

## **P R E S S   A D V I S O R Y**

**For immediate release**  
February 5, 2007

Contact: Giovanna Negretti  
(617) 312-9553

### **NEW PROGRAM AIMS TO GARNER COMMUNITIES OF COLOR INTO POWER** **Benchmark study shows lack of representation on state and local levels.**

**[Boston] On Wednesday, February 7 at 5:30pm – 7:30 pm at Suffolk University, 73 Tremont St. in Boston**, a new initiative to develop leaders of color in the Greater Boston area to assume positions in public service will be launched. The initiative will be managed by *¿Oíste?* in partnership with MassVOTE and Suffolk University and is funded by a collaborative of funders led by the Boston Foundation.

The initiative is supported by recent study conducted by the Center for Women in Politics and Public Service at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. The study, commissioned by The Boston Foundation presents findings which demonstrate a lack of people of color in top decision-making public service positions at local and state levels. The study will be presented at the launch.

**Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino will serve as keynote speaker at the event.** Other speakers include Paul Grogan, President and CEO of The Boston Foundation, and Kenneth Greenberg, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Suffolk University; Carol Hardy –Fanta, Director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at UMass Boston; and initiative co-chairs Beverly Edgehill, President of The Partnership; and Joel Barrera, Executive Director of Commonwealth Seminar.

**WHAT: Kickoff of the Pipeline to Public Service**

**DATE: Wednesday, February 7, 2007**

**TIME: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**

**WHERE: Suffolk University, 73 Tremont St., Boston**

**###**