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## **NEWS ADVISORY**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **International High School at Union Square to Open Fall 2010**

**New York— April 5, 2010** – Internationals Network for Public Schools (Internationals) received approval from the New York City Department of Education and the Panel for Education Policy to open a small district high school to serve recently arrived immigrant students. This will be the eleventh Internationals High School in New York City.

International High School at Union Square (IHS-US) will serve English Language Learner students who have been in the country four years or less. According to Gaylea Prichard-Silvers, Principal of IHS-US, “The mission of International High School at Union Square is to enable each of our recent immigrant students to develop the academic, linguistic, and cultural skills necessary for success in high school, college, and beyond.” In addition to its academic program, IHS-US programs include before- and after-school tutoring, PSAL sports, a Parent Empowerment Program, Culture Clubs, a community service learning program, an internship program, and College Now courses at a City University of New York campus.

IHS-US will be located on the Washington Irving Campus, located at 40 Irving Place, just one block from Union Square. Beginning with one class of 108 ninth grade students, the school will add a grade each subsequent year until the school reaches full capacity of 432 students. “Our proximity to Union Square - a historic center where immigrants gathered to protest to improve immigrant rights - emphasizes our goal to empower our immigrant students by preparing them to graduate college- and career-ready,” says Ms. Prichard-Silvers.

The 25 years of experience that Internationals Network brings to opening a small school for recently arrived immigrants is a point of engagement for parents and students. “I chose an Internationals school for my son because as soon as I entered the building I felt peace and comfort like if it was the perfect place for my son. After a couple of months the decision paid off as my son was speaking English and doing well in all his classes. The principal and the staff were a big help as they treated us like a family and they always made us feel welcome in the school. I really believe that the structure of the International High Schools is the best school system for an immigrant student,” says Juana Adames, parent of an International High School student.

Internationals Network for Public Schools is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and support of the network of International High Schools that serve late-entry immigrant English Language Learners. Internationals currently supports ten small public high schools in New York City and two schools in the northern California.

For more information about the opening of International High School at Union Square, please contact Gaylea Prichard-Silvers at 718.935.4097 or [IHSatUS@gmail.com](mailto:IHSatUS@gmail.com).

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