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April 15, 2004

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Kennedy School Communications

Fifty Years After Brown v. Board of Education *Kennedy School Conference to Re-examine Historic Supreme Court Decision*

CAMBRIDGE, MA – U.S. Education Secretary **Rod Paige** will deliver the keynote address at an education conference April 22-24 at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. The conference, titled “**50 Years After Brown: What Has Been Accomplished and What Remains to be Done?**,” will re-examine the impacts of the historic 1954 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*, that desegregated American public schools.

Conference participants will discuss the issues facing American elementary and secondary education at a critical juncture point – 50 years after *Brown* and 25 years before the Supreme Court-mandated end of affirmative action in university admission policies. Panel discussions will focus on the educational accomplishments of the past 50 years; the role of preschool programs in closing the achievement gap; the connection between academic funding and student achievement; the effect of education accountability systems; and the impacts of school choice.

Panels will consist of top educational leaders, scholars and professionals including:

- **CLINT BOLICK**, president and general counsel, School Choice Alliance and School Choice Advocates; co-founder, Institute for Justice.
- **ROBERT COSTRELL**, chief economist, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- **RONALD FERGUSON**, lecturer in public policy, Kennedy School.
- **CHESTER E. FINN, JR.**, president, Fordham Foundation.
- **HOWARD FULLER**, distinguished professor of education, Marquette University; superintendent, Milwaukee Public Schools (1991-95).
- **RON HASKINS**, senior fellow, Economic Studies Program, Brookings Institution; senior advisor to the president for welfare policy (2002).
- **CHRISTOPHER JENCKS**, Malcolm Wiener Professor of Social Policy, Kennedy School.
- **ELLEN CONDLIFFE LAGEMANN**, dean, Harvard Graduate School of Education.
- **PAUL E. PETERSON**, director, Kennedy School’s Program on Education Policy and Governance.
- **NINA SHOKRAII REES**, deputy under secretary for innovation and improvement, Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII); helped draft the No Child Left Behind education policy for the Bush/Cheney transition team.

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Conference highlights include:

- **Keynote address:** “Beyond *Brown*: Unfinished Business,” to be delivered by Rod Paige, secretary, U.S. Department of Education, April 22, 8pm.
- **Opening remarks:** Paul Peterson, Kennedy School; Al Lindseth, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, April 23, 8:45am.
- **Remarks on the legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education*:** Lawrence Summers, president, Harvard University, April 23, 12:15pm.
- **Closing remarks:** Paul Peterson, Kennedy School, William Coleman Jr., senior counselor, O’Melveny & Myers LLP, April 24, 12:15pm.

The conference is sponsored by the Kennedy School’s Program on Education Policy and Governance (PEPG), the Taubman Center for State and Local Government, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, with the support of the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation and the John M. Olin Foundation, Inc.

All conference sessions will take place in the 5th floor conference rooms, Taubman Building, Kennedy School of Government, 79 JFK Street, Cambridge. Members of the press are welcome to attend. Please phone (617) 495-1115 to secure arrangements.

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