



An Initiative of The Skillman Foundation
to Improve the Lives of Children in Detroit through Good Schools

CONTACTS:

Daphne Hughes
Mort Crim Communications
(248) 358-4700 x 220

Sharon Lewis
Good Schools Resource Center
(313) 927-1814

—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—

GOOD SCHOOLS RESOURCE CENTER TO HOST HIGH SCHOOL SUMMIT

*Theme is “Transforming High Schools: Rethinking Rigor, Relevance
and Relationships”*

Detroit, MI, June 14, 2006— A high school summit will convene in Detroit this Friday, June 16 to provide a forum for all concerned — including national, state and local experts — to present and discuss relevant curricula, as well as assessment of academic achievement. Organized by the Good Schools Resource Center in preparation for launching the Good Schools application process to high schools in Detroit, the High School Summit will focus on "Transforming High Schools: Rethinking Rigor, Relevance and Relationships."

"Our *Good Schools: Making the Grade Initiative* is now preparing to include high schools in the application and selection process after our success with elementary and middle schools in Detroit. However, we recognized that it would be a very different process for high schools, especially with the state currently reviewing high school curricula and assessment of academic achievement," explained Dr. Alison Harmon, program director of The Skillman Foundation and lead advisor of the Good Schools initiative.

The High School Summit will be held at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 16 and from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 17th. The sessions will open on Friday with a keynote address by James Ballard, Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals. On Saturday, participants will select two workshops from a range of six concurrent sessions with topics ranging from Assessing Reading Skills at Secondary Level to the New Michigan Merit Exam. The highlight of the second day will be a luncheon address by Tavis Smiley, author and talk show host.

- more -

Sharon Lewis, executive director of the Good Schools Resource Center, described the summit as a way to hear from all concerned. "The High School Summit will allow us to hear from national, state and local experts, particularly principals and staff of high schools in Detroit. The findings from the summit will inform our development of criteria for selecting high schools in the Good Schools process."

The Good Schools Resource Center, currently housed at Marygrove College, manages the Good Schools application process of The Skillman Foundation's *Good Schools: Making the Grade Initiative*. The Good Schools initiative was launched three years ago to improve the lives of Detroit children through good schools. The goals of the initiative are to publicly identify, recognize and recognize Good Schools in Detroit; to support schools that apply the Good Schools indicators and have plans to improve; to help parents identify good schools - public, charter, private and parochial - in the city of Detroit using unbiased data to make informed choices; and to create and share knowledge of best practices with educators and parents.

All educators and residents in the metropolitan Detroit area who are concerned about the future of high schools are invited to this summit. For further information, please contact the Good Schools Resource Center at 313-927-1418 or log on to www.goodschoolsdetroit.org.

###