

March 13, 2009

***Special Education Funding Through Federal Stimulus**

***Ethan Jackson Named New Appleseed Board Member**

***SC Poor Is Featured in Washington Post News Article**

Special Education Funding in the Federal Stimulus and Omnibus Appropriations Bills

The federal stimulus funding bill, known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), passed last month and includes Individuals with Disabilities (IDEA) funding, state stabilization funds and other funds for education. Of the \$12.2 billion of stimulus funding to be directed to special education over this fiscal year and the next, \$11.3 billion will be for direct aid to states, \$400 million will be for preschool programs, and \$500 million will be for Part C of the IDEA, which covers early intervention programs for infants and toddlers. The nearly \$1 billion going toward early intervention programs for very young children will be an important issue to follow for our youngest students with special needs. Stimulus funds cannot replace state and local funds, so this is a real opportunity for additional services to be provided to students. And, with transparency requirements, citizens will be able to follow how stimulus funds are used. Also, the President signed the Omnibus Appropriations Act earlier this month which increases IDEA funding \$500 million over 2008 levels. These increases bring federal funding for special education to the highest levels ever. As with other stimulus recipients, schools are being encouraged to use the funding for short-term investments that can have long-term results. For example, school districts could use funds for assistive technology devices; training school district personnel on various reading and math methodologies, as well as on positive behavior supports; or for hiring transition coordinators to work with employers in the community to develop job placements for youths with disabilities. The South Carolina Department of Education has provided a webpage to provide information on ARRA funds in our state at: [ARRA funds](#).

Student Advocacy Project Featured at Annual Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates Annual Conference in Washington, DC

Parent advocates and special education practitioners from across the country have now heard about the model approach being taken in South Carolina to help coordinate services for children with disabilities through the Student Advocacy Project. "Shared Challenges, Shared Solutions" was the title of the presentation led by Elizabeth

Robinson, private practitioner from Lancaster who partners with the Advocacy Project in representing students needing special education services. Amanda Adler, Student Advocacy Project staff at SC Appleseed provided information and technical support for the presentation. The session highlighted the serious challenges for students with special needs, including the high numbers of students with disabilities who end up in the juvenile justice system and the low numbers of parents who prevail at due process hearings challenging the special education services being provided by districts. By bringing together special education stakeholders and sharing information, the Student Advocacy Project is helping connect families and students with resources to ensure they receive the education they need.

Session attendees were also interested to hear more details about the Corridor of Shame schools recently highlighted on a national level when a Dillon student was invited by President Obama to his first Address to Congress.

FYI...

Ethan Jackson Joins SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center Board of Directors

As a marketing executive, Ethan Jackson brings many honed talents to the boardroom and future planning of SCALJC direction.

Ethan's first marketing experience included teaching English to executives at Grey Advertising, Bank of Europe, and Carat Media Planning in Spain in 1999. Ethan said he had, "...learned just as much from my clients as I had from my mentors and colleagues over the last 10 years in advertising." Ethan worked with some of the industry's most talented veterans at companies including: Shell Oil, Sony Music, Kraft, Sanofi-Aventis, Dr. Scholl's, Whirlpool, Coral Gables Hospital, and First Citizens Bank.

Ethan obtained a masters degree in integrated communications from the University of South Carolina before turning to New York City where he worked at Young & Rubicam, EURO RSCG and Publicis. After returning to Columbia two years ago, Ethan was relieved to find like-minded professionals such as Mad Monkey, who are among his clients with whom he consults now.

When asked about his favorite advertising adventures, Ethan told of the re-launching of an American advertising icon, The Maytag Repairman. His team came up with "the big idea" that cost \$80,000 to execute and garnered over \$40 million in media results. The campaign also received national creative awards validating Ethan's in-tune mind for current

markets.

SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center is proud to have Ethan Jackson on our board and we look forward to future adventures when Ethan turns that creative mind toward the work we do here at Appleseed, for those who have no voice.

Washington Post Article Spotlights South Carolina's Poor.

More Need, Less Help, by Amy Goldstein
Washington Post, March 12, 2009

Amy Goldstein, reporter for the Washington Post, recently spent time with non-profits here in SC, getting a grasp on the overwhelming odds people of SC are now facing. Her article, ***More Need, Less Help***, was featured on the front page of the Washington Post newspaper yesterday.

The insightful and poignant piece describes the heartache--not just for those who have lost jobs and face poverty; but it also shows the sorrow of those good people and agencies who try to help with dwindling resources. This article is a *must* read.

Read: [More Need, Less Help](#), by Amy Goldstein.

About Us...

South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center is dedicated to advocacy for low income people in South Carolina to effect systemic change by acting in and through the courts, legislature, administrative agencies, community and the media, and helping others do the same through education, training and co-counseling.

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