



## P R E S S   A D V I S O R Y

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### **Initiative for Diversity in Civic Leadership to Honor Third Graduating Class**

#### **State Representative Linda Dorcena Forry to Address New Generation of Leaders**

**[Boston]** On **Monday, June 15, 2009 from 5:30-8:00 PM at the Massachusetts State House (The Great Hall)** twenty-seven people of color from the Greater Boston area will comprise the third graduating class of the Initiative for Diversity in Civic Leadership (IDCL).

**State Representative Linda Dorcena Forry of Boston** will be the keynote speaker. Invited guests include elected officials, government appointees, funding representatives, distinguished educators, and business and community leaders.

The Initiative for Diversity in Civic Leadership, managed by a partnership between ¿Oíste?, Suffolk University and MassVOTE, is completing its third year in to providing education and training opportunities to help individuals from diverse political backgrounds to successfully run for elected office, manage and run political campaigns, and serve in all levels of government.

“With this graduating class, IDCL has now trained 82 people of color ready to take on elected and appointed government positions throughout Greater Boston,” said Giovanna Negretti, Executive Director of ¿Oíste?, the Latino Civic Education Initiative, and the lead managing partner of the IDCL. “Given the changes in demographics in communities throughout the state and the country, government and political campaigns must evolve and grow to best reflect the people they serve. Within the next couple of years, these faces will be the next generation of public servants in places such as Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Hopkington, Everett, Malden and Springfield. This year we will see graduates of the past 3 classes taking center stage as candidates and key campaign staff in municipal elections across the state.”

One graduate, Duamarius Stukes has already used the skills acquired and networks made as part of the inaugural class in 2007 to advance his political career. In 2008, after graduating from the IDCL class, Stukes was appointed the *Director of Housing and Assisted Living Programs* at the *Executive Office of Elder Affairs*. A life- long Boston resident, Stukes was admitted into the program because of his history of dedicating his energies and talents to bettering his community and society as a whole. The skill set acquired as part of the IDCL program, as well as his personal and professional experience in the political arena led to his success in obtaining this high level position.

“These Initiative for Diversity in Civic Leadership graduates are poised to make a substantial impact on the political landscape of Greater Boston,” said Assistant Professor Government Teri Fair, Suffolk University coordinator for the Initiative. “As they take their places in elective and appointed offices, the region’s political

leadership will reflect a more representative democracy. Congratulations, on behalf of Suffolk University, to all of the 2009 graduates.”

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