



For immediate release

14 educators to be trained to identify high-potential children in low-income settings

The fourth class of Javits-Frasier Teacher Scholarship recipients announced for the November 5 - 8, 2009 training in St. Louis, MO

Washington, D.C. –October 12, 2009: Today the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) announced that Ms. Neusa Wendt of Lyman Hall Elementary School in Hall County, Georgia, has been selected as a Javits-Frasier Teacher Scholar. Comprised of 14 outstanding educators from Title I schools across the country, the group will attend a special strand of sessions at the NAGC Annual Convention and receive a travel stipend through generous support made possible by the Javits-Frasier Teacher Scholarship Fund for Diverse Talent Development.

The teacher training program honors Mary Frasier, Ph.D., the late and beloved past president of the association who led the way in identifying underserved gifted children. Dr. Frasier's pioneering work in the state of Georgia increased by three-fold the number of African American and quadrupled the number of Hispanic children in gifted/talented programs. She later consulted across the U.S. and became legendary in the field of gifted on the topic of underserved children. Earlier this year, Ms. Wendt was honored by the Georgia Association for Gifted Children (GAGC) when was named the 2009 winner of the Mary Frasier Equity & Excellence Award.

In order to take expertise and tools back to their schools, these scholars will be trained using the proven tools that Mary Frasier developed and inspired during her career. A rigorous four-day training program has been designed as part of NAGC's 56th annual convention in St. Louis, MO, where all of the experts in the field will gather November 5th – 8th. The scholars were selected from numerous applicants across the country. Fourteen were selected from a nation-wide pool. The national scholarships include a two-year membership to the NAGC, convention registration, four days of training at convention as well as a travel stipend.

Donna Ford, Ph.D., of Vanderbilt University and former chair of the NAGC Diversity Committee is confident of the purpose and success of this project. A lifelong friend and colleague of Frasier, she said "I cannot thank the donors enough for making this dream a reality. There is no more fitting extension of Mary's legacy than to dispatch 14 newfound voices for culturally and economically diverse students who are struggling to be recognized for their potential. This is a program that I am certain has a great future."

For more than three decades, NAGC members have addressed the issue of underrepresentation of culturally and economically diverse students. The Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act was passed by Congress in 1988 in memory of the late senator. The program has funded grants to focus on giftedness in disadvantaged youth. Much of the research contained in

the Frasier methodology has its origins in this research. So, simultaneously, Senator Javits' lifelong passion for civil rights is truly commemorated in this program.

“Until now, we’ve not had an organizing principle around which to coalesce and provide this critical training. Thanks to the generosity of our members and other contributors, we can truly advance the cause of leaving no talent behind, no matter what the economic circumstance of the child,” says Nancy Green, NAGC Executive Director.

The National Association for Gifted Children is the largest national organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the more than three million gifted and talented students in the U.S. With more than 7,800 educators and parent members, the association is fully committed to national goals that advocate both excellence and equity for all students in public schools and believes that the best way to achieve these goals is through differentiated educational opportunities, resources, and encouragement.

Contact: Jeff Danielian: (202) 785-4268 jdanielian@nagc.org