



Participants in the inaugural class of the Initiative for Diversity in Civic Leadership pose for a photograph with Gov. Deval Patrick (center) during their graduation at Suffolk University Law School last Monday. The 16-week program sought to help increase the

number of people of color in leadership and public administration positions throughout Greater Boston by training the 28 participants in what it means to be a knowledgeable and qualified public leader. (Yawu Miller photo)

Diversity program grads to become Hub's new leaders

Yawu Miller

Tito Jackson has long thought about throwing his hat into the ring and running for elected office. But as a political outsider, he knew he was missing valuable information.

"I always wanted to know what's the actual skill set you need to run for office," he said. "How do you raise money?"

Four months ago, Jackson took the first step, enrolling in the inaugural class of the Initiative for Diversity in Civic Leadership. The 16-week program, managed by iOiste?, the

Massachusetts Latino political organization, walked Jackson and 27 other people of color through the fundamentals of candidate training, public administration, adaptive leadership and public policy.

The initiative's aim — increasing the ranks of people of color in elected and appointed public office — has already borne fruit. Jackson was recently appointed director of information technology industries in the Patrick administration and Carlos Da Silva was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals in Quincy.

Two other graduates are planning

to run in the 2009 Boston City Council elections: Patrick administration scheduler David Halbert and Calvin Feliciano, a legislative aide to City Councilor Felix Arroyo.

Most notably, East Boston activist Gloribell Mota left the program a month early, throwing her hat into the four-way special election to fill the seat vacated by former state Rep. Anthony Petrucci.

All 28 graduates gathered Monday at Suffolk University Law School for the initiative's first graduation ceremony. Gov. Deval Patrick, **Leaders**, continued to page 25

Teachers Union head talks school changes

Brian Mickelson

On the heels of new superintendent Carol R. Johnson's appointment, the Boston Public Schools and Boston Teachers Union enter the 2007-2008 school year with a new collective bargaining agreement.

Richard Stutman, president of the Boston Teachers Union, recently sat down with the Banner to discuss the new agreement, the adverse effects of MCAS testing and the union's other goals for the upcoming school year.

The new agreement, ratified in March 2007, opens with a vision for transforming all of Boston's underperforming schools "through a comprehensive slate of supports, incentives, collaborations, resources, flexibilities, structural improvements, and accountability measures," and aims to eliminate "gaps in achievement defined by race, income, language and/or program."

Under the advisement of the

Boston Teachers Union, Johnson has selected 10 "Superintendent's Schools" as part of the first year of the agreement. Eligible schools must meet one of two criteria: The school is on track to become, or already has been, designated "Chronically Under Performing" by the Massachusetts Department of Education; or the school is on track to become, or has been, designated as "Restructuring" under the federal No Child Left Behind regulations.

The superintendent's program has been allocated approximately \$1.2 million per school in additional resources and support. Each school will have school days extended by one hour, smaller class sizes and a full-time Family and Community Outreach Coordinator (FCOC) to foster stronger communication between the school and students' families.

Furthermore, all teachers are to participate in at least 20 hours of professional development in addition **Union**, continued to page 24

Osborne to headline, host Vineyard Vibes

Lauren Carter

When people ask funk and R&B artist Jeffrey Osborne what's been happening with his career, his answer is simple: the same thing that's always been happening.

Now 59, Osborne may not top the Billboard charts on a regular basis, but he has continued to release albums and perform live shows around the country. This Saturday he'll host and headline the seventh

annual Vineyard Vibes, a showcase on Martha's Vineyard for some of Berklee College of Music's students, alumni and faculty, and a tribute to legends of soul like James Brown and Aretha Franklin.

Osborne said when Berklee contacted him about the event, he was eager to get involved.

"I was born and raised in Providence, R.I., and growing up I played in that area," he said during a tele- **Osborne**, continued to page 24

On the Web, a new home for Dot dwellers

Dan Devine

While people have come to use the Internet in many different ways since its explosion into mainstream culture, the technology has first and foremost been a tool that connects people by reaching across national, social and cultural boundaries.

Marisa Luse is looking to tap into that spirit, but the site director of Social Capital Inc. (SCI) Dorchester is narrowing her focus in the hopes of making her community stronger, safer and more socially active.

Though the site was officially launched in December, Luse and the folks behind www.mydorchester.org — billed as the neighborhood's first official community Web portal — recently held a "kick-off conference" to call attention to the next phase in their

"Connecting the DOT" campaign: getting community residents to sign on and become part of the conversation.

"Part of the idea is to take the popular social networking Web technology used on sites like MySpace, Facebook and others that say they are about building community," said David Crowley, president of Social Capital Inc., SCI Dorchester's parent organization. "The idea is to really apply those concepts to a local community. It can be a way to help people meet and exchange ideas, and they can use it as a collaborative tool to get together on community issues."

Crowley said the project has "ramped up a couple of notches" during the summer, thanks to the work of six young people responsible

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Attendees sign in at the reception desk at a kick-off conference held July 19 to raise awareness of and interest in www.

mydorchester.org, Dorchester's first official community Web portal. (Photo courtesy of SCI Dorchester)

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