

## Education Forum Addresses Today's Challenges Facing Students

In November, my Education Advisory Council in partnership with the Community Church of the Nazarene, the Center for Community Development and Education Reform, and the African-American/Caribbean Education Association, Inc. hosted its first annual conference entitled "Working to Build a Better Future for Our Children." The forum brought together students, parents, and a blue-ribbon panel of experts including New York City Comptroller William Thompson.



*The Rev. Leslie Mullings of the Community Church of the Nazarene; NYC Comptroller William Thompson; Rosaline O'Neal, Chairperson of Senator Malcolm A. Smith Education Advisory Committee; and Senator Smith*

The two-day conference covered a wide range of topics, including: Standards-Driven Standardized Testing; Mayoral Control, Drug Abuse, Policing in Far Rockaway, Gang Awareness, Transition from Middle School to High School, Title I PAC, Parent Effectiveness, and the "No Child Left Behind Act." The education conference also provided a platform for parents to voice their concerns on important issues such as navigating the school system and parental advocacy.

The goal of the conference was to establish an open dialogue among parents and school officials on topics that most affect our youth. I believe that educated parents produce educated children.

AACEAINC's  
Awards Ceremony  
August 2, 2008 at the  
Crowne Plaza-JFK

## "Achievement and Excellence" in Scholarship and Lifetime Achievement

The African American/Caribbean Education Association, Inc. (AACEAINC) presented its First Annual Scholarship and Lifetime Achievement Awards ceremony in celebration of outstanding "achievements and excellence" at the Crowne Plaza JFK. Scholarships in the amounts of \$1500 to \$1800 were awarded to students belonging to the National Honor Society meeting AACEAINC's eligibility criteria. Lifetime Achievement awards were granted to caring and altruistic individuals who have given valiantly of themselves in service of the community. Scholarship and Lifetime Achievement Award honorees were:

Ketsia Gelin, Valley Stream, NY, winner of the Mildred Collins Nursing/Health Science/Medicine Scholarship; Asha Gellineau, South Ozone Park, NY, winner of the

Honorable Ernestine Washington Library Science/ English Language Arts Scholarship; Christopher Onuorah, Elmont, NY, winner of the William Samber Sr. Aviation/ Math and Science Scholarship; and Lifetime Achievement Award Honorees, Boston Chance, Jamaica, NY; Elizabeth Hubbard, South Ozone Park, NY; Dorothy Onyango, Holliswood, NY; Caroline Townes, Laurelton, NY; and Joan Wynne, Cambria Heights, NY. High School scholars interested in applying for an AACEAINC scholarship, ranging from \$1000-\$2500, can learn more about eligibility criteria and the application process at [www.aaceainc.com](http://www.aaceainc.com). Each of the individual scholarships is named in honor of the organization's beloved members and the fields of endeavor in which each have achieved outstanding accomplishments.



*AACEAINC Members present scholarship (from left to right): Original Tuskegee Airman, William Samber, Hon. Ernestine Washington, Mildred Collins, and President, Rosalind O'Neal*