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Thomas B. Fordham Institute book, *Sweating the Small Stuff: Inner-City Schools and the New Paternalism*, wins prestigious award

WASHINGTON -- The Thomas B. Fordham Institute is proud to announce that David Whitman has won the 2009 American Independent Writing Prize for his book, *Sweating the Small Stuff: Inner-City Schools and the New Paternalism*. The book was published by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute in August 2008.

The award, presented during a ceremony at the AIW Writers Conference on June 13, recognized the most significant book published by an AIW member during 2008. Judges praised Whitman's book as a "lucid, compelling, judicious and highly readable examination of ideas that could transform our nation."

In *Sweating the Small Stuff*, Whitman, an experienced journalist and social scientist, takes readers into the classrooms and hallways of six highly-effective inner-city secondary schools that have had remarkable academic success. While the schools differed in many ways, he found that each created a benevolent paternalistic atmosphere for students – strict rules, discipline and high expectations, yet a warm support system.

"The book is an important contribution to the field, and we're thrilled that David's peers have recognized him for it," said Chester E. Finn Jr., president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute.

Whitman's book already has been discussed throughout the country, including by leading columnists in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

Whitman recently began working at the Department of Education as Special Assistant in the Office of Communications and Outreach.

To learn more about the book please visit the Thomas B. Fordham Institute website, http://www.edexcellence.net/detail/news.cfm?news_id=733&id=130.

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