



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbia Heights Education Campus and DC Bilingual Public Charter School Announced as 2013 Quality Schools Initiative Winners

Washington, DC—May 10, 2013. Earlier today, DC Mayor Vincent Gray and Fight For Children Board Member Gina Adams announced this year's Quality Schools Initiative Rising Star award winners. The District of Columbia Public School Rising Star went to Columbia Heights Education Campus and the District of Columbia Public Charter School Rising Star went to DC Bilingual Public Charter School.

Speakers at the event included 2012 Quality Schools Initiative winners, Janeece Docal, Principal of Powell Elementary and Belicia Reaves, Resident Principal of Capital City Public Charter High School. Both leaders inspired the audience with their enthusiasm for making a difference in the lives of their students and their desire to see schools working collaboratively to bring about positive change for the future of children in Washington. Abigail Smith also spoke on her new role as Deputy Mayor for Education.

The winning schools were recognized for their work to improve student achievement for low-income kids. Each will receive a \$100,000 grant from Fight For Children. With the grant money, the schools will implement a 3-year strategy to expand their programs to continue to improve student proficiency with the goal of being two of the highest performing public schools by the end of 3 years. The schools will also partner with Fight For Children to share their experiences with other school leaders across all sectors throughout the coming year.

Kelly Miller Middle School and the Center City Brightwood PCS were both runners-up for the 2013 awards and were also recognized at the luncheon. The 2013 Quality Schools Initiative finalists and winners were chosen by an independent selection committee of education experts, including:

- Thomas Bartlett, Community Investor, Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship
- Hilary Darilek, Deputy Chief, Office of Human Capital, District of Columbia Public Schools
- Naomi De Veaux, Deputy Executive Director, DC Public Charter School Board
- Janeece Docal, Principal, Powell Elementary School
- Renee Evans, Director, Public Charter School Support, OSSE
- Rena Johnson, Chief of Staff, DC Scholars Stanton Elementary
- Melissa M. Kim, Director of Instructional Improvement, NewSchools Venture Fund
- Mary Anne Lesiak, Vice President and Chief of Staff, AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation
- Jeremy McDonald, Director of Evaluation, The SEED Foundation

- Jennifer Niles, Founder & Head of School, E.L. Haynes Public Charter School
- Matt Radigan, Master Educator, District of Columbia Public Schools
- Angela Stepancic, Principal, LAYC Career Academy
- Molly L. Whalen, Director of Development & Communications, The Ivymount School & Programs

Fight For Children, founded in 1990 by business and civic leader Joseph E. Robert, Jr., is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to ensuring that low-income children in the District of Columbia receive a great education and stay healthy so they can learn. Since its founding, Fight For Children has raised or leveraged over \$450 million for education and healthcare programs serving low-income children in Washington, DC. Fight For Children's fundraising events and other initiatives have directly raised \$100 million. An additional \$350 million in federal funding for DC education programs has resulted from the combined efforts of Fight For Children staff and Joe Robert.

For more information on Fight For Children or any of its programs, visit www.fightforchildren.org.

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