



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **FIGHT FOR CHILDREN AWARDS \$175,000 TO SCHOOLS IN DC 2012 QUALITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE**

Washington, DC [April 10, 2012] – [Fight For Children](#), an independent non-profit organization committed to improving education in DC schools, today announced the winners of its 2012 Quality Schools Initiative. **Capital City Public Charter Upper School, Cesar Chavez Public Charter School - Bruce Prep Campus, and DC Prep - Edgewood Elementary Campus**, each won Champion of Quality awards and a \$50,000 grant from Fight For Children. **Powell Elementary School**, a District of Columbia Public School, was awarded a Rising Star award and a \$25,000 grant. (See attached descriptions of each winning school.)

Now in its fifth year, Fight For Children’s Quality Schools Initiative encourages exploration, discussion, and implementation of high-quality programs that can improve student achievement in DC public, charter, and independent schools. Its two main objectives are to acknowledge and identify quality schools and to share their best practices so that they may be replicated and expanded to benefit a broader student population.

“The opportunity to recognize and celebrate schools in DC that are doing great work and getting it right for low-income kids is important to us at Fight For Children,” said Michela English, President and CEO of Fight For Children. “These schools are producing strong results and creating opportunities for their students to achieve more and be successful in life. Their leaders and teachers deserve to be recognized. All of us at Fight For Children applaud their efforts and look forward to working with them to share their best practices with other schools.”

Fight For Children works closely with the winning schools over the period of a year to share their effective practices with other schools. In partnership with the Meyer Foundation and the

Office of the State Superintendent for Education, Fight For Children will host three education workshops throughout the year led by the 2012 Quality Schools Initiative winning schools. At the workshops, school leaders throughout DC will have the opportunity to discuss best practices and learn from each other. An independent committee of leaders across DC's education spectrum selected the winning schools and finalists based on a thorough evaluation of their applications and on-site campus visits. A full list of committee members is attached.

D.C. State Superintendent of Education Hosanna Mahaley presented the awards to the four schools selected at a luncheon that was held on April 10. The awards luncheon was sponsored and presented by the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

Fight For Children will celebrate these winning schools at the School Night Gala on Friday, April 13, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. School Night is chaired by Chuck and Stacy Kuhn with the support of the School Night Host Committee: Katherine and David Bradley, Raul and Jean-Marie Fernandez, Michael and Elizabeth Galvin, Donald E. Graham, Michele V. Hagans, Michael Kimsey, Mario Morino, Fred and Karen Schaufeld, and Curt and Deborah Winsor. The evening will be hosted by BRAVO TV personality Gail Simmons with amazing live entertainment by one of the hottest new jazz musicians from New Orleans, Grammy-nominated Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue. More information is available at [www.fightforchildren.org](http://www.fightforchildren.org).

**Fight For Children**, founded in 1990 by late business and civic leader Joseph E. Robert, Jr., is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to providing all children in the District of Columbia the tools they need to grow, learn, and succeed. Fight For Children has raised \$82 million in private contributions, investing these resources to create education, leadership and health care programs, as well as providing direct support to over 150 youth-serving organizations in the greater DC area. For more information on Fight For Children or any of its programs, visit [www.fightforchildren.org](http://www.fightforchildren.org).

#### **Contacts**

Jeff Travers  
Fight For Children  
202-772-0436  
[jeff.travers@fightforchildren.org](mailto:jeff.travers@fightforchildren.org)

Kristen Fagley  
Fight For Children  
202-772-0439  
[kristen.fagley@fightforchildren.org](mailto:kristen.fagley@fightforchildren.org)

## **About the 2011 Quality Schools Initiative Award Winners**

### **CHAMPION OF QUALITY: CAPITAL CITY PUBLIC CHARTER UPPER SCHOOL (WARD 1)**

Built on the bold vision of parents and educators of building a model school in the nation's capital dedicated to the best practices in education reform, Capital City Public Charter School opened its Upper School Campus in 2008 which currently serves 294 students in the Columbia Heights neighborhood of Washington DC. Graduating their first class of 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in 2012, Capital City Upper School's mission is to graduate young adults who are self-directed, intellectually engaged and possess a commitment to personal and civic responsibility. Capital City is committed to educating the whole child with a strong academic curriculum and social curriculum focused on teaching students to care about themselves, each other and their environment. <http://www.ccpcs.org/>

### **CHAMPION OF QUALITY: DC PREP – EDGEWOOD ELEMENTARY CAMPUS (WARD 5)**

DC Prep Edgewood Elementary Campus provides a developmentally appropriate, academically challenging education for 3-year-olds through 3rd grade. The key ingredients of high-quality early childhood programs have been incorporated into DC Prep's proven model, creating a coherent and exciting learning environment that lays the foundation for college preparation and success from the earliest years. The school follows a mission of bridging the educational divide in Washington DC by increasing the number of students from urban communities with the academic preparation and personal character to succeed in competitive high schools and colleges. <http://www.dcrep.org/>

### **CHAMPION OF QUALITY: CÉSAR CHÁVEZ PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FOR PUBLIC POLICY – BRUCE PREP CAMPUS (WARD 1)**

Chávez Prep is proud to welcome students from all over the District of Columbia into the historic Bruce building in Columbia Heights. Their mission is to equip students with the skills necessary for success in college and in life. A longer school year, emphasis on literacy and mathematics, and disciplined school environment develops well-rounded Scholars and provides the opportunity to compete with students from the most elite schools in the United States. Chávez schools strive to prepare DC students to succeed in competitive colleges so they can use their lives to make a positive difference in the world. <http://www.chavezschools.org/>

### **RISING STAR: POWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (WARD 4)**

With a mission developed by staff, students and parents that is reviewed each year, Powell Elementary School states that every Powell scholar – regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or home language – will reach high levels of academic achievement in our bilingual early learning campus which prepares students with self-regulation and skills ultimately needed for college readiness. Powell promises to provide every student with an outstanding education, every family with a welcoming and respectful environment, every teacher with a fulfilling and professional place to work and every community member with a school in which they can take pride! <http://profiles.dcps.dc.gov/Powell+Elementary+School>

**2012 QUALITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE**  
**INDEPENDENT SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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1. Kelly Branaman, Assistant Superintendent, Archdiocese of Washington
2. Hilary Darilek, Director of Principal Recruitment, District of Columbia Public Schools
3. Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Executive Director, DC Public Charter School Board
4. Renee Evans, Director, Public Charter School Support and Finance, Office of the State Superintendent of Education
5. Carmen James Lane, Program Officer, Meyer Foundation
6. Mary Anne Lesiak, Director of Education, AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation
7. Jennifer Niles, Founder & Head of School, EL Haynes PCS
8. Michelle Pierre-Farid, Executive Director, New Leaders
9. Matt Radigan, Master Educator, DCPS
10. Angela Stepancic, Campus Administrator, Washington Middle School for Girls
11. Carey Wright, Chief Academic Officer, DCPS