

**UCLA/IDEA**

**UCLA's Institute for Democracy, Education and Access**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: John Rogers, UCLA/IDEA: (310) 206-4620  
Rocio Cordoba, UCLA/IDEA: (310) 267-4408

***Students, Officials and Mendez v. Westminster Family Member  
Reflect on Brown v. Board of Education 50-Year Anniversary  
Through Oral History and Theater***

***Education on Equal Terms Youth Summit 2004  
The Struggle for Educational Justice in Los Angeles Continues, 1954-2004***

LOS ANGELES -- Nearly 200 students from the greater Los Angeles area will unite with educators, public officials and other community members to reflect on the struggle for educational justice in Los Angeles during the Fourth Annual Youth Summit hosted by UCLA's **Institute for Democracy, Education & Access (IDEA)** on June 11.

Sylvia Mendez, who testified as a 7-year-old in the landmark case that led to the end of segregation in California, *Mendez v. Westminster*, will be joined by California Senator Richard Alarcón\* to share their views on the legacies of *Brown* and *Mendez* in Los Angeles schools in a panel following the youth presentations.

Student groups from East Los Angeles, South Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and Malibu will share oral histories, theater and present-day stories about the continuing struggle to achieve equal education in their own communities during the half-century since the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

"On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* promised education to all students on 'equal terms,'" says John Rogers, Associate Director of UCLA's IDEA. "Now, on the fiftieth anniversary of *Brown*, we ask ourselves how well our society has lived up to its promise."

"Today's Youth Summit will explore *Brown's* legacy in Los Angeles through the eyes of students and the oral histories they have collected. Interactive student presentations and panel discussions will demonstrate that although *Brown's* 50th anniversary finds Los Angeles schools both separate and unequal, it also arrives at a moment of historic opportunity to continue the struggle for educational justice. Students, parents, and community members most impacted by today's inequality must come to these contemporary issues with a deep sense of history. This summit will help to demonstrate that they are not alone in a moment of time, but are part of a noble, if largely forgotten, struggle for justice," Rogers adds.

Ninth graders from Roosevelt High School will present interviews they conducted with students who participated in the 1968 "Blowouts" at their school. Second and 5th graders from 99th St Elementary in South Los Angeles will perform an original play about *Brown* and its legacy. High school seniors from Santa Monica will share the results of a school wide survey they conducted on educational equity today. Students from Farmdale Elementary – one of the oldest schools in Los Angeles – will share interviews they conducted with former students from the 60s and 70s. Bethune Middle School students will present their findings about changing demographics at their school.

IDEA's 4th Annual Youth Summit on Educational Justice will take place at the UCLA Faculty Center on the UCLA campus from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Summit on Educational Justice sponsored by UCLA's Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access (IDEA). IDEA's Equal Terms Project has worked with K-12 teachers across greater Los Angeles this year to engage students in studying the last half-century of struggle for educational justice in their own communities. Under the direction of Jeannie Oakes and John Rogers, IDEA brings together researchers, educators, advocates, and urban youth and parents to examine the conditions in Los-Angeles area schools. Its research and action begin with the idea that all students have a fundamental right to high quality public education that prepares them to become active citizens, eligible for four-year universities, and eager for meaningful work. IDEA has distributed a booklet on *Brown's* legacy in Los Angeles to every school in Los Angeles County. To see the booklet, please go to [www.EqualTerms.org](http://www.EqualTerms.org). For more information on IDEA, please visit [www.idea.gseis.ucla.edu](http://www.idea.gseis.ucla.edu).

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*Note to assignment editors/producers: Spanish-speaking students, teachers and IDEA representatives will be available for interviews.*

#### **DIRECTIONS AND PARKING INFORMATION:**

The UCLA Faculty Center is located on the UCLA campus near Hilgard and Westholme Avenue. Please visit <http://facultycenter.ucla.edu.htm> for further directions.

Courtesy parking in Lot 2 has been arranged for all guests. Please drive to the information booth located at Hilgard and Westholme Avenue. Tell the attendant that you are attending the **Youth Summit 2004** event. You will be given a pass and directions to Lot 2. From Lot 2, it's a short walk to the Faculty Center. If you have any questions, about parking please call Maribel Santiago at (310) 206-8725.

*\*Invited pending confirmation*