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CCI Fellow Chairman to Spearhead Faith-Based Initiative



Dr. John J. DiIulio, Jr. delivers his lecture.

CCI is proud that two of our scholars will play key roles in the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, one of the signature public-policy projects of President George W. Bush's Administration.

In January 2001, John DiIulio, Manhattan Institute Senior Fellow and Director of the Jeremiah Project, was tapped as Director of the office. Stephen Goldsmith, Chairman of the Center for Civic Innovation and former Mayor of Indianapolis, was named Special Advisor to the President for Faith-based and Not-for-Profit Initiatives.

The office will build on DiIulio's extensive research, much of it with CCI, proving that faith-based and community organizations often provide the most effective means of building safer, stronger, and more self-sufficient neighborhoods. This research has shown that faith-based organizations can improve literacy skills, reduce violence, rehabilitate drug abusers, and move people from welfare to work.

DiIulio returned to the Manhattan Institute in early April to deliver his first annual "State of Faith-Based Research" lecture. To an overflow audience of journalists and policymakers he eloquently explained the principles which will guide the

(cont'd on page 2)

Norm Coleman Joins CCI Board of Advisors

CCI welcomes another pioneering urban leader to its Board of Advisors. Mayor Norm Coleman of Saint Paul, Minnesota, will bring his record as a skillful and independent-minded manager to the Center, joining Mayors Jerry Brown of Oakland, John Norquist of Milwaukee, and Bret Schundler of Jersey City.



St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman

Coleman was elected Mayor of Saint Paul in 1993 as a Democrat. After joining the Republican party in 1996, he was reelected in 1997, becoming the city's first Republican mayor in over a quarter century.

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Study on Florida A-Plus Education Reform Plan Demonstrates Effect of Accountability, Choice

This February, CCI Senior Fellow Jay Greene released the first comprehensive, research-based evaluation of the Florida A-Plus Accountability and School Choice Program. The study earned widespread attention, once again demonstrating CCI's ability to drive the debate on school choice.

Greene's study indicates that accountability and choice spurred failing public schools to reform themselves. Schools receiving failing grades in 1999, the first year of the new rating system, achieved test score gains more than twice as large as those achieved by other schools.



According to the study, all schools in the state were motivated to improve to avoid the embarrassment of low scores on the statewide test. Schools with F grades, however, responded to a second, independent force: the threat that they would lose students through voucher programs.

Greene concludes that in Florida, the prospect of competition in education produced competitive effects similar to those normally observed in the marketplace. Companies, or in this case, schools, will anticipate competitive threats and attempt to make appropriate responses in order to retain customers.

Showing why he is regarded as the most credible researcher on school choice, Greene judiciously observes that the results of his study are preliminary rather than definitive. The A-Plus plan is still in its earliest stages, he notes, and the voucher component of the plan has been limited, so far, to just two schools. He concludes, however, that "the most plau-



*Manhattan Institute
Senior Fellow Jay P. Greene*

sible interpretation of the evidence is that the Florida A-Plus system relies upon a valid system of testing, and produces the desired incentives to failing schools to improve their performance."

The study was prepared under contract with Florida State University, with a grant from the Florida Department of Education, and was conducted in conjunction with Harvard University's Program on Education Policy and Governance.

Access this report online at: manhattan-institute.org/html/cr_aplus.htm

Dilulio, Faith-Based *(cont'd from page 1)*

Administration's initiative: "Government should welcome faith-based groups into poverty-fighting and other problem-solving partnerships that it funds—not discriminate against them, but level the playing field."

The Institute's Jeremiah Project, which Dr. DiIulio's tenure in government. The Johnson. Copies of Dr. Johnson's most recent book, *Youth*, are available from the Institute.



*Left: Reverend Eugene Rivers and Father Richard John Neuhaus.
Right: Dr. Byron Johnson discusses the DiIulio lecture.*



Mayor Brown Receives Urban Innovator Award



Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown delivers his remarks.

sensus regarding what cities need in order to flourish—public safety, order, decent schools, and respect for private creativity.”

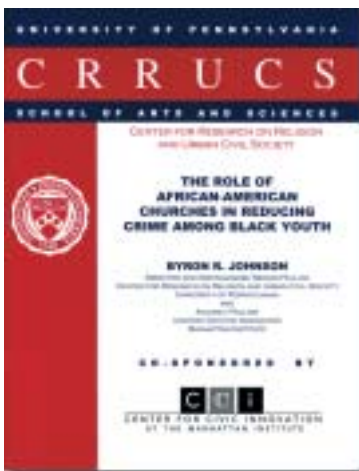
In his introductory remarks, Mr. Goldsmith touched upon another of Mayor Brown’s contributions to solid urban governance. Upon arriving in Oakland, he had asked a taxi driver how things seemed to him under Mayor Brown. The first thing the cabbie mentioned was that “honesty had returned to city government.”

In accepting the award, Mayor Brown spoke about his vision of “what cities should be.” Extolling the benefits of local control, he described the many improvements Oakland has made without assistance from federal or state government. He also criticized the failed compact of the Great Society, praised the work of urban ministers, and hailed *City Journal* for changing way people think about cities.

Right, from top: MI President Larry Mone, Jerry Brown, CCI Chairman Stephen Goldsmith; Audience members listen to Mayor Brown; Audience applauds the Mayor’s comments; Mayor Brown talks with an audience member.

On May 11, CCI bestowed on Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown our highest honor, the Urban Innovator Award. Former Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith introduced Mayor Brown and presented him with the award in a ceremony at Oakland’s Lake Merritt Hotel. The even was underwritten by the William H. Donner Foundation.

Long known as a maverick for attacking special interests, Mayor Brown has pursued major reform initiatives in policing, education, and quality of life. As Manhattan Institute Senior Fellow Heather Mac Donald noted in the Autumn 1999 issue of *City Journal*, Mayor Brown embodies “an emerging national consensus regarding what cities need in order to flourish—public safety, order, decent schools, and respect for private creativity.”



New Study Shows Positive Impact of Religious Involvement on Criminal Behavior

In his groundbreaking new study, *The Role of African-American Churches in Reducing Crime Among Black Youth*, Dr. Byron R. Johnson, an Adjunct Fellow at the Center, examines the effect of church participation on crime among young African-Americans.

This study establishes that religious involvement dramatically reduces the likelihood of committing serious crimes. In fact, Dr. Johnson determines that religious African-American youth in low-income urban neighborhoods are less likely to commit serious crimes than non-religious youths living in middle-class neighborhoods.

Of particular importance in light of the ongoing debate over the proper role of religious organizations in government policy, this study conclusively demonstrates that religion does in fact have a measurable and powerful ability to address social problems. Access this report online at: manhattan-institute.org/html/crrucs2001_2.htm

Mayor Coleman Joins CCI Board *(cont'd from page 1)*

“Mayor Coleman,” said CCI Executive Director Henry Olsen, “is a wonderful addition to our advisory board. His many successes have demonstrated, and continue to demonstrate, the power of innovation in local government. He will be a tremendous resource to the Center, and, by proxy, to urban innovators throughout the nation.”

Mayor Coleman is determined to find creative, often market-based solutions to the city’s most difficult problems. Over the last eight years, thanks in no small part to this determination, Saint Paul has undergone a dramatic resurgence. The city’s businesses have created over 18,000 new jobs, and bond ratings are improving. The value of taxable property in the central business district has more than doubled. At the same time, the Mayor has kept his commitment to a “zero percent increase” in property taxes.

On Mayor Coleman’s watch, too, Saint Paul’s schools have grown more responsive to the needs of students. A host of alternatives, including twenty new charter schools, have greatly expanded educational choices.

Cleaner and safer, with expanded community-based policing, Saint Paul is a model of how constructive public-private partnerships can strengthen a city. The Capital City Partnership, through which the region’s top twenty CEOs promote, market and develop Saint Paul, helped win Coleman recognition from the United States Conference of Mayors for Excellence in Public/Private Partnerships.

At CCI, Mayor Coleman will help identify and promote new approaches to education, job creation, crime reduction, welfare reform, and the many other challenges facing America’s cities.

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