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## **E.L. Haynes Public Charter School Named Silver Award Winner for Third Year in Effective Practice Incentive Community Grant**

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E.L. Haynes Public Charter School has been named for the third year in a row as a Silver Gain Award Winner in New Leaders for New Schools' Effective Practice Incentive Community (EPIC) program. The award recognizes E.L. Haynes for its significant student achievement gain on the DC-CAS in the 2008-2009 school year. The award was one of 22 given to schools in the grant's consortium of 179 charter schools from across the country.

E.L. Haynes Public Charter School again demonstrated the strength of its model by making outstanding gains on the 2009 DC-CAS. In math, 80% of E.L. Haynes students scored proficient or advanced, a 12 percentage point gain over 2008 scores. In reading, 66% of students scored proficient or advanced, a 6 percentage point gain over 2008 scores. In the last three years, E.L. Haynes has made extraordinary gains of 50 percentage points in math proficiency and 26 percentage points in reading proficiency. EPIC awards are based on the progress a school's students make over time. In this way, EPIC identifies and rewards schools that have had a clear impact on their students' learning. Mathematica Policy Research, an independent, nationally recognized research firm, calculated the gains by comparing gains on state achievement tests made in the 2008-09 school year over 2007-08 and in some cases 2006-07 scores.

EPIC is unique because it compares charter school achievement gain across 20 states and Washington DC. EPIC is in its third year of a five-year grant funded primarily by the federal government. Schools have the opportunity to win in multiple years. Once this third cohort of schools is awarded, the total amount of EPIC incentives awarded to charter educators will top \$5.36 million. E.L. Haynes Founder and Head of School, Jennifer C. Niles, said, "I am so proud that E.L. Haynes is an EPIC winner for the third year in a row. The program does not simply highlight the great gains our students are making, but also connects us with schools nationwide to share and learn." EPIC award-winning schools provide a unique opportunity for educators to learn from their peers in order to strengthen their own school's practice. All winning schools will submit school practices that contribute to effective teaching and learning through a collaborative process with New Leaders for New Schools. Effective practices will be documented and shared with all EPIC schools. Case studies and profiles from all 22 award-winning charter schools will be posted on the EPIC Knowledge System, which is a comprehensive professional development site available to staff at all EPIC schools.

### **About E.L. Haynes**

E.L. Haynes Public Charter School demonstrates what a public school could, and should, be. The school was founded in 2004 and has a program based on nationally recognized best practices for advancing student achievement. E.L. Haynes' mission is that every student of every race, socioeconomic status, and home language will reach high levels of academic achievement and be prepared to succeed at the college of his or her choice. E.L. Haynes is moving steadily toward achieving this mission; in 2009, 80% of students scored proficient or advanced in math on the DC-CAS and 66% scored proficient or advanced in reading. The school is proud to have made outstanding three-year gains of 50 percentage points in math and 26 percentage points in reading.

In 2009-2010, E.L. Haynes serves 450 students in grades Pre-K through 7 and will grow, adding a grade each year, until it serves students in grades Pre-K through 12. The school is the first year-round public school in Washington, DC and is named for Dr. Euphemia Lofton Haynes, the first African-American woman to receive a doctorate in mathematics, a teacher in the District of Columbia's school system for 47 years, and the first woman to serve as President of the District of Columbia Board of Education. In April 2008, E.L. Haynes was chosen from DC's 56 charter schools as the winner of Fight for Children's first-ever Quality Schools Initiative Award. In both 2008 and 2009, E.L. Haynes was named a Silver Award winning school in through New Leaders for New Schools' Effective Practice grant program, ranking as a top school among a consortium of 144 charter schools nationwide. For more information, visit [www.elhaynes.org](http://www.elhaynes.org).

### **About EPIC & New Leaders for New Schools**

The goal of EPIC is to identify and share effective practices that have contributed to significant academic achievement gains among students in charter schools throughout the country. Conceived in 2006 by the non-profit, New Leaders for New Schools, EPIC is funded primarily by the U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Incentive Fund Program with support from private philanthropists. "Our goal is to promote high levels of academic achievement for all students and a culture of high expectations. EPIC gives educators opportunities to grow and lead while keeping great teachers in the classroom," says New Leaders Chief Executive Officer and co-founder Jon Schnur.

The goal of the EPIC National Charter School Consortium is to connect with and learn from schools serving high-need populations that are making significant gains in student achievement. The EPIC program is also active in Memphis City Schools, D.C. Public Schools, and Denver Public Schools. In its first two years, EPIC awarded over \$7 million to 2,694 educators in 70 schools in 19 cities and 13 states. In the third year, EPIC will award an estimated \$5.7 million to an estimated 1,800 educators in EPIC district and charter schools around the country.