



PRESS ALERT

For Immediate Release

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CER LEADERS FORUM SHOWCASES LOCAL REFORM EFFORTS

(Washington, DC 3/23/01) Education reformers from around the country will gather in Washington, DC to share their remarkable accomplishments. The Center for Education Reform's Third Annual Leaders Forum, *Lessons from the Front: Grassroots Spring into Action* will uniquely highlight the reform efforts of nine local grassroots leaders. (Education Secretary Rod Paige has been invited to keynote the event.)

"Major policy changes begin with people like these grassroots leaders. They are motivated by the pursuit of better schools," commented CER President Jeanne Allen. "Yet when charter laws get passed, choice programs advanced and standards set, most overlook where it all started."

Across the nation there exists a group of people who are working aggressively to effect change. The goal of these local activists is to ensure that all children will one day have the same access to a quality education.

The conference will be structured into three panels:

Charting the Course—New School Choices for Children

The experience of individuals from Washington State, Maryland and Indiana in moving their states to act on charter schools, helps illustrate the old adage that one person can make a difference.

Raising the Bar – The Quest for Accountability

From Virginia in the south to Massachusetts in the north and California to the west, setting standards and making them stick is no easy task.

Making Choice and Option – Good Schools for All Children

Listen to the evidence mounting daily on the effectiveness of vouchers in getting both schools to react and children to succeed.

Lessons from the Front: Grassroots Spring into Action will take place March 28, 2001 from 12-4:30 pm at the Willard Inter-continental Hotel in Washington, DC. **The forum will be preceded by a special tour some local DC schools – one charter and one private school.** For more information, media may call Mary Kayne Heinze at (202) 822-9000. As lunch will be served, reservations are encouraged please.

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The Center for Education Reform is a national, independent, non-profit advocacy organization providing support and guidance to individuals, community and civic groups, policymakers and others who are working to bring fundamental reforms to their schools. For further information, please call (202) 822-9000 or visit our website at <http://edreform.com>.