



Investing in School Readiness

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW SCHOOL READINESS INITIATIVE LAUNCHED IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Fairfax, VA -- On February 1, 2006, area businesses joined other community and education leaders for the launch of Fairfax Futures' *School Readiness Network*. This public-private sector partnership brings attention to the importance of school readiness for Fairfax County's youngest children and raises funds to support quality early childhood education in Fairfax County.

Keynote speaker Michael Harreld, Regional President, PNC Bank highlighted his company's Grow Up Great program -- a ten-year, \$100 million initiative to support school readiness for children from birth to age five. Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan, an internationally recognized author and expert in early childhood education, noted that communities must work together, with all parts "in gear" to ensure the success of young children. She cited the importance of Fairfax Futures' *School Readiness Network* as a model of how companies, schools, early childhood educators, government and community organizations can work in collaboration to help young children achieve success in school and in life.

Corporate members of the *School Readiness Network* as of February 1 include the Freddie Mac Foundation, Capital One, PNC Bank, Booz Allen Hamilton, Cox Communications, Raytheon Intelligence and Information Systems and Dominion Virginia Power. Additional information about the *School Readiness Network* is available at www.fairfaxfutures.org

The launch event was hosted by Capital One in McLean, Virginia and was made possible through a generous grant from the Freddie Mac Foundation. Funds raised through the *School Readiness Network* will support the training of early childhood educators in Fairfax County and will foster collaboration between the early childhood community and Fairfax County Public Schools to help ensure children's smooth transition to kindergarten.

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.