

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Fellows Program Accepts Inaugural Class

Group of 17 Leaders in Non-Profits to Attend Skills-Enhancing Retreat

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The inaugural class of Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Fellows—a select group of executive directors of community-based non-profit agencies serving disadvantaged individuals—has been named by the University of Baltimore's Schaefer Center for Public Policy. The 2007 class will embark on a year-long professional development program designed to enhance leadership skills and promote collaboration among the region's nonprofits by attending their first retreat on Monday, March 19.

Through a competitive selection process, the group of 17 executive directors from agencies that serve disadvantaged residents in the Baltimore metropolitan area was selected for the program. Members of the 2007 class include **Salliann Alborn**, Community Health Integrated Partnership, Inc.; **Carolyn C. Ames**, Community Housing Associates, Inc.; **Bonnie Bessor**, Rebuilding Together Baltimore; **Kathryn Spencer Farinholt**, NAMI-Metropolitan Baltimore; **Margaret Footner**, Creative Alliance; **Lena M. Franklin**, Recovery in Community, Inc.; **Khalilah Harris**, The Baltimore Freedom Academy Foundation, Inc.; **Sheila Helgerson**, United Ministries, Inc.; **Virginia Knowlton**, Maryland Disability Law Center; **Debra Langseth**, Spectrum Support, Inc.; **Dale Eileen Meyer**, People Encouraging People, Inc.; **Alfreda Robinson-Dawkins**, National Women's Prison Project, Inc.; **Lesley Anne Smith**, Washington Village/Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council; **Joyce C. Smith**, Operation ReachOut SouthWest; **Shelly Terranova**, Junior League of Baltimore; **Steve Vassor**, Hampden Family Center; and **Kathleen O`Donnell Weiss**, BioTechnical Institute of Maryland, Inc.

The program will include a series of four off-site retreats facilitated by UB faculty: **Ann Cotten**, director of the Schaefer Center; **Lenneal Henderson**, professor in the School of Public Affairs and senior research associate with the Schaefer Center; and **Joseph McNeely**, a research associate with the Schaefer Center and nationally recognized expert in nonprofit leadership. The March 19 retreat will take place at the Pearlstone Retreat and Conference Center in Reisterstown. Presenters and panelists will include experts from nonprofit organizations, local colleges and universities, schools, businesses, consulting firms, and government agencies.

"We are very excited about working with our first class of Weinberg Fellows," said Cotten. "This is a terrific opportunity to make a difference in the Baltimore community by enhancing the skills of the fellows, supporting their professional development and helping to facilitate collaborative partnerships among the fellows."

Applications for the 2008 class will be accepted beginning this coming August 1. Executive directors interested in receiving applications for the 2008 program can place their names on the mailing list on the program's Web site at <http://weinbergfellows.ubalt.edu/pages/apply.htm>

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Fellows Program was created by the Weinberg Foundation in Hawaii in 1992 as a leadership development program for executive directors of community-based, nonprofit agencies serving disadvantaged individuals. Introduced in Baltimore in 2002, the program has flourished by providing hands-on interactive sessions focused on improving key management and leadership skills, exploring important issues and challenges, and providing opportunities to network with other agency leaders. Almost 100 Weinberg Fellows have completed the program in Baltimore.

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation is the 22nd largest private foundation in the United States, with approximately \$2 billion in assets. It annually distributes approximately \$100 million to a wide range of charitable organizations. The foundation is dedicated to assisting the poor through operating and capital grants to direct service organizations primarily located in Baltimore, Hawaii, Northeastern Pennsylvania, New York,

Israel, and the former Soviet Union. Grants are focused on meeting basic human needs and self-sufficiency. Within that focus, emphasis is placed on the elderly and on the Jewish community. Annual grants to Maryland recipients generally have averaged approximately 25 percent of the total amount awarded. The trustees of the foundation are **Shale D. Stiller**, **Alvin Awaya**, **Donn Weinberg**, **Barry Schloss** and **Robert T. Kelly, Jr.** More information on the foundation can be found at www.hjweinbergfoundation.org.

The Schaefer Center for Public Policy is an applied research unit within UB's Yale Gordon College of Liberal Arts. The center's mission is to bring the university's academic expertise to bear in solving problems faced by government and nonprofit organizations. The center offers the following services: strategic planning, performance measurement, program evaluation and analysis, opinion research, management consulting and management training. It is through the Schaefer Center that the University of Baltimore and the Yale Gordon College of Liberal Arts meet a central component of the University's mission of applied research and public service to the Baltimore metropolitan area and to the state of Maryland. To learn more about the Schaefer Center, visit their Web site at <http://scpp.ubalt.edu>.

The University of Baltimore is a member of the University System of Maryland and comprises the School of Law, the Yale Gordon College of Liberal Arts and the Merrick School of Business.

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