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CONTACT:

Alicia Gauer
Landau Public Relations
216.912.2846
agauer@landaupr.com

Urban Community School Kicks Off Year with Intensive Training Program
Schools Attuned Seminar to Help Teachers Better Understand, Direct Student Learning

CLEVELAND – July XX, 2007 – As Urban Community School (UCS) celebrates its 40th anniversary, the independent school on Cleveland’s Near West Side continues to embrace new teaching methods and new opportunities for student learning. Throughout the week of August 6, all UCS teachers and administrators will participate in Schools Attuned training, a program that helps educators recognize and respond to learning differences among their students.

Based on more than 25 years of research by Dr. Mel Levine, professor of pediatrics and director of the Clinical Center for the Study of Development and Learning at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Schools Attuned (<http://www.schoolsattuned.org/>) is based on eight neurodevelopmental constructs that affect learning: attention, language, memory, neuromotor function, spatial ordering, temporal-sequential ordering, higher order cognition and social cognition. The program enables educators to understand the role of these constructs in building – or, for many children, undermining – the foundation for learning. It has found success at schools nationwide.

“It has always been our philosophy at UCS that students learn in different ways, and to reflect that, our teaching focuses on individualized instruction rather than standardized lessons,” said Sister Maureen Doyle, school director. “The Schools Attuned program expands on that view and helps students guide their learning. The great thing about our training is that all of our educators will take part, thus strengthening its impact.”

To lay a foundation, three UCS staff members participated in Schools Attuned training and incorporated its practices into their day-to-day instruction last year. Participating teachers said they saw more involvement from their students and were able to better gauge each student’s unique needs. In addition, throughout the year, UCS teachers read Dr. Levine’s book *A Mind at a Time*, held discussion groups and read weekly articles.

The Schools Attuned training program will involve five days of intensive instruction lead by Kathi Howard, Schools Attuned National Faculty Member, and will be implemented at the start of the school year. In the future, UCS hopes to become a certified Schools Attuned host site where it can train other schools and educators from Northeast Ohio and beyond.

ABOUT UCS

Urban Community School (UCS) is an independent, non-graded preK-8 school providing high-quality education to the children of Cleveland’s Near West Side. The school offers an alternative to traditional education suited to meet the needs of children living in an unstable, volatile and often violent community.

The school has an annual budget of \$2.5 million dollars and is supported, under the direction of a board of trustees, through contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, churches and other generous organizations.

Visit UCS online at www.urbancommunityschool.org.