

Pine Bluff Commercial (Pine Bluff, AR)

“PB Among Cities Considered for KIPP Charter School”

July 9, 2009

NEW YORK — KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) announced Wednesday plans to open a new charter middle school in either Pine Bluff, West Memphis or Blytheville.

Today, KIPP Delta is making available a request for proposals (RFP) to leaders and organizations in these three Delta communities through its Web site at <http://www.kippdelta.org>.

KIPP Delta will select the location by a competitive application process that will measure such factors as community support, parent demand and availability of facilities and funding.

Maisie Wright, one of 17 KIPP Fisher Fellows for 2009-10, will open the new charter school. The Fisher Fellowship, which prepares aspiring principals to open and run new KIPP schools, is a year-long leadership training program that begins this month with a summer Institute at New York University.

“I am so pleased that Maisie Wright will be the leader of Arkansas’ first KIPP Delta school outside of Helena,” said Scott Shirey, executive director of KIPP Delta Public Schools. “Ms. Wright was an outstanding teacher at KIPP Delta College Prep and she has the skills and knowledge to ensure that all of the students at her new school will reach their academic potential.”

Most recently, Wright was a math and science teacher at KIPP Delta College Preparatory School in Helena.

“I’m honored to be accepted into the Fisher Fellowship, where I will receive invaluable training and mentoring to lay the groundwork for opening a high-performing public school in the Delta,” Wright said. “I am looking forward to the year ahead and to building my school from the ground up in 2010.”

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