

## **College of Education Kicks-Off Sunday Speaker Series with Conference on At-Risk Students**

Touro University California's College of Education began its Sunday Speaker Series with a conference on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> focusing on Working with At-Risk Students. The five-hour conference was attended by over 300 local educators. Keynote speaker, Dr. Lamar Miller, Dean of the College of Education at Touro College in New York City, focused his comments on the discrepancies between students who are successful in school, and those who are labeled "at-risk" due to socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or low achievement.

The conference included numerous break-out sessions that addressed strategies for empower\_ing at-risk students in K-12 classrooms. Presenters, such as Dr. Karen Yoder, Assistant Professor of Education and Program Chair for Teaching Credentials at Touro University California, shared current research-based tactics focusing on reading and literacy, which could be employed immediately by K-12 classroom teachers.

The conference was the first event in a Sunday Speaker Series sponsored by Touro University California's College of Education. "One important goal for the TUC College of Education is to reach out to local public schools and provide assistance to them in teaching at-risk, urban students" stated Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Jim O'Connor. "We are all about collaboration to empower K through 12 educators" he continued.

The next event will be held on January 17<sup>th</sup> to honor and continue the work of Dr. Martin Luther King. Dr. Darlene Willis and Marsha Dobson from San Diego will speak at a free community presentation entitled "Empowering Parents". On February 28<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Tyrone Howard, Professor of the Year at UCLA, will speak about "Closing the Achievement Gap Facing African-American and other Culturally Diverse Students". Dr. Howard's presentation is in conjunction with Black History Month. The final event on April 18<sup>th</sup> will coincide with Holocaust Survivor Day and will feature an Education-Business Summit focusing on community efforts to close the academic achievement gap. All events begin at 2:00 pm and are free to the public.

