



E.L. Haynes Public Charter School
3600 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20010

202.667.4446 TEL
202.667.8811 FAX
info@elhaynes.org

www.elhaynes.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Further Information, Contact:

Julie Anne Green
(202) 667-4446
jgreen@elhaynes.org

Jennifer C. Niles Named as a 2010 Fellow in the Entrepreneurial Leaders for Public Education Program Aspen Institute – NewSchools program recognizes leaders ready to embrace the challenge of improving public education

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The Aspen Institute and NewSchools Venture Fund have named Jennifer C. Niles, Founder and Head of School of E.L. Haynes Public Charter School as a 2010 Fellow in the prestigious Entrepreneurial Leaders for Public Education Fellowship Program. Niles was chosen from more than 150 nominees and joins 23 other accomplished leaders as members of the 2010 cohort. The program is designed to recognize and support exceptional entrepreneurial leaders who are committed to transforming public education.

Past cohorts have included such distinguished leaders as Senator Michael Bennet of Colorado, Jim Shelton, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education, Larry Berger, Chief Executive Officer of Wireless Generation, and John Deasy, Deputy Director of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "I am incredibly honored to be a part of the Aspen/NewSchools Fellowship and to join with others in my cohort to ensure that outstanding schools are available to all children, across the country," said Niles.

Niles is the Founder and Head of School at E.L. Haynes Public Charter School, the highest performing public charter elementary school in Washington, DC according to results from the 2009 DC-CAS. E.L. Haynes' mission is to prepare every student for success at the college of his or her choice and for every student to be adept at mathematical reasoning, using scientific methods effectively to frame and solve problems, and developing the lifelong skills needed to be successful individuals, active community members, and responsible citizens. Like a teaching hospital, the school impacts education nationally by modeling effective practices, training future educators, and shaping education policy. In April 2008, E.L. Haynes was chosen from DC's 56 charter schools as the first recipient of Fight for Children's Quality Schools Initiative award. In 2008 and 2009, E.L. Haynes won a Silver-Gain Award from New Leaders for New Schools' Effective Practice Incentive Community program. In June 2003, Niles completed her New Leaders for New Schools (NLNS) fellowship; E.L. Haynes opened in August 2004. Prior to NLNS, Niles was the Director of Education Initiatives at The Ball Foundation (Glen Ellyn, IL), headed the Charter School Office for the Connecticut State Department of Education, and taught secondary school science and service learning in California and Massachusetts. She holds a BA from Brown University, an MPPM from the Yale School of Management, and an MS in Public Administration from Trinity University (DC).

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.

About the Aspen Institute

The mission of the Aspen Institute is to foster enlightened leadership and open-minded dialogue. Through seminars, policy programs, conferences and leadership development initiatives, the Institute and its international partners seek to promote nonpartisan inquiry and an appreciation for timeless values. For more information, visit www.aspeninstitute.org.

About NewSchools Venture Fund

NewSchools Venture Fund is a national nonprofit that is working to transform public education through powerful ideas and passionate entrepreneurs so that all children – especially those in underserved communities – have the opportunity to succeed. Founded in 1998, NewSchools has since raised nearly \$150 million and invested in a portfolio of more than 30 entrepreneurial organizations. In each of its funds, NewSchools has focused its investments in key leverage areas where social entrepreneurs can have a meaningful impact on some of the toughest challenges facing public education. NewSchools is currently developing its fourth fund, which will continue to drive innovation in public education by investing in early-stage organizations to close the achievement gap and prepare students for college and life success. For more information on NewSchools Venture Fund, visit www.newschools.org.