

September 22, 2008 - Rochester Leaders Celebrate Freedom Heroes Book

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, September 22, 2008

Rochester Leaders - Congresswoman Slaughter, County Executive Brooks, Mayor Duffy, Superintendent Brizard - Celebrate the Freedom Heroes Book

Rochester, NY - Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter, Chair of the House Committee on Rules, today joined County Executive Maggie Brooks, Mayor Robert Duffy, and Superintendent Jean-Claude Brizard in celebrating Freedom Heroes, a book about Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass produced by students at the School of Imaging and Information Technology at Edison.

Today, Brooks, Duffy, and Brizard, along with officials from Monroe County elementary schools, students, and parents attended a press conference at Edison to announce that copies of the book will be distributed to Monroe County elementary schools for use by third and fourth graders. The office of Congresswoman Slaughter and the Freedom Heroes Committee organized today's event.

"The Freedom Heroes book is a tremendous accomplishment and I applaud all of the hardworking and enthusiastic students who were involved in the production," said Congresswoman Slaughter. "The distribution of Freedom Heroes to schools throughout our community will not only provide a unique and engaging classroom lesson, but also ensure that the legacy of two great Americans will live on in the hearts and minds of our youth."

"The distribution of the Freedom Heroes books throughout our County's library system is proof that we are taking measures to combat illiteracy and shows that we are making our community an example for others to follow," said Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks. "The books that are being distributed today represent the culmination of a unique partnership. Together, we are ensuring a bright future for our young people and I couldn't be more proud of the spirit of cooperation that has taken root as a result of this project."

"I applaud everyone, especially the students at the School of Information and Imaging Technology at Edison for their hard work in publishing the Freedom Heroes book," said Mayor Robert J. Duffy. "This project shows what can be accomplished when we all work together. We must remain steadfast in our commitment to youth and continue striving for measurable improvements in literacy and education."

"Freedom Heroes is the kind of real-world project that gives our students the skills that will benefit them in their post-secondary experiences," said Superintendent Jean-Claude Brizard. "It involved them in an extended learning process and challenged them to develop new skills for solving problems and achieving results."

BACKGROUND

Students at the School of Imaging & Information Technology at Edison researched, wrote, designed, illustrated, published, and coordinated the printing of the Freedom Heroes book. During the book's production, the students met with local third graders, their target audiences, and received advice from a local children's author.

The Freedom Heroes Committee will give multiple copies of the book to every elementary school in Monroe County this school year. The goal is to distribute at least one classroom set to each school library and six copies to every third and fourth grade teacher for use with reading groups.

###