



**For Immediate Release**

## **Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School Welcomes Founding Principal**

*Curtis L. Lewis, Ph.D. to Lead K-5 Public Charter School Opening in Detroit This Fall*

DETROIT, June 25, 2012 -- Curtis L. Lewis, Ph.D. will lead the Public School Academies of Detroit **Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School**, a new K-5 public charter school opening with up to 360 students this fall. As founding principal, Dr. Lewis is responsible for developing and sustaining a learning environment at HFA: Elementary School that: prepares students to read, write, and do math at, or above, grade level; engages all students through project-based learning and design thinking; provides a firm foundation in art and design; cultivates strong parental support; incorporates community partners to create real-world learning experiences; and instills a love of learning.



“Dr. Lewis is passionate about the development of Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School as a stellar educational option for our students and a catalyst for a brighter future in Detroit’s greater Boston-Edison area,” said Deborah Parizek, Executive Director of Henry Ford Learning Institute. “We are delighted to welcome him to the Henry Ford Academy family.”

An accomplished urban educator who was recruited for other principal positions, Dr. Lewis was drawn to the unique opportunity to launch and sustain a new Henry Ford Academy for families in Detroit. He comes to HFA: Elementary School from Teach for America – Detroit, where he was most recently a manager of Teacher Leadership Development. During that time, he was also a visiting instructor at the University of Michigan and a contracted Student Services Specialist with the Lansing (MI) School District. Dr. Lewis earned his Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education and Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Michigan State University. After seven years of teaching at the elementary, middle and high school levels, he returned to school to obtain his Ph.D. from Michigan State University. During his time as a graduate student, Dr. Lewis taught classes at Michigan State University, coordinated an intervention program for first-time youth offenders, and was director of a mentoring program for young males of color.



Henry Ford Academy  
ELEMENTARY School

### **About Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School**

Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School opens in September 2012 in the newly transformed Duane Doty School, a historic elementary school building located at 10225 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Detroit, MI 48202. Project funding is being provided by the Thompson Educational Foundation. HFA: Elementary School will serve up to 360 students in grades K-5 from the first year forward. The school is tuition-free and academic ability is not a factor in admission. The new school is based on the nationally recognized model first implemented at Henry Ford Academy in Dearborn, Mich. HFA: Dearborn has a cumulative graduation rate of more than 90 percent and 100 percent of its graduating students for the last 5 years were accepted to colleges and universities. HFA: Elementary School is a Thompson 90/90 School developed and managed by Henry Ford Learning Institute, governed by Public School Academies of Detroit, and authorized by Grand Valley State University. Students who complete the 5th grade at HFA: Elementary School will have the opportunity to automatically enroll in the 6th grade at Public School Academies of Detroit **Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies**, an existing public charter middle/high school located at the College for Creative Studies. A limited number of enrollment opportunities are available for the 2012-2013 school year in grades K through 5. For more information, or an enrollment application, visit [www.hfaelementary.org](http://www.hfaelementary.org) or call (313) 231-8613.

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*Note to editors: Photos of Dr. Lewis with Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School students, families, and teachers at a June 16<sup>th</sup> school community event are available for publication.*

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