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FIGHT FOR CHILDREN ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 2010 QUALITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE AWARD

Washington, DC [April 14, 2010] – [Fight For Children](#), an independent non-profit organization committed to improving education in DC schools, today announced the winners of its 2010 Quality Schools Initiative. **KIPP DC: AIM Academy**, a DC Public Charter School, won the Champion of Quality award and a \$75,000 grant from Fight For Children. **Truesdell Education Campus**, a DC Public School, and **KIPP DC: KEY Academy**, a DC Public Charter School, were each awarded a Rising Star award and a \$50,000 grant.

Now in its third year, Fight For Children’s Quality Schools Initiative program identifies and celebrates best practices that improve student achievement in DCPS, public charter, and independent schools in Washington, DC.

“We are thrilled to celebrate these terrific DC schools and the work their teachers and leaders do each and every day to give low income children solid opportunities for the future,” said Michela English, President and CEO of Fight For Children. “These schools are performing well and their results are strong. However, their leaders strive continuously to raise the bar on student achievement. 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.”

This year, Fight For Children recognized schools in two award categories. The Champion of Quality award, presented to KIPP DC: AIM Academy, recognizes a school that consistently demonstrates excellence in the areas of teaching and learning, leadership, and professional development. In addition, this school produces student achievement gains significantly greater

than the District average. The Rising Star awards, presented to Truesdell Education Campus and KIPP DC: KEY Academy, recognize schools that regularly demonstrate excellence in many areas and show evidence of students making gains in academic achievement. These schools recognize there are areas where improvement is needed, and they have set clear goals to address those challenges. See below for additional information on each of the winning schools.

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. See attached list of committee members.

Fight For Children board member and School Night Honorary Co-Chair, Michelle Fenty, presented the awards to the three schools selected at a luncheon that was held on April 14. 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 School Night, featuring Queen Latifah, on April 23 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. In addition to Queen Latifah, Michael Cavanaugh and Black Violin will perform at School Night. More information is available at www.fightforchildren.org.

Fight For Children, founded in 1990 by 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.

Contacts

Jeff Travers
Fight For Children
202-772-0436
jeff.travers@fightforchildren.org

Kristen Fagley
Fight For Children
202-772-0439
kristen.fagley@fightforchildren.org

About the 2010 Quality Schools Initiative Award Winners

Champion of Quality: KIPP DC: AIM Academy is a DC Public Charter School located in Ward 8. KIPP DC: AIM Academy's mission is to prepare students with the academic and character skills necessary to succeed in high school, college and the competitive world beyond. KIPP DC: AIM Academy opened its doors in July 2005 and currently serves 320 fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. One-hundred percent of students are African American, and 93% are eligible for free and reduced lunch. During the first year of opening the school, over 90% of students scored BELOW the national average in math and reading. In the last four years, KIPP DC: AIM Academy made growth gains of over 40% in math and reading combined, with three quarters of students testing proficient. Students attend school from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Thursday and until 3:30 pm on Friday. Students also attend mandatory Saturday School from 9 am to 1 pm for special enrichment activities such as ballet, African dance, rock climbing, drum line and football.

The decisions and changes made at the school level are driven by hard evidence and data. In order to continue demonstrating the highest level of excellence, KIPP DC: AIM Academy will use the grant from Fight For Children to build their instructional staff capacity by hiring a data coach. The primary role of the Data Coach would be to bolster the school's use of technology based data systems and work with teachers to craft specific strategies that address student deficiencies or learning gaps revealed by benchmark assessments.

Rising Star: Truesdell Education Campus is a District of Columbia Public School (DCPS) located in Ward 4 of Washington, DC. In 2009, Truesdell was reconstituted from an elementary school to a pre-k through 8th grade education campus. In addition, Truesdell welcomed students from two closing schools, Rudolph and Clark E.S. 80% of students were eligible for free and reduced lunch in 2009. After the consolidation, the largest gains were made with ELL(English Language Learners) and special education students. This was attributed to the school moving towards a full inclusion model. From 2008 to 2009, special education students made 21% gains in math and almost 10% gains in reading.

Truesdell collaborates with other high performing schools to share and replicate effective practices. Truesdell partnered with Columbia Heights Education Campus and EL Haynes Public Charter school—both former Quality Schools Initiative winners—to strengthen their use of data and planning skills. Truesdell will use its grant from Fight For Children to tighten and establish a rigorous professional development model for teachers around literacy.

Rising Star: KIPP DC: KEY Academy is a DC Public Charter School located in Ward 7. KIPP DC: KEY Academy (Knowledge Empowers You) provides an innovative and academically rigorous college preparatory program to 320 fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. The school's mission is to prepare students with the academic, intellectual, and character skills necessary for success in high school, college, and the competitive world beyond. Ninety-nine percent of students are African American, and 78% are eligible for free and reduced lunch. In 2009, KIPP DC: KEY Academy students had the largest proportion of proficient and advance middle school students in math in the entire city. Additionally, KIPP DC: KEY Academy's 8th

graders have been the highest performing in DC since the DC-CAS was introduced. KIPP DC: KEY Academy students spend 45% more time at school than their peers in non-KIPP schools. They attend school from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, attend school two Saturdays each month from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and for one month during the summer.

Like all KIPP schools, KIPP DC: KEY Academy uses the power of data to drive changes both at the student level and school level. The proposal submitted by KIPP DC: KEY Academy for the Rising Star category recognized special education as a growth area. KIPP DC: KEY Academy will use its grant from Fight For Children to improve special education reading and professional development. Specifically, KIPP DC: KEY Academy would use the funds to increase staff capacity by hiring a Reading Coach whose primary responsibility will be to work with teachers to ensure that all assessments and curriculum are aligned to general standards as well as differentiated to address students with special needs.

2010 Quality Schools Initiative Selection Committee

Champion of Quality:

Catherine Freeman

Chief of Staff

Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Richard Lodish

Principal

Sidwell Friends School

Tamara Lumpkin

Deputy Director

DC Public Charter School Board

Carey Wright

Deputy Chief for the Office of Teaching and Learning

District of Columbia Public Schools

Rising Star:

Josephine Baker

Executive Director

DC Public Charter School Board

Kelly Branaman

Assistant Superintendent

Archdiocese of Washington

Kate Laguarda

Parent

Formerly with Policy Studies Associates

Carmen James Lane

Program Officer

Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Foundation