



U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan receives prominent award and speaks at the Phillips Brooks House Association's 2010 "Robert Coles 'Call of Service' Lecture and Award"

Cambridge, MA. Oct. 15, 2010 – The visionary and innovative U.S. Secretary of Education and PBHA alum, Arne Duncan, will be honored and will deliver remarks at the Phillips Brooks House Association's 2010 "Robert Coles 'Call of Service' Lecture and Award" on Friday, October 15, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Memorial Church of Harvard University. Governor Deval Patrick will introduce the speaker.

Founded in 1904 and a leading organization in the service movement, the Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) is a student-led nonprofit at Harvard College that engages 1,400 students in 86 social service and social action programs that benefit approximately 10,000 people in Boston and Cambridge (additional information available at <http://www.pbha.org>).

PBHA's "Robert Coles 'Call of Service' Lecture and Award" brings a significant leader in public service to Harvard each fall to inspire a deeper engagement with critical social issues both on campus and in the wider community. Previous speakers and award recipients include the President and Founder of the Children's Defense Fund, Marian Wright Edelman (2007), former Vice President and environmental activist, Al Gore (2008), and leader of the Harlem Children's Zone, Geoffrey Canada (2009). Established in 2007, this annual lecture and award honors former PBHA volunteer, trustee, and longtime Harvard faculty member Dr. Robert Coles '50 and his book, *The Call of Service*, which examines the idealism PBHA seeks to instill in students.

At his confirmation hearings, Secretary Duncan described education as "the most pressing issue facing America," adding that "preparing young people for success in life is not just a moral obligation of society" but also an "economic imperative."

"Education is also the civil rights issue of our generation," he said, "the only sure path out of poverty and the only way to achieve a more equal and just society."

In his role as Secretary of Education, Duncan has taken a bold approach to the hot-button issues in the contemporary landscape of American education, advocating for higher academic standards and assessments, longitudinal data systems to track student performance from cradle to career, improving principal and teacher effectiveness based on performance and turning around our lowest achieving schools. Particularly notable is his implementation of the Race to the Top initiative, under which states compete for federal funds conditional on their willingness to make reforms. So far eleven states (Massachusetts being one) and the District of Columbia have received a total of \$4.35 billion in exchange for commitments to greater accountability and innovation in their schools. Prior to his appointment as Secretary of Education, Duncan served as Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Public Schools from June 2001 through December 2008, becoming the longest-serving big-city education superintendent in the country.

This event marks a homecoming for Duncan, who, in his time at Harvard, co-captained the basketball team, earning the distinction of first team Academic All-American, and mentored youth through the Phillips Brooks House Association. Duncan's address is expected to provide an analysis of the administration's approach to education reform, as well as a call to become engaged in vital educational efforts through service.

The Phillips Brooks House Association's 2010 "Robert Coles 'Call of Service' Lecture" is free and open to the public.

Note: Additional information, photos, and interviews are available upon request.