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Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Fellows Program Graduates Fifth Group

Cadre of 17 Non-Profit Leaders Completes Leadership Development Program

The fifth group of Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Fellows in Baltimore—a select class of executive directors of community-based non-profit agencies serving disadvantaged individuals—graduated today from the Weinberg Fellows Program, which is coordinated by the University of Baltimore's Schaefer Center for Public Policy. The 2007 Weinberg Fellows completed a year-long professional development program designed to enhance leadership skills and promote collaboration among the region's non-profit organizations.

The group of 17 executive directors from agencies that serve disadvantaged residents in the Baltimore metropolitan area was selected for the program through a competitive process. The members of the 2007 Weinberg Fellows include **Salliann Alborn** of Community Health Integrated Partnership, Inc.; **Carolyn C. Ames** of 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 included a series of four 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 year-long program featured discussions on the full spectrum of not-for-profit organizational issues, each session led by experts from non-profit organizations, local colleges and universities, schools, businesses, consulting firms, and government agencies.

The Oct. 19 graduation took place on the last day of the Fellows' fourth retreat of the year, at Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center in Ellicott City.

"This has been a very exciting year," Cotten said. "It has been wonderful getting to know the Fellows, watching them share ideas and mentor each other, and helping them enhance their skills and confidence as executive directors."

The graduates of the program reported tremendous benefits from the experience.

“This unique opportunity brought together a very dynamic and diverse group of community giants of varied professions, passions and corporate purses yet touched us all, groomed and shaped us all,” said Robinson-Dawkins, executive director of the National Women’s Prison Project. “The training renewed, refreshed and revitalized us to return to our entities with more incisive direction to make a difference while sharing our passions in our communities.”

Meyer, executive director of People Encouraging People, echoed that sentiment.

“The word ‘fellowship’ is the key concept of this program. To be in the company of dedicated, smart and hardworking professionals who understand not only my work but the environment where I do it, is more supportive and pleasant than I had ever imagined,” Meyer said.

Applications for the 2008 Weinberg Fellows Program are being accepted through Nov. 2, 2007. Application materials are available on the program’s Web site at www.weinbergfellows.org.

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. Including this group, 113 Weinberg Fellows have now 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 older adults 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.