



Investing in School Readiness

**PRESS RELEASE**

January 26, 2006

**For more information, contact:**

Vera Steiner Blore 703.324.8126

Vera.steinerblore@fairfaxfutures.org

**BUSINESSES INVEST IN SCHOOL READINESS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY**

**Fairfax, VA** -- On February 1, 2006, area businesses will join other community and education leaders for the launch of Fairfax Futures' *School Readiness Network*. Keynote remarks will include a presentation by PNC Bank Regional President Michael Harreld who will address what businesses can do to strengthen young children's school readiness. PNC Bank is the sponsor of Grow Up Great, a ten-year, \$100 million initiative to support quality early childhood education.

Corporate members of the *School Readiness Network* as of January 25, 2006 include the Freddie Mac Foundation, Capital One, PNC Bank, Booz Allen Hamilton, Cox Communications and Raytheon Intelligence and Information Systems. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and the Reston Chamber of Commerce are also members. A full list is at [www.fairfaxfutures.org](http://www.fairfaxfutures.org)

Funds raised through the *School Readiness Network* will support the training of early childhood educators in Fairfax County and foster collaboration between the early childhood community and Fairfax County Public Schools to help ensure children's smooth transition to kindergarten.

Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan, author of *Not By Chance. Creating an Early Care and Education System*, will address the community role in supporting young children's school readiness.

The launch event will be held from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at Capital One in McLean, Virginia and is made possible through a generous grant from the Freddie Mac Foundation, with additional support from Capital One and the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. **Members of the media are requested to RSVP to 703.324.8126 by January 31.**

*Fairfax Futures is dedicated to ensuring that our county's youngest children are well prepared to succeed in school and in life. In collaboration with partners across the county, we invest in early childhood education and school readiness by bringing attention and financial resources to sustain our region's future.*

*Created by Freddie Mac in 1991, the Freddie Mac Foundation is dedicated to opening the doors to hope and opportunity for children and their families. As one of the largest corporate funders in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, Freddie Mac and the Freddie Mac Foundation have invested nearly \$250 million in organizations serving the community. [www.FreddieMacFoundation.org](http://www.FreddieMacFoundation.org)*