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For Immediate Use

## **NEW BOOK EXAMINES THE VALUE OF EDUCATION IN AMERICA**

*Why School? Reclaiming Education for All of Us* (The New Press, 2009) contains a series of interconnected essays exploring the value of education in today's society. Drawing on over forty years of teaching and research, UCLA Education Professor Mike Rose poses critical questions about our fundamental beliefs about education. What is unique about education in a democracy? Why do we send our children to school? Why do so many fail and how can we reach them? These questions are extremely relevant as our government launches new plans, such as the recent American Graduation Initiative, to reform and strengthen our education system.

*Why School?* challenges the current focus on standardized testing and economic competition. "I hope the chapters in *Why School?* reinvigorate discussions about how as a society we can move away from an educational system driven by economics and trends and towards a system that promotes the intellectual, social, civic and ethical development of students," said Rose. The vignettes found in *Why School?* bring to public view questions about public policy, reform efforts, high-stakes accountability, assumptions about intellectual ability and educational opportunity.

Mike Rose is an education professor at UCLA's Graduate School of Education & Information Studies. Over the last forty years, he has taught in a range of educational settings, from kindergarten to job training and adult literacy programs. Rose has written a number of books and articles on language, literacy, and cognition and has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Grawemeyer Award in Education, and the Commonwealth Club of California Award for Literary Excellence in Nonfiction. He has also been honored by the Spencer Foundation, the McDonnell Foundation Program in Cognitive Studies for Educational Practice, the National Council of Teachers of English, the Modern Language Association, and the National Academy of Education. He is the author of ten books including *Lives on the Boundary: the Struggles and Achievements of America's Underprepared*, *Possible Lives: The Promise of Public Education in America*, *The Mind at Work: Valuing the Intelligence of the American Worker*, and *An Open Language: Selected Writing on Literacy, Learning, and Opportunity*.

The UCLA Graduate School of Education & Information Studies (GSE&IS) includes two departments - the Department of Education and the Department of Information Studies. Together, the two departments embody the school's commitment to understand and improve educational practice and policy and information systems and policy in a diverse society. GSE&IS's academic programs bring together faculties and students committed to expanding the range of knowledge in education, information science and associated disciplines. Its professional programs seek to develop librarians, teachers, administrators and information professionals within the enriched context of a research university.