



For Immediate Release

Fight For Children President & CEO Elected to the Board of Directors of DC Public Education Fund

*Michela English to Support Public-Private Partnerships
Aimed at Improving Student Achievement in DC*

[Washington, DC, July 8, 2009] DC Public Education Fund (DCPEF) announced today that Michela English, President & CEO of Fight For Children, was elected to its board of directors on June 25. The mission of DCPEF is to dramatically improve student achievement in the District of Columbia by serving as a strategic partner to businesses, foundations, community leaders, and individual donors in supporting and investing in high impact programs with the District of Columbia Public Schools.

“We are thrilled that Michela has agreed to share her rich educational and management experience with DC Public Education Fund,” said board chair Earle C Horton, III. “Michela’s unique perspective as a thought leader on school reform, coupled with her more than 30 years of business experience will be invaluable to us as we ramp up our efforts to improve student achievement in DC.”

English joins a board comprised of experienced education and business leaders. Other members include:

- **Mark Ein**, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Venturehouse Group, LLC
- **Raul Fernandez**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, ObjectVideo, Inc.
- **Carly Fiorina**, Chairman and CEO, Carly Fiorina Enterprises
- **Earle Horton, III**, Principal, Graves and Horton, LLC
- **Joel I. Klein**, Chancellor, New York City Department of Education
- **Benjamin Soto**, President, Premium Title & Escrow, LLC
- **Jason Washington**, Managing Member, Evolve Restaurant

English has served as President & CEO of Fight For Children since 2006. Fight For Children is a not-for-profit organization that awards grants to successful charities that provide education and health care services to low-income children in DC. Fight For Children also promotes excellence in education through several of its own projects, including its Quality Schools Initiative, which recognizes high quality programs that result in improved student achievement.

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English also brings deep experience in corporate governance to DCPEF. She currently serves on the boards of the Educational Testing Service, D.C. Preparatory Academy Public Charter School, the DC Education Compact, the Society for Science and the Public, National Women's Health Resource Center, and the Gladstone Companies in McLean, VA. She is a member of the Advisory Council of William & Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science and a member of the Advisory Board of the Yale School of Management.

"Michela was one of the first people I met when I arrived in Washington to serve as D.C. Schools Chancellor," said Michelle Rhee. "She has been extremely helpful to my team and me as we have navigated the many challenges we have faced. I'm thrilled she will be contributing to our continued reform efforts in such a significant way."

Throughout her professional career, English has held leadership roles in a variety of education, youth-related and other non-profit and corporate initiatives. Prior to joining Fight For Children, she worked for eight years at Discovery Communications. As President of Discovery Consumer Products and President & COO of Discovery.com, her responsibilities included Discovery's nationwide retail chain, global merchandise licensing business, internet, new media, and education businesses. In the 1990s, English was Senior Vice President of the National Geographic Society, with responsibility for the book division, *Traveler* magazine, *WORLD* magazine for children, educational media, and international publishing. Earlier in her career, she served as an officer at Marriott Corporation and a senior engagement manager at McKinsey and Co.

About DC Public Education Fund

The mission of DC Public Education Fund is to dramatically improve student achievement in the District of Columbia. DCPEF serves as a strategic partner to businesses, foundations, community leaders, and individual donors in supporting and investing in high impact programs with the District of Columbia Public Schools. DCPEF manages key public-private partnerships and acts as fiscal sponsor for all grants made on behalf of DC Public Schools. DCPEF has focused its efforts on three areas where it believes private funding can have the greatest impact on student learning: Compelling Schools, Great People, and Data-Driven Decision-Making. Visit www.dceducationfund.org to learn more about DCPEF.

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