**LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE – LOS ANGELES LEADERS IN EDUCATION**

**PRELIMINARY FINDINGS**

(AS OF 3/21/10)

Fernando J. Guerra • Brianne Gilbert • Melissa Woehrstein
The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles
Loyola Marymount University

**BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY**

In 2006, Bank of America announced the funding of research to be conducted by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles. The Leavey Center’s objectives were to identify, survey and report the opinions and attitudes of 100 educational leaders as well as others in the education community who influence policy and reform. As part of its multi-year study, the Leadership Initiative, the Leavey Center is studying 100 leaders in 10 sectors – education, health, arts/culture, media/entertainment, politics, business, community, land use/housing, law, and religion/spirituality – culminating in the analysis of the top 1000 leaders in the Los Angeles region.

The 2010 Leadership Initiative – Los Angeles Leaders in Education online survey was administered to prominent leaders in the field of education in Los Angeles in February, March and April. The survey used both qualitative and quantitative measures to obtain the opinions of leaders in the areas of policy, practice, research and advocacy to understand leadership and its relationship to urban outcomes in Los Angeles. This preliminary report explores the responses of 74 leaders who responded as of the reporting date. Final results will be available Summer 2010. Please contact the Leavey Center to request your copy: www.lmu.edu/csla.

**DEMOGRAPHIC DATA – WHO ARE THE LEADERS?**

- **Gender**: 39% Male; 61% Female
- **Age Range**: 26-79 years old; Average Age: 49 years old
- **Highest Level of Education**: 88% of respondents reported having a Graduate/Professional degree*
- **Combined Household Income**: 30% of respondents reported having a combined household income of $150,000 - $200,000/year*
- **Racial/Ethnic Origin**: 47% White/Anglo; 31% Latino/Hispanic; 13% African American/Black; 6% Asian/Pacific Islander; and 3% Other
- **Residency**: Over 95% of respondents live in Los Angeles County; and of those respondents, 71% have lived in Los Angeles for 16 years or more

*Findings only include the most frequent response

**QUALITY OF EDUCATION**

- Chart indicates the number of leaders who chose a particular response; N=69
While 80% of leaders approve of the way President Obama is handling education policy, 86% disapprove of the way Governor Schwarzenegger is handling the state’s K-12 public education system.

The most important goals for Los Angeles’ K-12 public education schools (multiple responses allowed):

1) Preparing students for college (84%),
2) Preparing students for the workforce (74%), and
3) Teaching students life skills (66%).

An overwhelming majority of respondents (88%) agreed that high school students should pass a minimum competency or proficiency test in order to receive a high school diploma.

This research was possible through a grant from Bank of America.