Paint Branch High School
Burtonsville, Maryland

A Diverse Community of Learners

Fifth Annual AGI Research-to-Practice Conference

June 30, 2009
Paint Branch High School

- 1,805 Students
- 79.6 percent minority
- Class of 2008 led the nation in the percentage of African American graduates who earned a 3 or higher on the AP World History Exam
- Increased the percentage of all students taking at least one AP exam from 30.2 percent in 2000 to 58.1 percent in 2008
Developing an “AP” Culture

2001- Present: Principal Jeanette E. Dixon

• Personal invitations to participate
• AP Breakfast for students/parents
• AP Picnic
• AP Fair
• Ongoing encouragement and personal outreach
• A “don’t give up on you” mentality
Handling Resistance

- Exhibiting praise for teachers “who do”
- Fostering conversations between administration and staff
- Preparing for the “non-traditional” AP classroom
- Providing professional development opportunities
- Transforming teacher beliefs and attitudes
Maintaining Success

- Differentiate instruction
- Keep everyone informed
- Use peers as a resource
- Establish, maintain “personal connections”
- Where do we go from here?