



Expeditionary Learning Schools Outward Bound

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President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama & Education

Secretary Arne Duncan Visit Capital City Public Charter School

President Obama's Second Visit to an Expeditionary Learning School

WASHINGTON, DC – FEBRUARY 3, 2009- In his first visit to a public school since his inauguration, President Barack Obama, with First Lady Michelle Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, spent this afternoon at Capital City Public Charter School, an Expeditionary Learning school.

The President and his wife met with some of the school's fifth graders, who told him about their latest learning expedition on voting rights. They visited a second grade class where they read Dianna Hutts Aston's "The Moon Over Star" to the children and talked with them about what they wanted to be when they grew up.

Calling Capital City an "innovative school", the President said it is an "example of how all our schools should be." His remarks recalled his visit to Mapleton Expeditionary Learning School for the Arts (MESA) last May where he visited classes and delivered a major education speech.

"We're very proud of what's been accomplished at this school, and we want to make sure that we're duplicating that success all across the country." He added that his administration will be rewarding excellent schools.

"We are thrilled that the President and First Lady selected our school today—and consider it a model for others--as they continue to highlight their interest in education reform," said Karen Dresden, Capital City's head of school and founder.

"President Obama has seen what we see daily at Expeditionary Learning Schools--students' faces full of excitement and understanding about how and what they learn. With Secretary Duncan's leadership we anticipate real progress for rigorous, innovative schools like ours," Noted Deborah Bond-Upson, Expeditionary Learning Schools President and CEO.

About Expeditionary Learning Schools

The Expeditionary Learning School network serves 150 schools in 28 states and the District of Columbia, supporting 50,000 students and 4,000 teachers. Expeditionary Learning is supported by schools, school districts and grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Stuart Foundation, the Barr Foundation and others. Rigorous and vigorous Expeditionary Learning schools thrive from a community commitment to each student's academic and character growth; by active hands-on, 21st century teaching and learning; a school culture valuing nature, adventure, and personal

challenge; and by an uncommonly extensive and highly regarded teacher professional development program.

About Capital City Public Charter School

Capital City Public Charter School is an award-winning public school of choice for children Pre-K through eighth grade. Beginning in fall 2008, Capital City enrolled 9th graders and continues to add a grade a year through 12th grade. The school's mission is to enable a diverse group of children to meet high expectations; to develop creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills; and to achieve deep understanding of complex subjects, while acquiring a love of learning and a strong sense of community and character.

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