

OCCS to Host Special Preview of Paramount's "Waiting for Superman"

"Inconvenient Truth" producer Davis Guggenheim's film about public education in America today strips bare the problems and points to the high stakes involved for our country's future"

Toledo, Ohio – The Ohio Council of Community Schools has won permission from Paramount Pictures in Hollywood to host the initial public screening in Ohio of what might be the most important film in a decade or more – a film about the very future of the next generation of Americans.

The film comes from an unlikely source – Davis Guggenheim, the award-winning producer of former Vice President Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" about global climate change. He has co-written and directs this production, which asks where Americans can turn to find the "Superman" with the silver bullet that will fix, once and for all, public education.

The movie documents the dramatic problems facing traditional public education, from low student performance to the burdens imposed by teachers unions. The movie highlights the fact that, for instance, American students rank 25th as a nation in math test scores, but 1st in student self-esteem. Clearly, a nation with such priorities cannot survive and prosper for long. The film highlights the fact that charter schools are a solution to this problem of public education which puts our urban children at risk near the bottom of priorities.

"The questions about how to fix our public education system have never been more important, and this movie serves to highlight the most important questions facing our nation today," said Darlene Chambers, executive director of the Ohio Council of Community Schools. "Our top priority, in all of our schools – traditional, private or charter, is our students, and this movie helps because it begins to put the focus on those children. Amazingly, we have put politics, unions, and holding on to our old frame of how to deliver instruction in front of doing what it takes together to provide a quality education for children."

The sneak preview will be at the Rave Theatres at Levis Commons. A reception is set for 6:15p.m., with a 7 p.m. viewing of the film to follow. After the film, Fritz Wenzel will lead a discussion about the film, and public education, to explore different attitudes and ideas about solutions to help save the next generation and prepare them for the world ahead. The public has access to a few remaining seats for the screening which can be secured by registering on the www.ohioschools.org website. Registration is very limited so don't delay.

The film will soon make its way to a cinema near you. Please be sure to check it out. The future of our nation is very likely at stake.