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Urban College President Linda Edmonds Turner Receives Pinnacle Award from Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Linda Edmonds Turner, President, Urban College of Boston, will be honored by the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce on January 29 with the 2009 Pinnacle Award for “Excellence in Arts & Education.”

As president of the pioneering, non-traditional Urban College since 2002, Dr. Turner has provided significant leadership to this innovative, fully accredited higher education institution that offers access to post secondary education to low-income, inner-city residents who otherwise might never pursue or succeed at college. Urban College currently has an enrollment of approximately 700 students each semester and offers associate degree programs in Early Childhood Education, Human Services Administration and General Studies, as well as several Certificate programs in career-oriented fields. The College celebrates its 15th anniversary this year.

“Dr. Turner’s contributions to the Boston-area community and beyond are far-reaching and extraordinary,” said Urban College Board Chair John Nucci. “The Urban College of Boston has been hailed as a national model for bringing low-income people into higher education and giving them the tools, through education, to move out of poverty permanently. Dr. Turner’s important work at the college has enhanced that model considerably and we are thrilled that the Chamber of Commerce is recognizing her accomplishments with the prestigious “Pinnacle Award.”

“I am very honored to receive the Pinnacle Award for Excellence in Arts and Education, particularly in light of there being so many excellent colleges and universities in the Boston area. I am also pleased to accept this Award in recognition of the hard-working

women leaders who make up 96 percent of the Urban College of Boston's student population," remarked Dr. Turner.

Dr. Turner's achievements at Urban College include significant increases in student enrollment and fundraising accomplishments that include more than \$2 million in new grants. These include a U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development "micro-enterprise" grant to assist childcare providers in Boston and Lawrence in managing their own child care businesses and creation of a science-based certificate program in Health, Nutrition and Food Safety. Most recently, under Dr. Turner's direction a prestigious grant awards from TD Banknorth and the Mabel Louise Riley Foundation were acquired to further the successful microenterprise program efforts. Additionally, Dr. Turner has begun innovative partnerships such as with Wellesley College/Centers for Women, to study UCB graduate employment and continued education at area colleges and universities since 2001.

A sought-after speaker in the higher education and career development arena, Dr. Turner spoke at the January 2008 annual Dr. Martin Luther King celebration at Virginia Tech where renowned poet and author Maya Angelou also delivered an address. She has traveled to China on an accreditation visit with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and was invited to Oxford University to present the Urban College culturally competent mentoring model at a Leadership Conference in 2006. She has been featured in many academic and business publications.

Prior to coming to Urban College she was Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer at Dean College in Franklin, Massachusetts. Previously she held consumer product and senior marketing executive positions at the DuPont Company, Whirlpool Corporation, and Polaroid Corporation.

Dr. Turner received her bachelors degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, MBA and Ph.D. degrees in Business Administration from Virginia Tech, an MS in General Ecology from Michigan State University, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Higher Education Administration at Harvard University. She is active on a number of industry, community and educational boards. Dr. Turner lives in Milton with her husband John and 17-year-old son Johnathan.

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