host the Biotechnology Center of Excellence (BCoE), a teacher training center in biotechnology.

Mather was selected for his dedication and leadership at Lindblom, which has become under his tenure the top-performing majority African-American school in Illinois and the only top 20 ranked school that has over 60 percent of its students on free or reduced lunch.

During his tenure, Lindblom has built the largest Mandarin program in the Chicago public schools and the largest non-heritage Arabic program in the United States.

Leadership Institute for Principals, has been part of Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management's "Leading Successful Schools" program, and was selected as one of two Chicago principals to participate in New York's Cahn Fellows Distinguished Principals Program for the 2012-2013 school year at Teachers College.

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That message was broadened in a letter of greetings by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan who said “education is “the leading civil rights issue of our generation” and the most challenging issue before the country.

Of the 12 Outstanding Administrators of the Year 2014 selected by Education Update, three of the top administrators were Cahn Alumni:

◆ **2011 Cahn Fellow Magalie Alexis**
   Principal, PS/MS 282, Brooklyn

◆ **2010 Cahn Fellow Roshone Ault Lee**
   Founder and Principal
   The South Bronx Academy for Applied Media, Bronx

◆ **2009 Cahn Ally Toni Marie Viera**
   Assistant Principal, Scholars’ Academy, Queens

Each year, this New York ceremony hosted by Education Update, celebrates Distinguished Leaders in Education in addition to honoring administrators and teachers. But this year, as Education Update publisher Dr. Pola Rosen, welcomed the honorees.

Rosen suggested that the Education Update annual is as important, if not more so, than the Hollywood Academy Awards since this Academy is the real deal - an annual coming together of professionals from arguably the most important academy in the country.

Here were honorees who have already made a difference in the classroom and whose administrative and pedagogical innovations, studies show, have already advanced education policies and procedures. Which is not to say that accomplishments, alone, define the purpose of the annual awards.

Education Update, has as its mission educating the wider public to support public education, especially, as Keynote Speaker, Dr. Ernest Logan, President, Council of School Supervisors & Administrators, eloquently argued, to ensure quality universal pre-K.
The Annual June Leadership Conference
CAHN FELLOWS PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:
2013 Cahn Fellow Jeanene Worrell-Breeden
Principal, Teachers College Community School, NYC

In a quest to help teachers better reflect on their habits, practices, and content knowledge, as a 2013 Cahn Fellow and as principal of Teachers College Community School (TCCS) Principal, I sought to strengthen academic instruction and helped my students meet the Common Core Learning Standards during my Cahn fellowship year.

As TCCS plans for the 2014-2015 school year, my Cahn Ally and Assistant Principal Marie Sarabia and I are broadening our scope and planning professional development for our teachers in order to implement the next steps of our Cahn project.

As a team of professional learners, and as a growing school community expanding to third grade, this year we needed to consider the needs of our students and the growing staff. It will be important to differentiate the professional development so that we are able to target both early childhood and upper grade teachers' needs.

We will continue with the normed conversation structure throughout the schools and have asked our teacher leaders to think about, plan, observe and give feedback on how teachers are working with students to build academic vocabulary through read aloud and whole class conversations.

It is an exciting next step for returning teachers to continue and expand the work that took place throughout the last year, and is a wonderful opportunity to grow our school community and expand to meet the needs of our incoming third-grade classes.

2013 Cahn Fellow
Jeanene Worrell-Breeden

2013 Cahn Ally
Marie Sarabia
2014 Cahn Fellows and Cahn Alumni at the annual Gettysburg Retreat July 20-22
On the Gettysburg Battlefield
P.S. 160K CHESS TEAM WINS THE MAYOR’S CUP BEST IN THE CITY AND HEADS TO DALLAS FOR THE NATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT

CELEBRITY VISITORS KICK OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR AT THE HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOL

By 2008 Cahn Fellow and HCCS Principal Christina Tettonis

While New York weatherman Nick Gregory helped our third-grade students and teachers launch our school’s new science weather unit at the Hellenic Classical Charter School, the Harlem Globetrotters made an assist in Brooklyn as they delivered an anti-bullying message to students.

Along with their signature moves, two Globetrotter stars showed children at the Park Slope school how to overcome bullying. It’s part of what the team calls “Globetrotter Week” where they take their anti-bullying campaign to schools and hospitals throughout the city. They say the goal is to entertain and inform.

MARGARET RUSSO

2008 Cahn Fellow
Principal, William Sampson School
P.S. 160, Brooklyn
CAHN-GRATULATIONS CAHN ALUMNI!

JANICE JACKSON
2014 Cahn Fellow
Former Principal
George Westinghouse Prep

CHIEF OF SCHOOLS
Chicago Public Schools
Network 9

MARA RATESIC-KOETKE
2013 Cahn Fellow
Former Principal
P.S. 77M, Lower Lab, NYC

CYNTHIA DIAZ BURGOS
2013 Cahn Fellow

PRINCIPAL
JHS 189Q
Queens

DIRECTOR
OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
Bronxville Schools
CAHN-GRA T U L AT I O N S O N Y O U R R E T I R E M E N T!

BETTY GONZALEZ SOTO
2004 CAHN FELLOW
PRINCIPAL
C.S. 211
BROOKLYN

MARGARET CHOY SHAN
2010 Cahn Fellow
PRINCIPAL
P.S. 164K
CAESAR RODNEY SCHOOL
BROOKLYN
Excellence and Equity in Education: The Finnish Way

Fall Work Conference
October 19 - 21, 2014 Teachers College, Columbia, NYC

We welcome:
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Educational Leaders interested in the AASA Collaborative

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Our fall Collaborative work conference meets our mission of bringing together superintendents and other educational leaders from across the country to learn from and act as critical friends to transform education.

Pasi Sahlberg
“Excellence and Equity in Education: The Finnish Way”

Jack Naglieri
“Traditional IQ: 100 Years of Misconception”

James Harvey
“Understanding International Large-Scale Assessments (ILSAs) in Context”

Yong Zhao
“Educating Entrepreneurial and Creative Students” (via WebEx)

Ron Ferguson
Achievement Gap, Taking Action: An AASA Collaborative Effort

Leslie Boozer
Collaborative Co-chair, Superintendent, Fontana, CA

Jere Hochman
Collaborative Co-Chair, Superintendent, Bedford, NY

Bena Kallick
Collaborative Facilitator, Coauthor of Habits of Mind

Mort Sherman
AASA Superintendent in Residence

Conference Registration: http://www.aasa.org/content.aspx?id=33684