

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2010

Contact: Dan Weber/Ben Gerdes
(202) 225-8699

Congresswoman Edwards: Maryland Selected to Participate in Federal Government's \$4.35 Billion 'Race to the Top' Education Initiative

Washington, DC - In conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education, Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (D-MD) announced today that Maryland was selected as one of ten states to participate in the federal government's \$4.35 billion dollar 'Race to the Top' education initiative. The unprecedented federal program is aimed at boosting student achievement, reducing gaps in achievement among student subgroups, turning around struggling schools, and improving the teaching profession. Maryland is eligible to receive up to \$250 million in the second round of the grant program.

"This is a tremendous achievement for the state of Maryland, our dedicated educators, and our students," said Congresswoman Edwards. "This funding will drive additional reform, helping students receive the highest level of education and closing achievement gaps that threaten the futures of many children in the Fourth Congressional District. I congratulate Governor Martin O'Malley, State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasnick, Prince George's County Superintendent Dr. William R. Hite, Jr. and Montgomery County Superintendent Dr. Jerry Weast for their leadership in securing this opportunity to improve schools throughout our state. The Race to the Top initiative will help Maryland provide a quality education that is critical for a child to be competitive in a 21st Century global economy."

###