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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

For February 28, 2009

**Newark Now's Fathers Now Program Honors First Graduating Class  
Of Sixty-Eight Men**

*Fathers Now is a program at the Newark Comprehensive Center for Fathers*

- WHAT:** On Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009 at 11:00am Newark Now's Fathers Now program will host its first graduation ceremony in honor of sixty-eight men who have successfully completed the program at the Newark Comprehensive Center for Fathers (NCCF). Newark Comprehensive Center for Fathers, headquartered at Essex County College, is a replication site of the Philadelphia-based National Comprehensive Center for Fathers. Newark Now administers NCCF and Fathers Now in partnership with the City of Newark, NewarkWorks, New Jersey Department of Labor, New Jersey Legal Services, and Release Network.
- WHO:** Donald M. Payne, Jr., Newark Municipal Councilman At-Large  
LaVar Young, Director, Fathers Now  
Edgar C. Izurieta, President, Newark Now  
Kofi Asante, Executive Director, National Comprehensive Center for Fathers  
Kevin Robinson, Fathers Now Graduate
- WHEN:** Saturday, February 28, 2009 at 11:00AM
- WHERE:** Essex County College, Smith Hall, Main Campus, 303 University Avenue,  
Newark, NJ 07102
- WHY:** NCCF and Fathers Now serves fathers in transition - men who have lost their jobs and homes, or who are re-entering the workforce following incarceration and who seek to assume greater responsibility for and contribute to the lives of their children. Since its launch in April 2008, the Fatherhood Center has helped Fathers from Newark and Essex County improve their education, relationships with their children, and employment skills. With the help of NCCF, 70% of Fathers Now graduates are now employed. In addition, nine graduates are securing their GED, three are continuing their education at Essex County College, and two are enrolled in Vocational Training. For more information about Fathers Now call 973-732-0713 or email [infonccf@newarknow.org](mailto:infonccf@newarknow.org).

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