



SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2007 ROCHESTER, NY

Event Alert

For Immediate Release

70 Elementary School Students to be Recognized for Completing Underground Railroad Reading Project

Thursday, September 27, 2007

4:00 – 5:30 pm

Rochester Museum and Science Center

*Rochester, NY—September 26, 2007--*Seventy (70) elementary school students in grades three through six from the Rochester City School District will receive medallions at a ceremony Thursday September 27 in recognition of their reading accomplishment. The ceremony will be held from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Rochester Museum & Science Center (RMSC) against the backdrop of the RMSC's Frederick Douglass exhibit.

Students will tour the exhibit and work with the RMSC librarian to learn about the resources devoted to Frederick Douglass.

The ceremony is part of the Student Engagement Literacy Project (SELP) Underground Railroad reading project, in which students read the book, *Freedom Crossing* by Margaret Goff Clark, and kept a response journal to record their reactions.

The project is a component of the upcoming Frederick Douglass International Underground Railroad Conference and Freedom Festival. The Conference starts Friday September 28 and 29 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center and concludes Sunday September 30 with the Freedom Festival for the community at Susan B. Anthony Square.

Curtis Birthwright, SELP coordinator, says, "The project seeks to reach children early to educate them on their cultural heritage and also make this heritage part of school curriculums."

In addition to the RMSC reception on September 27, the students will also participate in the Frederick Douglass International Underground Railroad Conference on Friday

September 28 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. They will be recognized at the luncheon at Noon – 1:30 featuring Juan Williams and participate in a program following the luncheon that afternoon.

Note to Producers: Consider going live from the RMSC. Or, gather an inspiring story about children honing their literacy skills as they honor the achievements of Frederick Douglass, a great American and Rochesterian.

For more information on the Conference and the Freedom Festival please visit www.workforcediversitynetwork.com/iur.

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