

The Schumann Fund for New Jersey Awards \$100,000 to the Rutgers Center for Children and Childhood Studies

March 26th, 2008

The Rutgers University-Camden Center for Children and Childhood Studies is the recipient of a two-year \$100,000 grant through the Schumann Fund for New Jersey. The grant will support RU-CCCS' Professional Development Pathways Initiative for Early Childhood Education in Camden, as well as the new PK-3 Continuum Project in partnership with the Camden City Board of Education. Both projects are under the leadership of Angela Connor, Senior Program Director and head of the Early Childhood Education Division.

The Professional Development Pathways Initiative (PDPI) is in its' eight year of providing comprehensive early childhood education training and credentialing for Camden's early childhood community. Since 2000, PDPI has implemented a range of services that include the infant/toddler, preschool, Spanish and family childcare CDA specializations, Peer Professional Mentoring, Professional Development Advisement and Director Administrative and Mentoring Development. In 2006, the Center launched a groundbreaking College Readiness and ECE Apprenticeship model through PDPI, in partnership with Camden County College. To date, the College Readiness Project has assisted over fifty Camden early childhood educators in successfully starting the college experience. The improved credentialing and education of Camden's early childhood teaching community significantly and positively impacts the learning outcomes of Camden's most vulnerable children.

The most recent Schumann grant will support the continued work of the Professional Development Pathways Initiative, as well as the new collaboration between RU-CCCS and the Camden City Board of Education. This exciting new collaboration will focus on expanding mentoring supports to directors, the development of overall quality improvement plans for Camden's childcare centers and the improvement of coordination of services between the two entities. The Center for Children and Childhood Studies and the Camden City Board of Education are also working towards a true PK-3 Continuum within the city through a holistic approach that includes coordination between the school district, higher education, as well as the pediatric health community.

For more information, please contact Angela Connor at (856) 225-6739.