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May 29, 2009

Dear Affiliate Presidents:

As the school year draws near the end, many of you are pursuing professional development activities, vacation or reorganizing for the 2009-2010 school year. I want to take this time to update you on NABSE happenings and commend you on the hard work you have put into the support and expansion of NABSE's mission.

All of us are feeling the impact of the recessive economy that, hopefully, is showing signs of recovery. The impact certainly is being felt by all organizations, including NABSE. As you know we cancelled the National Education Policy Institute (NEPI) last month but continued with the GALA which was very successful. Highlights will be included in the next NewsBriefs. The board also reluctantly cancelled the African American Male and Female Leadership Summits for the year and will dedicate all of our energies to the conference in Indianapolis that is scheduled for November 18-22, 2009 as well as promoting the other NABSE initiatives and programs.

I am asking each affiliate to recruit 10 people to attend the conference. Don't forget to maximize the use of Title I funds and register early to take advantage of the "Early Bird" registration discount.

Many thanks go to the affiliates who conducted an activity on "Education is a Civil Rights Day" on February 12, 2009. We are eager to chronicle all Education is a Civil Rights (ECR) activities and I am enclosing a form to be used to document all such activities. Please complete the form and send it via email to alewis@nabse.org, by July 1. The ECR Task Force will meet soon to establish criteria for "Best Practices" used by school districts in implementing ECR.

I also want to congratulate those affiliates and school districts that have conducted ECR events this year. Those who notified the National office of their activities include:

- South Carolina Alliance
Metro Detroit Alliance (MI)
Seattle Alliance (WA)
Milwaukee Alliance (WI)
Lorain County (OH) Alliance
Beaumont School District (TX)
Indianapolis School District (IN)
Prairie View A&M University (TX)
Westwood Heights School District (MI)
Sumter School District (SC)
Howard University (DC)
Ossining Free School District (NY)
Birmingham School District (AL)
New York University

Again, many thanks for your hard work and please concentrate on conference recruitment and registration for the remainder of this school year.

Sincerely,

Click here for the ECR Initiative Form.

Handwritten signature of Deborah Hunter-Harvill

Deborah Hunter-Harvill

"EDUCATION IS A CIVIL RIGHT"