

## Sisulu-Walker Charter School of Harlem Welcomes Educators from China



**NEW YORK, October 23, 2008** – The Sisulu-Walker Charter School of Harlem (Sisulu-Walker) welcomed twenty-five educators from the Shenzhen Bao’an district of China on Wednesday. The visiting educators came to Sisulu-Walker as part of a cultural exchange program with the School of Professional and Continuing Studies at Mount Saint Vincent College in the Bronx.

“I saw the same passion for education in our guests that I see in every one of [Sisulu-Walker’s] teachers,” said Karen Jones, principal of Sisulu-Walker. “Education is something that is not separated by borders, and it is imperative for the success of the world’s children that we work together in offering the best instruction available.”

The visiting educators spent the morning observing classroom lessons and meeting with students and staff. A fourth grade class enjoyed a math lesson taught by one guest – an English instructor in China, but who worked with math instructors in his native language for two days to prepare the lesson – that oriented the students with coordinates. The lesson utilized multiple intelligences to teach the students how to plot their best friends’ classroom seating location. Following the classroom observations the group sat down with Principal Jones and members of her staff for a question and answer session. The session’s topics included curriculum, how a charter school is funded, the rights and responsibilities of the principal and the challenges of operating a charter school.



“It is truly an honor to have been selected as one of the schools to host this group,” said Dr. Margaret Harrington, Chief Operating Officer of Victory Schools. “Although there are differences in our cultures, it is very inspiring to see that we can come together in the name of education.”

The visiting educators will spend six weeks in America, visiting schools across New York State. Sisulu-Walker is the only New York City elementary charter school the group is scheduled to visit.

### ***About Sisulu-Walker***

Founded in 1999 as the first public charter school in New York State, Sisulu-Walker currently serves 260 students in first through fifth grade. In 2007, Sisulu-Walker was designated a “High Performing / Gap Closing” school by the New York State Department of Education. That year the school was also selected to represent New York State at the National Reading First conference in St. Louis, Missouri. The school is named for two great civil rights leaders, Walter Sisulu and Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, and their wives. Walter Sisulu, former Secretary General of the African National Congress, worked closely with Nelson Mandela and was at the forefront of the struggle against South African apartheid for over five decades. Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, a renowned pastor, author, lecturer and advocate for civil and human rights, served as the Chief of Staff to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during critically important years of the American civil rights movement.

### ***About Victory Schools***

Victory Schools is a national leader in public charter and district school management partnerships. Victory’s mission is to create the finest public schools in America through partnerships with state departments of education, local boards of education, teachers, teachers unions, outstanding community groups and parents. The company is unique in its consultative approach to assisting public school districts; its strong emphasis on partnerships with all public education stakeholders; and its desire to provide the highest quality, most personalized service to the schools and districts we serve. Victory was founded in 1999 and is headquartered in New York City. The company provides service to 19 public and charter schools serving approximately 7,000 children in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago. For further information, Victory can be contacted at (212) 786-7900.

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