

For Immediate Release

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**TOO MANY CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND:
HOW CAN WE CLOSE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP?**

Minnesota Humanities Center hosts a National Issues Forum on academic achievement

December 16, 2009 – ST. PAUL, Minn. – A quality education is often the pathway to the American Dream, but far too many students in U.S. public schools are lagging behind. Nearly 30 percent drop out and never complete high school. These failures are occurring in every part of this country—in urban America, in suburban America, even in rural America.

In a nation that prides itself on providing equal opportunity for all, too many low-income and minority children are falling behind their peers in school. In an increasingly competitive global arena, the United States cannot afford to ignore this widening achievement gap. What can be done to close it?

Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 6:30 p.m., the Minnesota Humanities Center will host a public National Issues Forum to discuss the reasons for and possible solutions to closing the achievement gap in Minnesota. National Issues Forums is a nonpartisan, nationwide network of locally sponsored public forums for the consideration of public policy issues. It is rooted in the simple notion that people need to come together to reason and talk — to deliberate about common problems. The forum will be led by a trained moderator.

Addressing the achievement gap more aggressively is gaining momentum nationwide. Educators, parents, policymakers, and the general public have recognized that work on closing the gap will boost academic performance for all students. It will also increase the global competitiveness of the United States and establish long-term economic viability. Plan to attend the National Issues Forum and help become part of the solution.

National Issues Forum: Too Many Children Left Behind

Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Minnesota Humanities Center. 987 Ivy Avenue, St. Paul. Free parking

Audience: Open to the public

Fee: None, but space is limited and **registration is required**

To register: Go to: www.minnesotahumanities.org/outreach and click on “National Issues Forums” or contact Thien: thien@minnesotahumanities.org, 651-772-4254

About Minnesota Humanities Center

The Minnesota Humanities Center works to build a thoughtful, literate, and engaged society. A Minnesota-based national center and clearing house for the best in the humanities, the Humanities Center: conducts professional development opportunities; creates and disseminates one-of-a-kind educational resources; partners with other organizations to offer humanities programs statewide; and operates a full-service meeting and event center. For more information, please visit www.minnesotahumanities.org.

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