

## Cassie Schwerner, Ph.D. Vice President of Programs

Cassie Schwerner is Vice President of programs for The Schott Foundation for Public Education. She has worked at Schott in various capacities since 1997. For most of her tenure at Schott she oversaw the Fair Funding Initiative, focusing on bringing race and fiscal equity and adequacy to the New York state public school system. She now manages all Schott lead grantees in New York and Massachusetts, developing appropriate statewide strategies for Schott's goals in each state.



In her role at Schott, Cassie has served as a school finance movement expert on panels at conferences around the country. She has been tapped by organizations such as Grantmakers for Education, the Jewish Funders Network, Public Education Network and Council on Foundations. Cassie serves on the Working Group Committee for Education Organizing, an affinity group within Grantmakers for Education. This group aims to raise awareness among funders of organizing efforts around the country focused on education reform. Specifically, the group encourages funders to include organizing as one strategy in their grantmaking tool kit. In November of 2007, Cassie received a Progressive Leadership Award from Citizen Action of New York.

Prior to joining the staff at Schott, Cassie was a research and editorial assistant for Jonathan Kozol. She worked on *Savage Inequalities*, *Amazing Grace*, and all of Kozol's projects over a ten-year period. She remains a close advisor to Kozol and serves as a trustee of his Education Action Fund – a small foundation that distributes funds to families in New York and Massachusetts.

Additionally, she has worked as a public relations consultant and has taught courses in Mass Media and Race Relations. For ten years, she was a member of the Media Research and Action Project, based at Boston College, which assists grassroots organizations in framing their issues for the media, as well as training them on how best to integrate media activities into their organizing efforts.

Cassie received a Ph.D. in Sociology from Boston College, where she specialized in social movement theory. Her dissertation, "Sing a Song of Justice," focuses on multicultural organizing.

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